

## The Scholars Academy is Supported by:

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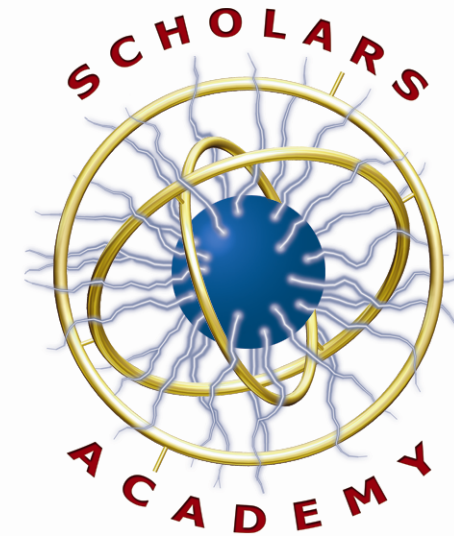
**University of Houston-Downtown**

The **UHD Scholars Academy (SA)** is an academically competitive program in the College of Sciences and Technology that promotes scholarship and student success for undergraduate students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

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# *Spring Convocation*



## *May 13, 2011*

## Scholars Academy Program Staff

### Scholars Academy Staff

Director: Dr. Mary Jo Parker  
 Program Manager: Mr. René Garcia  
 Administrative Assistant II: Ms. Lois Smith  
 Student Assistants: Adetomiwa Oguntuga  
 Quentin Pace  
 Ceraira Snerling Simmons

### Executive Committee

Dr. Richard Aló Dr. George Pincus Mr. Edward Sheinberg Dr. Akif Uzman  
 Dr. Kenneth Oberhoff Dr. Dennis Rodriguez Dr. Larry Spears

### Peer Mentor Team

Peer Mentor Coordinator: Ms. Mitsue Nakamura  
 Senior Peer Mentor: Elena Espino

Gloria Abarca	Arturo Garza, Jr.	Victor Martinez	Jose Trinidad
Frances Acevedo	Brian Holtkamp	Tom Oguntuga	Christine Varghese
Nameera Baig	Basit Jawad	Stephanie Omage	Desiree Wilson
Michael Butterworth	Adolfo Lara	Ranjan Poudel	Clemente Zamirrapa

### Faculty Mentors

Dr. Jon Aoki	Dr. Janusz Grebowicz	Dr. Katarina Jegdic	Dr. Rachna Sadana
Dr. Maria Benavides	Dr. Poonam Gulati	Dr. Mian Jiang	Dr. Barry Sullender
Dr. Ping Chen	Dr. Brad Hoge	Dr. Hong Lin	Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon
Dr. Weining Feng	Dr. Volodymyr Hrynkiw	Dr. Deanna McCullough	

Below are SA Graduates at the Fall 2010 Commencement: Dr. Mary Jo Parker; Dr. Tyra Montgomery; Hung Nguyen; Walter Garcia; Audrey Gonzalez; Tahlia Aickareth; Ibiene Tamuno; Anisa Saleh; Karina Vazquez (Commencement Student Speaker); Norma Pereida; Christina Molloy; Sheyla Randle; Dr. Vassilios Tzouanas; and Dr. Akif Uzman.



## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2011

Gloria Abarca	Diana	Pallawi KC	Stephanie Omage	Jose Trinidad
Kevin Abate	Chakkramakkil	Srijan KC	Isaac Omuhambe	Claudia Turcios
Seyed Abedi	Raymond Cherian	Russell Kendrick	Deepak Pandey	Tanu Uppal
Frances Acevedo	Jordan Cline	Abir Khan	Athena Pasuelo	Ana Uruena
Abisoye Adejumo	Marlyn Davila	Suzette Khan	Karishma Patel	Isaac Valdez
Santosh Adhikari	Fatoumata Diallo	Insook Kim	Silvia Pejerrey	Reyna Valdez
Kolawole Akindoju	Asad Durrani	Jarrett Kitchen	Jorge Pereida	Christine Varghese
Amie Albanese	Reihana Elsayed	Nancy Koba	Danielle	Santa Vasquez
Naeem Ali	Elena Espino	Mitesh Koirala	Picklesimer	Joanne Veloz
Miriam Amah	Jesus Fernandez	Adolfo Lara	Ranjan Poudel	Jose Ventura
David Amos	Cassandra Flores	Binh Le	Wendy Ramirez	Rosa Villagomez
Lilian Antunes	Amy Flower	Angela Lee	Karla Rios	Tabitha Ward
Philip Ayazi	Marlon Forero	Steve Leon	Pablo Rivera	Jaye Weston
Nameera Baig	Anna Garcia	Milena Lobaina	Natalie Rodriguez	Daria White
Nabil Bani	Arturo Garcia	Marisol Maciel	Ilian Rojas	Sara Wilder
Caroline Barbosa	Kimberlyn Garcia	Ryan Mansfield	Alba Rubi	Antoine Williams-
Rebecca Barbosa	Arturo Garza, Jr.	Andrew Mark	Banegas	Baisy
Jesus Barron-	Kul Gaudel	Sunu Mathew	Massiel Rubio	Desiree Wilson
Aldana	Michael Giles	Victor Martinez	Elda Rueda	Maegan Womack
Lee Anne Bay	A'Tondra Gilstrap	Sheba Mathew	Nigar Safarova	Alexis Woodard
Brandy Bell	Maxwell Goedjen	Lisa Matsell	Yesenia Salazar	Sudeep Wosti
Curtis Bickham	LaToya Green	Joseph McAferty	Lassana	Natalie
Robert Bokemeyer	Melissa Greenlee	Marco Mondragon	Samarakoon	Yacovodonato
Marlon Bonilla	Dulce Guevara	Helen Morgenstern	Mayra Sanchez	Clemente
Erika Bonilla	William	Julie Nash	Evelyn Saravia	Zamarripa
Muhammad	Hasbargen	Jimmy Ngo	Kulsoom Shah	Wilbert Zegarra
Bukhari	Marco Hernandez	Duc-Trung	Israel Sierra	
Michael	Brian Holtkamp	Nguyen	Ceraira Snerling	
Butterworth	Abdul Jawad	Jackie Nguyen	Simmons	
Itzel Campos	Sarah Jennisca	Katherine Nguyen	Dayna Spencer	
Jennifer	Alex Jimenez	Marc Oboussier	Samuel Swift	
Carmichael	Escat Jimenez	Hakeem Ogunkoya	Teena Thomas	
Joanna Castaneda	Leon	Maryam Ogunkoya	Jermaine Thomas	
Juan Castillo	Gerin John	Adetomiwa	Bruno Toledo	
Karla Castro	Nirmal John	Oguntuga	Tuan Tran	
Kaleigh Ceaser	Valerie Jordan	Matthew Ojeda	Jose Trejo	

## 2011 Honor Corps Inductions

### First Year

Miriam Amah  
Philip Ayazi  
Erika Bonilla  
A'Tondra Gilstrap  
Melissa Greenlee  
Brian Holtkamp  
Basit Jawad  
Insook Kim  
Milena Lobaina  
Marisol Maciel  
Isaac Omuhambe  
Karishma Patel  
Danielle Picklesimer  
Ranjan Poudel

Yesenia Salazar  
Israel Sierra  
Ceraira Simmons  
Bruno Toledo  
Tuan Tran  
Claudia Turcios  
Santa Vasquez  
Jose Ventura  
Clemente Zamirrapa

### Second Year

Amie Albanese  
Naeem Ali  
Nameera Baig  
Muhammad Bukhari  
Michael Butterworth

Marlyn Davila  
Michael Giles  
Abir Khan  
Jarrett Kitchen  
Mitesh Koirala  
Sunu Mathew  
Lisa Matsell  
Duc-Trung Nguyen  
Adetomiwa Oguntuga  
Deepak Pandey  
Lassana Samarakoon  
Evelyn Saravia  
Tanu Uppal  
Christine Varghese  
Jaye Weston

Antoine Williams-Baisy

### Third Year

Brandy Bell  
Jennifer Carmichael  
Elena Espino  
Russell Kendrick  
Stephanie Omage  
Jose Trinidad  
Tabitha Ward  
Desiree Wilson

