

Spring Awards 2025



May 8, 2025

1999 -2025



Scholars Academy Staff

Executive Director:	Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Program Coordinator:	Mercedes Gonzales
Department Business Administrator:	Tanya Williams
Administrative Assistant II:	Anahi Aurelius
Peer Mentor Coordinator:	Professor Mitsue Nakamura

Ad Hoc Executive Committee

College of Sciences & Technology (CST) Dean
CST Associate Dean
CST Assistant Dean
Computer Science & Engineering Technology Chair
Natural Science Chair
Mathematics, Statistics, & Data Science Chair

Faculty Review Committee

Dr. Weining Feng—CSET
Dr. Ting Zhang— CSET
Dr. Amy Baird —NS
Dr. Maria Benavides —NS
Dr. Katherine Shoemaker - M&S
Dr. Benjamin Soibam - CSET
Dr. Eszter Trufan —NS
Ad Hoc—Sangeeta Gad, Mitsue Nakamura
Dr. Mary Jo Parker— Scholars Academy
Mercedes Gonzales— Scholars Academy

Spring 2025 Scholars Academy Awards Program



5:00 PM Registration - Academic Building, mural area

Follows Reg-
istration Dinner - A300

Robertson Auditorium

- 6:15 PM Welcome Remarks - Scholars Academy Executive Director, Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Opening Remarks – CST Dean, Dr. Akif Uzman
- 6:20 PM Faculty Mentor & Peer Mentor Introductions - Dr. Mary Jo Parker , Ms. Mitsue Nakamura
- 6:25 PM Looking Back Over 25 Years - Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Outstanding UHD Scholars Academy Alumni
Scholars Academy Community Partners & Service Learning
Individual Community Service Awards - Ms. Mercedes Gonzales
- 6:40 PM Faculty Mentor Presentation - Professor, Dr. Michael Tobin
- 6:50 PM Presentation of Special Awards - Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Dr. Byron Christmas (Chemistry)
Dr. Barry Garrett Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Larry G. Spears (Research)
Professor Mitsue Nakamura (Mentoring Award)
Dr. Hamida Qavi Biomedicine Research & Humanitarian Award
ACM award
CAHSI award
SA Leadership Award
- 7:00 PM Grant Funded Programs - Dr. Mary Jo Parker
CST PhD Research Mentors
- 7:05 PM Peer Tutors/ Peer Leaders/ PLTL Trainees
- 7:10 PM Research Conferences, Awards, Internships, Scholarships
- 7:30 PM Seminar Course Service Learning - Dr. Mary Jo Parker & Mitsue Nakamura
SA Annual Events - Student Research Conference (SRC) and Graduate School & Internship
Fair (GSIF) Pictures
- 7:35 PM Scholars Academy Honor Corps - Ms. Mercedes Gonzales
- 7:40 PM Scholars Academy Membership - Ms. Mercedes Gonzales
- 7:50 PM May 2025 Graduates & Next Steps
- 8:00 PM Next Year's Senior Peer Mentor - Mitsue Nakamura
Closing Remarks - Dr. Mary Jo Parker

**Pictures will be taken of groups immediately after award recognition.*

Major SA Program Events



Student Research
Conference



Peer Training Retreat



Graduate School
& Internship Fair



Fall/Spring
Orientations



Seminar & Field Trips

Broadening
Experiences

Mentored Research

Student Conferences



Faculty/Peer Mentors

Presenters: Dr. Mary Jo Parker, Ms. Mitsue Nakamura



Dr. Maria Benavides
Natural Sciences



Dr. Gabriela Bowden
Natural Sciences



Dr. Weining Feng
Computer Science & Engineering
Technology



Dr. Katarina Jegdic
Mathematics & Statistics



Dr. Mian Jiang
Natural Sciences



Dr. Connie Kang
Natural Sciences



Dr. Subash Pakhrin
Computer Science & Engineering
Technology



Dr. Mesias Pedroza
Natural Sciences



Dr. Sanghamitra Saha
Natural Sciences



Dr. Dvijesh Shastri
Computer Science & Engineering
Technology



Dr. Katherine Shoemaker
Mathematics & Statistics



Dr. Michael Tobin
Natural Sciences



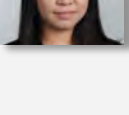
Dr. Eszter Trufan
Natural Sciences



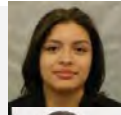
Dr. Ling Xu
Computer Science & Engineering
Technology



Dr. Emre Yilmaz
Computer Science & Engineering
Technology



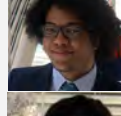
Dr. Ting Zhang
Computer Science & Engineering
Technology



