

## Scholars Academy Graduate School & Internship Fair

October 17, 2025 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

**Purpose:** The purpose of the 26th Annual UHD Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair (GSIF) is to help promote students to prospective graduate schools and internships. It additionally serves a second purpose of showcasing the academic projects undertaken by UHD students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as mentored by PhD professors. Qualifying activities are projects completed as part of internships and independent or directed study at UHD, or any undergraduate research on or off campus. A limited number of research posters will be displayed for invited guests.

**Potential Audience:** Invitations were sent to over 300 graduate schools or internship programs nationally. In addition to the faculty/students from UHD College of Sciences and Technology anticipated attendance at this year's GSIF a limited capacity of guest exhibitors representing many different programs, such as Baylor College of Medicine, Ohio State Univ., Sam Houston State Univ., Stephen F. Austin State Univ., Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas Tech Univ., Univ. of North Texas, UT Health Science Centers (Houston, San Antonio, and Tyler), UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Southern Methodist University, and UT Medical Branch.

If you participated in off-campus research/internship and are a graduating senior, **you** are invited to participate in this year's GSIF poster presentation.

**Invited Student Presenters:** CST undergraduates and Scholars Academy members who will be graduating in the Fall 2025 semester are required to present a poster at GSIF (confer with your PhD faculty member). All other CST posters will be by invitation only. Invitations to present a poster will be made by UHD CST faculty to qualifying undergraduates. Students will complete the forms with approval by their faculty member.

**Recognition of Participation:** This conference is non-competitive. Participants will receive a copy of the proceedings and an important experience to include within their resumes. Abstracts included in the proceedings may be listed as a publication and the proceedings will be available at the Scholars Academy website.

### Important GSIF Deadlines:

August 25, 2025	Applications available to students and faculty. (Including uploaded application and abstract [Word only]) Weblink: <a href="https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77oxDIZ78OzF5X0">https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77oxDIZ78OzF5X0</a>
September 29, 2025	Application and electronic abstracts due.
October 6, 2025	Poster files due (PowerPoint file). Must include PowerPoint file and signed Poster Printing Approval Form Weblink: <a href="https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9oC76cwjFtvblO2">https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9oC76cwjFtvblO2</a>
October 17, 2025	26th Graduate School and Internship Fair

Sponsored by the UHD Scholars Academy.

One Main Street, 813-North; Houston TX 77002-1001  
Phone: 713-222-5344; Fax: 713-223-7410; [www.uhd.edu/scholars](http://www.uhd.edu/scholars)

Late applications cannot be accepted. The application form requires signatures of a UHD faculty sponsor and the student's academic department chairperson. The faculty sponsor should agree to review their student's abstract and poster file before submission. All applicants submitting by the deadline will be accepted. We expect to accept a maximum of 25 posters.

**Abstracts:** Abstracts must be submitted electronically with the application (signed). Please be sure to include your name and project title within the submission. Abstracts must not be more than 100 words. Ideally, the abstract should include the objective(s), problem, overview, and an interesting/enticing summary to catch a reader's interest. Accepted abstracts will be published in the GSIF Program and may be listed by the student as a publication. Abstracts that are poorly written will not be accepted.

Application and Abstract Weblink: [https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_77oxDIZ78OzF5X0](https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77oxDIZ78OzF5X0)

**Electronic Posters:** Student posters already prepared for other purposes or conference venues, but which also satisfy the above criteria, are welcome. If pre-printed poster, please deliver poster to the Scholars Academy office, N-813 by poster deadline. Participants are strongly encouraged to review recordings of poster workshops to assist with poster creation: <https://www.uhd.edu/academics/sciences/scholars/scholars-src.aspx>

Students are required to prepare poster files using a PowerPoint template provided by Scholars Academy. The full signed Poster Printing Approval Form must accompany the poster file. Students can obtain the template, and the poster approval form on GSIF website: <https://www.uhd.edu/academics/sciences/scholars/scholars-gsif.aspx>

**Poster files** previously printed for other venues should be submitted to the GSIF Poster files weblink: Electronic poster files are uploaded for the GSIF.