### Fourth Year

Seyed Ali Abedi  
Victor Martinez  
Elda Rueda

## Awards Program

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Mary Jo Parker, Scholars Academy Director

### Special Recognition:

#### Scholars Academy Program Staff

#### Scholarship Achievements

##### Joint Admission Medical Program Scholars

Michael Giles	Katherine Nguyen	Ceraira Simmons	Jose Ventura
Basit Jawad			

##### Red Rose Scholars for 2010-2011

Philip Ayazi	Abdul Jawad	Ojeda Matthew	Evelyn Saravia
Nameera Baig	Duc-Trung Nguyen	Stephanie Omage	Tabitha Ward
Brandy Bell			

##### Red Rose Scholars for 2011-2012

Amie Albanese	Melissa Greenlee	Marisol Maciel	Israel Sierra
Nameera Baig	Brian Holtkamp	Duc-Trung Nguyen	Bruno Toledo
Michael Giles	Basit Jawad	Lassana Samarakoon	Alex Weston

#### Peer-Led Team Learning Workshop Leaders

Raymond Cherian	Steve Leon	Kamran Safarli	Isaac Valdez
Brian Holtkamp	Lisa Matsell	Kulsoom Shah	Sara Wilder
Adolfo Lara			

#### Computer & Mathematical Sciences Tutors

Ali Abedi	Brian Holtkamp	Hung Nguyen	Tia Pilaroscia
Amie Albanese	Walter Huetwohl	Tom Oguntuga	Ranjan Poudel
Michael Butterworth	Victor Martinez	Silvia Pejerrey	Jose Trinidad

#### Engineering Technology Tutors

#### Natural Science Tutors

Kevin Abate	Dulce Guevara	Jackie Nguyen	Christine Varghese
Brandy Bell	Andrew Mark	Matthew Ojeda	Alex Weston
Anabel Fay	Victor Martinez	Elda Rueda	Desiree Wilson
Audrey Gonzalez	Lisa Matsell	Tanu Uppal	

#### "Pay It Forward" Volunteer Challenge

Volunteer Group Project Presentations by Peer Mentors

## Community Service Awards

**Individual Award** To be announced  
**Group Project Award** To be announced

## Brown Foundation Leadership Awards

To be announced

## Dr. Barry Garrett Scholarship Awards

To be announced

## Awarding of SA Graduation Stoles to the Spring 2011 Graduating Seniors

Gloria Abarca	Arturo Garza, Jr.	Victor Martinez	Silvia Pejerrey	Tabitha Ward
Ali Abedi	Nirmal John	Sunu Mathew	Elda Rueda	Desiree Wilson
Muhammad Bukhari	Abir Khan	Stephanie Omage	Kulsoom Shah	Maegan Womack
Michael Butterworth	Jarrett Kitchen	Rafael Ortiz	Jose Trinidad	Wilbert Zegarra
Elena Espino	Mitesh Koirala			

## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2011





## Recognition of Student Attendance and Presentations at Regional and National Student Research Conferences & Professional Meetings

### 2010 Big Ten+ Graduate School Expo at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Russell Kendrick      Tanu Uppal      Karina Vazquez

### 2010 Grace Hopper Women in Computing Conference, Atlanta, GA

Amie Albanese      Brandy Bell      Sarah Jennisca      Sara Wilder  
Lilian Antunes      Kaleigh Ceaser      Stephanie Thames

### 2010 Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference, Anaheim, CA

Preeti Choudhary \*      Tom Oguntuga\*      Israel Sierra\*      Tuan Tran\*  
Marlyn Davila \*      Matthew Ojeda \*      Mayra Sanchez \*      Desiree Wilson\*  
Mitesh Koirala\*      Kamran Safarli\*

### 2010 Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference, Lake Buena Vista, FL

Duber Gomez-Fonseca      Rafael Ortiz      Jose Ventura      Wilbert Zegarra  
Orlando Huerta