Jessica Gonzalez
Senior Peer Mentor



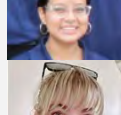
Stephanie Chavarria
Peer Mentor



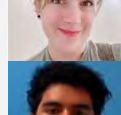
Nigel Flowers
Peer Mentor



Gael Gutierrez
Peer Mentor



Yaqueline Gutierrez
Peer Mentor



Christina Hamilton
Peer Mentor



Edgar Llanas
Peer Mentor



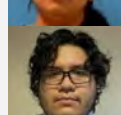
Precious Merenu
Peer Mentor



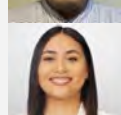
Judah Okolie
Peer Mentor



Maximiliano Perez
Peer Mentor



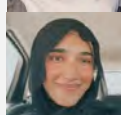
Tina Prajapati
Peer Mentor



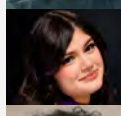
Eusebio Rodriguez
Peer Mentor



Yuliana Santos Ventura
Peer Mentor



Alexi Soto
Peer Mentor



Fatima Tanvir
Peer Mentor



Zara Usman
Peer Mentor

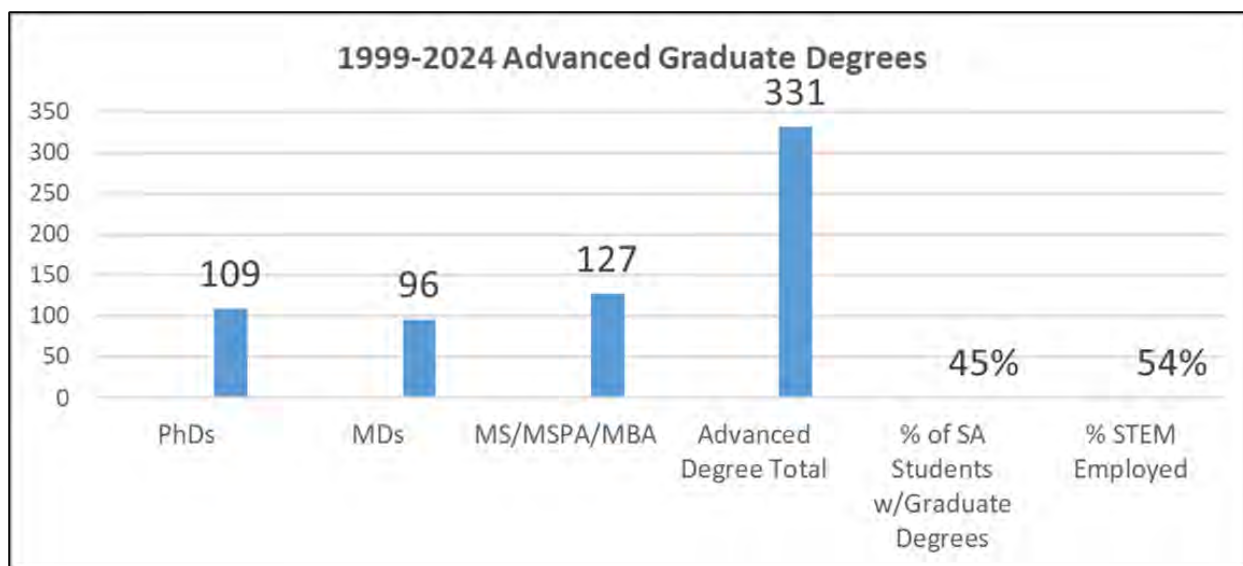


Jezel Valdez
Peer Mentor

Looking Back over 26 Years...

1999- 2025

Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker



Examples of Industry Employment & UHD STEM Graduates **Starting** Salaries

Microsoft	\$110,000
Google	\$109,000
Lockheed Martin	\$ 97,000
Cummins	\$104,000
Schlumberger	\$100,000
Dow	\$117,000
Toshiba Intern't'l	\$ 95,000
JP Morgan Chase	\$ 102,000
Valero	\$ 82,000
Ford Motor Co.	\$112,000

Examples of Graduate Programs

Baylor College of Medicine
 UTH Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
 Columbia University
 Harvard University
 Johns Hopkins University
 Penn State University
 Rice University
 UT Medical Branch-Galveston
 UT Southwestern

Significant Historical Points

In 2024 Scholars Academy awarded \$2.3 million Scholarships to over 306 UHD STEM undergraduates