Weblink: [https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9oC76cwjFtvbIO2](https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9oC76cwjFtvbIO2)

**Acknowledgment of Assistance and Sponsorship:** Faculty advisors of these off-campus research projects (or those acting as on-campus surrogates) will mentor the participants during the preparation of their poster files. Participants must list all acknowledgements on their poster; this includes any assistance of individuals and/or organizations/agencies that worked on the research or sponsored the project. Proper acknowledgment of co-authorships should also be included on the poster.

**Property:** All posters files will become the property of UHD. These poster files may be printed and released to the faculty sponsors at a future date to be on regular display in the areas of the hosting departments.

**Photographs/Publications:** Photographs/videos of participants may be taken during presentations and throughout the event. These photographs/videos, abstracts, posters and release of information deemed necessary for publications may also be used in associated UHD reports and promotional media.



## GRADUATE SCHOOL AND INTERNSHIP FAIR

University of Houston-Downtown

Friday, October 17, 2025



Application due electronically by September 29, 2025

Presenter's Full Name	
Major and Degree	
Career Plans	
Expected Graduation Date	
Email Address	
Phone Number(s)	
Project Supervisor(s)	
Project Location(s)	
Official Title of Project	
Co-authors (see guidelines)	

Abstracts (100 word limit) must be sent electronically **by September 29, 2025** to Weblink: [https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_77oxDIZ78OzF5X0](https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77oxDIZ78OzF5X0). Sample abstracts are attached.

### UHD FACULTY SPONSOR:

By signing below, I agree to serve as the faculty sponsor for the above applicant. I agree to review the applicant's abstract (due September 29, 2025) and poster file (due October 6, 2025) and ensure that these are in accordance with standards similar to those in my academic discipline. I also agree to attend the GSIF on October 17, 2025 to support this student (unless other arrangements are made) and to encourage other CST students/faculty to attend.

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UHD Faculty Sponsor (please print name and sign using Adobe/PDF certified signature)

Date

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UHD Department Chair (please print name and sign using Adobe/PDF certified signature; Chair signature requirement is at the Chair's discretion)

Date

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Applicant Signature (please print name and sign using Adobe/PDF certified signature)

Date

If accepted to present, I fully intend to attend the GSIF and meet all deadlines and requirements. If accepted, I further authorize use of photos/videos, material I have submitted/completed in this application, and release of information deemed necessary for publications by the university and the GSIF staff/sponsors.

**Sponsored by the UHD Scholars Academy.**

Funded by: The National Science Foundation (0903948) and UH-Downtown.

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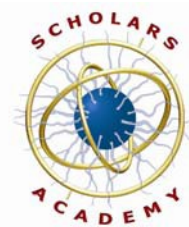
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University of Houston-Downtown

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## SAMPLE ABSTRACTS

### 1. Stabilization of Thiol/Acrylate Systems Using N-PAL

Hilda Hinojosa, Christopher Lopez, Colin Carandang, and Lucio Patino

Dr. Byron Christmas, Research Mentor, Center for Applied Polymer Science Research, UHD

**Abstract:** Using *tris*-nitroso-N-phenylhydroxylamine (N-PAL) as a free radical polymerization inhibitor, an investigation was conducted to characterize the shelf-life stability and relative reactivity of UV-polymerizable, thiol/acrylate-based formulations containing various concentrations of N-PAL. These formulations were characterized for their relative reactivity using differential photocalorimetry (DPC) techniques. The shelf-life stability data generated thus far indicate that N-PAL provides adequate stability without significantly reducing the relative reactivity of the formulations.