### 2010 First Undergraduates in Biological and Mathematical Sciences (UBM) South Regional Conference, Houston, TX

Gloria Abarca\*      Nameera Baig\*      Anh Tuan Nguyen\*      Lassana Samarakoon\*  
Amie Albanese\*      Audrey Gonzalez\*      Robert Nguyen\*      Glenda Thammavongsa\*  
Cory Ali\*      Russell Kendrick\*      Tia Pilarosa\*      Sara Wilder\*  
Lilian Antunes\*

### 2010 Regional Undergraduate Chemistry Symposium, Houston, TX

Nameera Baig\*      Preeti Choudhary\*      Kamran Safarli \*      Desiree Wilson\*

### 2010 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Charlotte, NC

Frances Acevedo \*      Elena Espino\*      Adolfo Lara \*      Elda Rueda \*  
Marlyn Davila \*      A'Tondra Gilstrap\*      Sheyla Randle\*      Karina Vazquez \*

### 2010 National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) 2nd Annual Undergraduate Research Conference at the Interface of Biology and Mathematics, Knoxville, TN

Gloria Abarca\*      Audrey Gonzalez\*      Tuan Tran\*      Sara Wilder\*  
Amie Albanese\*      Duc-Trung Nguyen\*

### 2011 1st Annual Texas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol, Austin, TX

Frances Acevedo\*      Marlyn Davila\*

### Mathematical Association of America (MAA) 2011 Joint Mathematics Meetings, New Orleans, LA

Amie Albanese\*      Robert Nguyen\*      Tia Pilaroscia\*      Glenda Thammavongsa\*  
Cory Ali\*



### 2011 114th Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Austin, TX

Nameera Baig\*      Cassandra Flores\*      Jarrett Kitchen\*      Israel Sierra\*  
Preeti Choudhary\*      A'Tondra Gilstrap \*

### 2011 Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), New Braunfels, TX

Gloria Abarca\*      Marlyn Davila\*      Amrit Lamichhane\*      Huralain Raja\*  
Fernando Andrade\*      Sueyen Diosdado\*      Matthew Ojeda\*      Mayra Sanchez\*  
Jesus Barron\*      Russell Kendrick\*      Deepak Pandey\*      Tanu Uppal\*  
Diana Chakramakkil\*      Mitesh Koirala\*

### 2011 Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering and Science, Austin, TX

Andrew Mark

### 2011 Annual National Science Foundation (NSF) Interdisciplinary Training for Undergraduates in Biological and Mathematical Sciences (UBM), Fort Collins, CO

Russell Kendrick\*

### 2011 U.S. Department of Defense National HBCU/MI Conference, Atlanta, GA

Antoine Williams-Baisy\*

### 2011 Computing Alliance for Hispanic-Serving Institutions Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Amie Albanese\*      Latoya Green \*      Johnathan Kuskos\*      Ilian Rojas\*  
Lilian Antunes\*      Sarah Jennisca\*      Tia Pilaroscia\*      Mayra Sanchez\*  
Duber Gomez\*

### 2011 South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) Annual Meeting & Student Paper Presentations, Waco, TX

David Amos      Fatoumata Diallo      Teena Thomas

### 2011 CombinaTexas Conference, Huntsville, TX

Melissa Greenlee      Athena Pasuela      Tia Pilaroscia

### 2011 National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCChE) 38th Annual Technology Conference, Houston, TX

A'Tondra Gilstrap \*

### 2011 Joint Rocky Mountain/Cordilleran Regional Geological Society of America (GSA) Meeting, Logan, UT

Brandy Bell\*

### 2010 11th Annual Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair, Houston, TX

20 Student Posters from the UHD College of Sciences and Technology

### 2011 10th Annual UHD Student Research Conference, Houston, TX

50 Student Posters and 5 Student Papers from the UHD College of Sciences and Technology

\* Indicates this student presented a scientific research poster or oral presentation at this conference

\* Indicates an award was presented to this student for their scientific research presentation

### Brown Foundation Poster Presentation Awards

Frances Acevedo      A'Tondra Gilstrap (2)      Elda Rueda      Karina Vazquez  
Marlyn Davila (2)      Matthew Ojeda