In 25 years SA awarded over \$17 million to 7,324 UHD STEM undergraduates



Outstanding UHD Scholars Academy

Alumni cont



Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker

Medical

Mohammad Abedi	MD, PhD	Texas Tech Univ.	completed
Henia Abid,	DO	Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine	completed
Idiris AkinLusi	MD pending	TxTech ElPaso	pending
Shamsa Ali	MD	India Medical School	completed
Doris Amaro	MD	UTMB	completed
Praise Anene	PA	UT-Houston Medical School	completed
Larry Bellot	MD		completed
Prince Buzombo	MD		completed
David Cardenas	MD	Univ of Houston Medicine	3 rd Year Medical School
Ryan Cherian	MD		
David Cherian	MD	UT-Houston Medical School	
Daisy Cherian	MPAS	Univ. of South Alabama PA School	completed
Preeti Choudhary	PA	UT-Houston Medical School	completed
Caroline Daigle	MD	UT-Houston Medical School	completed
Marilyn Davila EIDiqran PA	PA	UT RGV	completed
Fattoumata Dialla	PharmD	Texas Southern University	completed
Fatma Diefalla	DDS	Dentistry	pending
Betsy Escobar	MD	UT Houston GSBS	completed
Mohammed EzzEldin	MD	UTHSC RioGrande Valley	completed
Phillip Gallegos	MD		completed
Anna Garcia	MD	McGovern Medical School	completed
Kenah	DPT	UTEP	pending
Elaine Garcia	MPAS	UTMB PA School	completed
Audrey Gonzales	PA	UT Southwestern MedSchool	completed
Irin Gringis	DDS	Tennessee	completed
Gabrielle Hines	D.O. prograom	LMU-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine	pending
Nick	DDS		pending
Abdul Jawad	MD	McGovern Medical School	completed
Sherin John	PharmD	Texas Southern University	completed
Henderson Jones	MD	UTHSC San Antonio	completed
Hafsa Khalil	MD pending	UT Southwestern	beginning Fall 2023
Linus Klingler	DDS pending	UTMB	pending
Jeeba Kuriakose	MD	UTMB	completed
Vien Lam	MD	Baylor College of Medicine	completed
Nguyen Blake Lam	MD, DDS	Baylor College of Med, UTMB	completed
Mai Lam	MPAS	UTMB PA School	completed
Christina Landowskil	MD	TAMU Medical School	completed
Diana Leal	MPAS	UT Southwestern PA School	completed



Outstanding UHD Scholars Academy

Alumni cont



Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker

Medical cont.

Andrew Marks	MD	UTHSC San Antonio	completed
Sheba Matthew	PharmD	Texas Southern Univ	completed
James McHenry	MD	UTMB	completed
Julie Nash	MD	Caribbean Univ	completed
Jennifer Nguyen	DDS pending	University of Chicago	pending
Thanh Nguyen	PharmD	Oregon University	completed
Thanh Nguyen	PharmD	Oregon University	completed
Jackie Nguym-Valdez	PharmD	Texas Southern University	completed
Shafeeq Noorudeen	MD	UT-Southwestern	completed
Shafeeq Noorudeen	MD	UT-Southwestern	completed
Stephanie Omage	MD	Univ of Queensland, Aust	completed
Moses Osoro	MD	UT-Southwestern Medical School	completed
Dipal Patel	MPAS	UTMB PA School	completed
Carolina Perez	MD pending	Eastern Virginia Med School	pending
Benjamin Pilgrim	MD	UTMB	completed
Carlos Ramirez	MPAS	UTMB PA School	completed
Raushan Rashid	MD pending	TxTech Foster College of Medicine	pending
Eduardo Rayo	MD pending	Caribbean Med School	completing
Alesha Rimmelin	DVM	TAMU College Station	completed
Pilar Rodriguez	D.O.	Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine	completed
Meheret Tadesse	PharmD		Pending
Roman Torres	DVM	Mississippi State University	completed
Mau Truong	DDS pending	UTDB	pending
Boriani Tychhon	MD pending	TxTech ElPaso	pending
Thien Vo	DPT	Texas Woman's University-Houston	pending
Tabitha Ward	MD	McGovern School of Medicine	completed
Ella	MD	UTSA Medical School	pending
Jay Weston	MD	McGovern School of Medicine	completed

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program 2021

William Reyes	PhD	University of Texas- Austin	Geology
Nhi Le	PhD	Rice University	Data Science
Anna Wheless	PhD program	Univ North Carolina	Biomedical pending