### 2. The Good Samaritan

Tudon Martinez, Alisha Romero

Dr. Heidi Ziemer, Research Mentor, Department of Social Sciences, UHD

**Abstract:** We studied whether gender determines the likelihood of a driver stopping to assist a casually dressed gentleman stranded on the side of the road. Many studies report differences between men and women when helping others is involved. The probable explanation lies in the nature of the help required in the situation. Active doing, spontaneous, and anonymous acts are more likely to be carried out by men than by women. Women are more likely to help than men when helping is more planned, formal, personal, and less likely to involve direct intervention. We considered a number of variables: situation, type of help necessary, time of the day, physical condition of the person offering help, and previous experiences. Some studies have found that interveners in several kinds of dangerous events had more exposure to crime, both in personal experience and in witnessing others' victimization, they were also taller, heavier, better trained to cope with emergencies (e.g. trained in life saving skills, medical and/or police trained) and were more likely to see themselves as physically strong, aggressive, emotional and principled.

### 3. Diatoms as Indicators of Wetland Mitigation Success

David Lang

Dr. Brad Hoge, Research Mentor, Department of Natural Sciences, UHD

Location: UHD, Greens Bayou Wetlands Mitigation Bank, and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge

**Abstract:** Diatoms were chosen to assess wetlands mitigation success in The Greens Bayou Wetlands Mitigation Bank, a project of The Harris County Flood Control District. Diatoms respond rapidly to environmental changes, thus diatom succession provides a good model of wetland mitigation success. Samples were collected from surface water and the first 10 centimeters of soil at the GBWMB and The Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, a relatively undisturbed wetland comparable to those at the GBWMB. Results show statistically different assemblages at the GBWMB compared the ANWR. These results suggest the GBWMB, although planted with climax community plants, is still undergoing succession.

### 4. Combating Spam Through Proofs of Effort

Cyril Harris III

Dr. Ping Chen, Research Mentor, Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences, UHD

**Abstract:** Spam is rapidly degrading the value of the Internet. Current methods to block spam are becoming less and less effective. Because of this several researchers from Microsoft Research proposed a new type of solution at Crypto 2003. To combat spam these researchers proposed that prices be accompanied with the act of sending email. These prices are easy to verify proofs of computational effort which would be hard to compute for the sender but easy to verify for the receiver.

### 5. Lower Bounds on the Matching Number of Bipartite Graphs

Iride Gramajo

Dr. Ermelinda DeLaVina, Research Mentor, Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences, UHD

**Abstract:** This presentation is a summary of an undergraduate research project in graph theory that involved resolving conjectures on the matching number of bipartite graphs generated by a computer program called Graffiti.pc, designed by Dr. Ermelinda DeLaVina. One main objective of this project was to obtain a collection of lower bounds on the matching number involving other easily computed graph invariants, which collectively predict the matching number of bipartite graphs. We present the collection of lower bounds obtained. A couple of the results were found in texts and research papers, and some were mathematical applications of Hall's Marriage Theorem and Berge's M-Augmenting Path Theorem; however, many were resolved with seemingly original strategies.

### 6. Cheating; Yes Unicellular Organisms Do It Too

Tek Williams and Vedangi Sample

Dr. Akif Uzman, Faculty Mentor, Department of Natural Sciences, UHD

Dr. Gad Shaulsky, Research Mentor, Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine

**Abstract:** Altruistic behavior is exhibited in *Dictyostelium* during reproduction. This form of group selection, also observed in higher organisms, ensures that genetic traits shared by a related group of individuals persist through subsequent generations via the sacrifice of some members. Certain mutations often become over-represented compared to other mutants. Mutants were created using restriction enzyme-mediated integration. Cultures containing different mutants were randomly mixed, then allowed to undergo 10 rounds of replication. Cultures were then characterized using cheating assays to screen for dominant mutants. *Dictyostelium* strain AX4 was used to compare the level of cheating. Swindling ones way into the spores ensures that your genetic make up will be directly passed on to the next generation.

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