Outstanding UHD Scholars Academy

Alumni cont



Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker

PhDs

Jennifer Abrams	PhD	UT Houston GSBS	completed
Kursad Ahmet	PhD		
Tanu Uppal Altomare	PhD	UT SOPH	completed
Lillian Atunes	PhD	Washington Univ St Louis	completed
Nameera Baig	PhD	Notre Dame	completed
Michael Bustamante	PhD	Univ of Arizona	completing
Emilia Caylor	PhD pending	University of Arizona	pending
Shebna Cheema Massey	PhD	Baylor College of Medicine	completed
Jim Chisholm	PhD pending	TAMU College Station	pending
Marianna Cortez	PhD	Univ of Alabama-Birmingham	completed
Randy Davila	PhD		completed
Joly Fahim	PhD	University of Houston	pending
Erika Flores	PhD candidate	UT MDAnderson UTHGSBS	
Emily Fritsche	PhD pending	TAMU -Galveston	beginning Fall 2023
Rachel Gross	PhD	Univ of Massachusetts	pending
William Holtkamp	PhD	University of Houston	completed
Brian Holtkamp	PhD	University of Houston	completed
Huy Huyhn	PhD pending	UTHouston HSC	pending
	PhD program pend-		
Mehmet Inam	ing	UT HSC GSBS	pending
Claudia Jimenez-Lopez	PhD	UTH GSBS	completed
Valerie Jordan	PhD	Baylor College of Medicine	completed
Obidiah Kegege	PhD	Univ of Arkansas	completed
Russell Kendrick	PhD		
Adolph Lara	PhD	American Museum of Natural History	completed
Brian Le	PhD program	University of Houston	pending
Vy Li	PhD pending	UTH GSBS	pending
Phi Li	PhD	UT Austin	pending
Charles Livermore	PhD	University of Houston	completing
Milenia Lobaina	DDS		pending
Whitman Lui	PhD		completed
Michelle Martine	MS	Univ Massachusetts-Dartmouth	pending
Esmeralda Martinez	Ed.D	University of Houston	completed
Chris Matronga	PhD	NETL Researcher	completed
Takese McHenry	PhD	UTH GSBS	pending
Inam Mehmet	PhD	UTH GSBS	pending
Miriam Morales	PhD	UTHSC SOPH	completed
Sage Muttel	PhD	Western Virginia University	pending
Jennifer Nwogu	PhD pending	Univ of Pittsburg	completing



Outstanding UHD Scholars Academy

Alumni cont



Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker

PhDs

Mesias Pedroza	PhD	Baylor College of Medicine	completed
Irvin Romero	PhD	University of Houston	completing
Elda Rueda	PhD	University of Houston	completed
Verdangi Sample	PhD	Johns Hopkins University	completed
Amairani H. Schmidtkunz	PhD	UT Arlington	completed
Geraldine Schott	PhD	UTMB	completed
Riyasa Shrestha	PhD pending	Univ of Colorado	beginning Fall 2023
Alice Solomon	PhD	Univ of Arizona	pending
Regina Solomon	PhD	UTMB	pending
Courtney Standlee	PhD	Tulane Univ.	completed
Douglas Syzdek	PhD	University of Houston	completing
Antonio Tito	PhD	UTHSC-Houston	completed
Dat Truong	PhD	Texas A & M University Solugen	completed
Boris Tsanova	PhD	UTH GSBS	completed
Alisa Turchaninova	PhD	North Caroline Univ -Chappel Hill	pending
Isaac Valdez	PhD	UTH GSBS	completed
Evelyn Valdez-Ward	PhD	UC-Irving	completed
Karina Vasquez	PhD	Univ of Utah	completed
German Villalobos	PhD		
Elizabeth Villegas	PhD	BCM	completed
Miriam Waqar	PhD	University of Houston	completed
Courtney Watts/Standlee	PhD	Tulane	completed
Chad Weatherly	PhD program pend	University of Houston	pending
Desiree Wilson	PhD	UT HSC San Antonio	completed
Danae Woodard	PhD	UT Southwestern Medical	completed
Charide Zahia	PharmD	Texas Southern University	complete

Workforce

Davids Abdollahi	ADM	Security Officer
Darwin Argueta	TMC	Genetic Counseling
MJ Asuncion	Lockheed Martin	Software Engineer
Akhirah Avanti	Spring Branch ISD	Lead Science teacher
Sandra Azekwoh	UHD Student Health Services	Registered Nurse, BSN
Nabil Bani	JP Morgan Chase	Software engineer
Stephen Blom	Hewlett Packard	Systems integration
Huy Bui	Enovate Upstream	Data Scientist
Mimansi Bulsara	Lockheed Martin	Reliability Engineer
Nuru Bure	Sagis DX	Laboratory Technologist
Nadia Camacho	Enterprise Products	Decision Support Analyst
Lamont Cranfield	SGS	Chemist
Karina Filipovich	CONSOR Engineers	EIT



Outstanding UHD Scholars Academy



Alumni cont.

Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker

Workforce

Amy Flower	Fire Protection & Code Consult	Pres.
Andrew Garcia	IBM	Application Developer
Arturo Garza, Jr.	KBR/NASA	IRB Board Coordinator
Jonathon Genesee	Total Energies	Analyst Chemist
Melissa Greenlee	Microsoft	Software dev engineer
Riley Hardwick	Lower Colorado River Authority	Safety Specialist
Sarah Jennisca	Tokopedia	Software engineer lead
Russell Kendrick	IBM Cloud	Solutions architect
Arbaz Khan	IBM	Software Engineer
Laxman Kharel	Northrup Grumman	Software Engineer
Bennie Khoo	Exxon Mobile Foundation	Lead Coach TETC
Jarrett Kitchen	NexTier Oilfield Solutions	Chemist
Chad Kocurek	United Airlines	
Charlie Lazo	City of Houston	Environmental Investigator II
Crystal Llanas	Waste Management	Analyst
Arturo Macedo	SpaceX	Environmental Engineer
Victor Martinez	Wolverine OFT	Senior Software Engine
Omer Mir	General Motors	CS engineer
Joanna Mucogllava	Cummins	Software Engineer
Ravi Nagi	NASA JSC	Software Engineer
Daniel Nguyen	Lockheed Martin	Software Engineer
Niikky Nguyen	Total Energies	Special Projects Chemist
Minh Nguyen	Johns Hopkins University APL	Software Developer
Moises Nunez	Varsity Hype	Software Developer
Juan Oliveras	NASA	Data & Analytics Intern
Alecander Parrott	DataAnnotation	Data Analyst
Elda Piedade	Microsoft	Data Scientist
Arbaaz Polra	Schlumberger	S&C Data Engineer
Tai Quach	Omega365	System Engineer
Ranjan Poudel	ESG	Sr. Load Forecast Analys
Diana Rodarte	Ford Motor Co.	API Management
Eva Ruiz	Accenture	Data Science
Yesenia Salazar	Texas A&M University	Nuclear Engineering
Sivanan Sawh	Toshiba International	Field Engineer
Carlina Schurbert	Brazosport College	Adjunct Instructor
Isreal Sierra	Valero	Laboratory Supervisor
Irvin Solano	SWCA Environmental Consultants	Assoc Staff Biologist
Amee Stevenson	Lockheed Martin	ASIC & FPGA Design
Alberto Urbina	Houston Community College	President
Nancy Uroza	CLA	Sr Assoc.
Glaubyane Viana	EDG	Automation Engineer
Sara Wilder	Geophysical Company	Data Analyst
Utku Yurter	Accenture	Advanced Application

Community Partners & Service Learning

Peer Mentor Community Partners

Organization

Earth Day at Discovery Green
Community Event for STEM Majors
Emerging Voices in STEM Event
Afterschool Homework Help Program
Girls in STEM Conference Grades 3-8
Houston Food Bank
Tutoring Services
Compudopt
MacArthur HS Robotics Workshop
Childrens' Museum DIY Crafts in STEM
Houston Science & Engineering Fair
Compudopt
Houston Science & Engineering Fair
Emerging Voices in STEM Event
Fruits and Flowers Experiments
Houston Cycle—Building Bicycles
Sheldon State Park Plant a Prairie Event

Consumer Energy Alliance - Energy Day

Houston Health Museum - Halloween Health Day

Mosaic Church - Middle School Experiments Across STEM

Stevenson Middle School - Middle School Experiments Across STEM

Consumer Energy Education Foundation -Energy Day

Alief ISD K-8 Saturday Program in STEM

Individual Community Service Awards

Three Scholars Academy members recorded service hours for the FY 24-25 year totaling **172.3 hours**:

Isaiah Le, Audrey Rubio, Alexi Soto

Winners

1st place: Audrey Rubio, 104 hours

2nd place: Isaiah Le, 55.3 hours

3rd place: Alexi Soto, 13 hours





Dr. Michael Tobin

Professor

Biology, Department of Natural Sciences

College of Sciences and Technology

Dr. Michael Tobin is Professor in the Natural Sciences Department, which he joined in the fall of 2012. He teaches courses on plant biology, general ecology, plant identification, and environmental field science. Dr. Tobin is a plant physiological ecologist focusing on functional traits associated with drought and thermal tolerance in grasses. He has enthusiastically served as faculty mentor for Scholars Academy since 2014. Dr. Tobin's interactions with Scholars Academy students have been a motivating reminder of why teaching and mentoring are so important.

Presenters: Mitsue Nakamura & Jessica Gonzalez



Special Honorees



Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker



Dr. Byron Christmas
Scholarship and Research Award

This award recognizes the vital work, support, and research Dr. Christmas provided UHD and the Scholars Academy. His work in polymer chemistry was unique to the chemistry department and his work mentoring research projects has assisted many SA members to continue their studies in advanced degrees.

Presenter:

Dr. Mian Jiang



Dr. Barry Garrett
Scholarship and Research Endowed Award

This award honors the Dr. Barry Garrett family who generosity has allowed so many STEM undergraduates to receive tuition support underpinning their collegiate careers. Since 2012 through now this scholarship has supported more than 13 undergraduates focusing on chemistry as a major to excel. Of the initial 13 undergraduates supported 2 have Masters degrees, 2 have obtained PhDs, 3 have completed MDs, and 1 enters PhD school in Fall 2023.

Presenter:

Dr. Eszter Trufan



Dr. Larry Spears
Outstanding Research Student Award

This award recognizes the tremendous impact on STEM education and STEM research for undergraduates Dr. Larry Spears brought to UHD, but especially to the Scholars Academy. His early belief that research acts to inform participating students of the career possibilities research can afford is now sufficiently borne out in research literature.

Presenter:

Dr. Maria Benavides



Professor Mitsue Nakamura
Excellence in Mentoring Award

This award recognizes the essence of mentoring others, peers, near-peers, and expert-peers focusing on belonging, academic success, and development of confidence and capacity of the individual.

Presenter:

Ms. Mitsue Nakamura



Dr. Hamida Qavi
Bio-medicine Research and Humanitarian Award

A special humanitarian and research scholarship has been established for this kind and supportive FRIEND of the Scholars Academy. A scholarship will be provided for the student selected for this award for full-time involvement in degree obtainment.

Presenter:

Dr. Katarina Jegdic



ACM CS Award of Leadership

This award recognizes leaders within the ACM Computer Science organization who assist in organizing the club, the activities vital to growth of computer science majors, and to continuing the annual robotics competition.

Presenter:

Dr. Subash Pakhrin



CAHSI Award of Leadership

This award recognizes contributions to the CAHSI group promoting computer science to Hispanic and other minority students.

Presenter:

Dr. Subash Pakhrin



SA Leadership Award

This is a new award recognizing "giving back" to the Scholars Academy through mentoring, service learning/service, mentored research, recruitment, encouraging other peer STEM majors to academic excellence, and by being a role model for all other STEM majors, especially those in SA.

Presenter:

Dr. Mary Jo Parker

Cont.

Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker

Dr. Byron Christmas Dr. Scholarship and Research Award

2021 – Mays Al-Maliki, Jeff Cayax
2022 – Aby Diagne, Alina Ali, Tram Tran
2023 – Emily Fritsche, Miranda Johnson
2024 – Aziz Ali, Carlina Schubert

Dr. Barry Garrett Scholarship and Research Endowed Award

2021 – Gaelle Elias
2022 – Aziz Ali, Emily Fritsche
2023 – Aziz Ali, Carlina Schubert
2024 – Chessa To

Dr. Larry Spears Outstanding Research Student Award

2021- Minh Nguyen, Karina Rodarte, Meheret Tadesse
2022 – Nick Huynh, Arath Gomez, Omar Khan, Praise Oderinde
2023 – Bhooma Parthasarathy, Nichole Dukett
2024 – Andrew Garcia, Maggie Ha, Arbaz Khan

Professor Mitsue Nakamura Excellence in Mentoring Award

2021 – Allison Mckee, Fikir Tadesse
2022 – Brenda Villalobos, Allison Mckee
2023 – Brenda Villalobos
2024 – Pamela Morales Diaz

Dr. Hamida Qavi Biomedicine Research and Humanitarian Award

2022 – Ha Do
2023 – Ha Do
2024 – Brenda Luis, Juan Olivares

ACM CS Award of Leadership

2021 – Joana Mucogllava
2022 – Bhagwat Dhakal, Hai Trinh
2023 – Mj Asuncion, Hai Trinh, Evelise Guenda, Huy Troung
2024 – Arbaz Khan

CAHSI Award of Leadership

2021 – Miguel Figueroa
2022 – Isabella Herrera
2023 – Damian Ramirez
2024 – Mj Asuncion

Leadership Award

2021 – Christian Beke Onana, Alina Ali, Rafael Galvan, Joana Mucogllava, Christina Nguyen
2022 – Afaf Atiyah, Hafsa Khalil, Duc Thanh La, Mj Asuncion, Irvin Solano
2023 – Hatoon Badawi, Duc Thanh La, Riley Hardwick, Nick Huynh, Bhagwat Dhakal, Pamela Morales, Hafsa Khalil
2024 – Kyra Bennett, Isaiah Le, Jade Majekodunmi, Huy Pham, Jezel Valdez

Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker

DOED MSEIP 2021 (P120A220015) Boosting STEM Student Success

DOED MSEIP 2021 (P120A230070) UHD Promoting Student Success in Math Across Math/Statistics/Natural Sciences/Computer Sciences

Texas Department of Transportation - National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission MSIG 2024



Spring 2025 CST PhD Research Mentors

Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker

Dr. Gabriela Bowden
Dr. Pablo Delclos
Dr. Weining Feng
Dr. Cesar Garza
Dr. Sarah Heinlein
Dr. Katarina Jegdic
Dr. Mian Jiang
Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Dr. Dvijesh Shastri
Dr. Connie Kang
Dr. Maria Benavides
Dr. Hong Lin
Dr. Shengli Yuan
Dr. Jorge Tito
Dr. Benjamin Soibam

Dr. Elda Rueda
Dr. Rachna Sadana
Dr. Sanghamitra Saha
Dr. Katherine Shoemaker
Dr. Jacob Theruvathu
Dr. Ling Xu
Dr. Emre Yilmaz
Dr. Ting Zhang
Dr. Michael Tobin
Dr. Amy Baird
Dr. Adriana Visbal
Dr. Poonam Gulati
Dr. Robin Jose
Dr. Mahmud Hasan
Dr. Wenlong Gong

**Thank you to all CST Research PhDs for mentoring
over 51 STEM undergraduates in research.**



Natural Science Tutors, Collaborative Learning Community Center (CLCC), & Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL), Research Leaders, Just In Time Research Leaders

Natural Science Tutors

Fall 2024

Aziz Ali
Yaqueline Gutierrez
Taylor Newton
Audrey Rubio
Alexi Soto
Eric Stinemetz

Spring 2025

Yaqueline Gutierrez
Audrey Rubio
Gilbert Sanchez
Landon Sanz
Alexi Soto

Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) Trainees

Fall 2024

Marie Cepeda
Krishnaraj Narayanan
Jz Kamille Eclarin
Sommojoty Dasgupta
John Nobles
Landon Sanz
Syed Khalil
Hailey Moreno
Taylor Newton

Spring 2025

Stephanie Chavarria
Anthony Gray Mancini
Johnson Tran
Mark Garcia
Daniela Solorzano
Ange Nganou
Gael Gutierrez
Ashley Espinoza
Jiya Desai
Larry King Mokom
Martin Ramirez
Oneal Baptiste
Connor Durrenberger
Eusebio Rodriguez
Precious Merenu
Taylor Newton
Zara Usman

Collaborative Learning Community Center (CLCC) Tutors

Fall 2024

Christina Hamilton
Jessica Gonzales
Alexi Soto
Jezel Valdez
Suleiman Anaza
Justin Cline
Nigel Flowers
Jabari Fowler
Edgar Llanas
Robert Reinartz
Jose Viera

Spring 2025

Christina Hamilton
Jessica Gonzales
Hailey Moreno
Alexi Soto
Jezel Valdez
Suleiman Anaza
Justin Cline
Connor Durrenberger
Nigel Flowers
Edgar Llanas
John Nobles
Robert Reinartz
Jose Viera



RESEARCH/CONFERENCES

American Concrete Institute Competition

Ghayda Kassir
Fremond Mbangaza
Jayleen Montano
Kha Nguyen

Great Minds in STEM (GMiS) 2024

Jessica Gonzalez—3rd place, Poster Presentation, Computing Section
Leonel Kachie—3rd place, STEM Zone
Laxman Kharel—Associate Software Engineer position offer, Northrop Grumman
Edgar Llanas—3rd place, Poster Presentation, Computing
Jose Viera— Software Engineer Internship Summer 2025

Participants:

O'Neal Baptiste	Edgar Llanas
Fumnanya Biosa	Brenda Luis
Zachary Castro	Precious Merenu
Justin Cline	Judah Okolie
Gabriel Coronado	Robert Reinartz
Cristian Deleon	Tsneem Sallam
Keith Laurendine	Fatima Tanvir
	Jezel Valdez

Gulf-South Summit Conference

Stephanie Chavarria
Alexi Soto

Hispanic Educational Technology Services (HETS)

Jessica Gonzalez
Edgar Llanas
Jezel Valdez

International Builders' Show (IBS) organized by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)

Ghayda Kassir

MD Anderson Summer Research Program

Tina Prajapati

MD Anderson Cancer Center R25 UPWARDS Research Training Program 2024-2025

Isaiah Le

Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) Conference - Lamar University—1st place

Justin Cline
Jabari Fowler
Christine Hamilton
Robert Reinartz

Peer-Led Team Learning International Society

Alexi Soto

Stanford Center for Asian Health Research and Education (CARE) Scholars Program 2025

Isaiah Le

Texas Academy of Sciences (TAS) 2025 Annual Meeting Cell and Molecular Category

Poster Presentation:

Yaqueline Gutierrez— 1st place
Maximiliano Perez—2nd place

Oral Presentation:

Tina Prajapati, 1st place

Texas State University REU Summer

John Esparragoza

University of Houston

Fatima Tanvir—Data Science and Energy Transition

University of Houston—Downtown

Impact Learning & Community Engagement Showcase

Kibru Menore

University of Michigan 2025 Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP)

Jz Kamille Eclarin
Krishnaraj Narayanan





Research Conferences, Awards, Internships, Scholarships cont.



AWARDS

Google

Shahbaz Magsi— CourseX, launch as Google Campus with search services inside the app

***Microbes and Immunity* under ACC Science Publishing— Manuscript Publication**

Jz Kamille Eclarin
Krishnaraj Narayanan

Trademark Official Gazette (TMOG)

Stephanie Murrile—Antique Recipe trademark

University of Houston—Downtown

Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning (CCESL) Spring 2025 Student-Led Community Engagement Grant

Stephanie Ayala
Stephanie Murrile
Victoria Sky-Eagle

Hack UHD

Nhi Bui, John Nobles—2nd place
Ian Lapaglia, Anthony Mancini, Jose Viera—3rd place

INTERNSHIPS

Amazon

Fremond Mbanguza—Area Manager Intern

Cibor Geoconsultants

Ghayda Kassar—Engineering Intern

Department of Defense - U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

Mitchell Nasser—Intern, Robotics/Autonomy and Sensing Systems

Tern

Nhi Bui—Frontend Developer

Google Summer Internship

Shahbaz Magsi—Data Scientist Intern; full-time position as a Data Scientist at graduation

NASA

Juan Olivares—Data and Analytics Internship

Northrop Grumman

Jessica Gonzalez—Software Engineering Intern
Jezel Valdez— Software Engineer Intern, Minnesota, Summer 2025

University of Houston, Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, Shadowing Opportunity and Application Resource (SOAR) Program

Ashley Espinoza
Zara Usman

SCHOLARSHIPS

American Society® of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Chapter Scholarship, Houston Branch

Kha Nguyen

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

Fumnanya Biosa
Douglas Henriquez— Café Bustelo El Café Del Futuro Scholarship 2024-2025
Isaiah Le— Kia America Accelerate the Good Scholarship Program

Houston LSAMP

John Esparragoza

Lone Star College Transfer Scholarship

John Esparragoza

Marianne de Korvin Scholarship

Johnson Tran

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

John Esparragoza

Ongard Sirisaengtaksin Scholarship for Computer Science

Jessica Gonzalez

Payam Scholarship

Leonel Kachie

Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education 2025 Ivory Moore Graduate Scholarship.

O'Neal Baptiste

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Program Award for Technical and Higher Education (PATH) Scholarship Program

Isaiah Le

University of Houston— Downtown

Pre-Health Professions Scholarship

Stiven Traore

MICROSURP Scholarship and Internship

Patricia Amador

Welch Foundation Scholarship

Omar Omar

Presenter: Dr. Mary Jo Parker

Christina Hamilton- Westbury Christian School - STEM Learning Day

Edgar Llanas - Houston Wesley Community Center - Food Distribution

Eusebio Rodriguez - Houston Energy Day

Fatima Tanvir - Conoco STEM Zone

Nigel Flowers - Houston Food Bank

Gael Gutierrez - St. Charles Borromeo Church - After school tutoring

Jabari Fowler - Houston Food Bank- Food Distribution

Jezel Valdez - Compudopt- Computer Distribution

Precious Merenu- Houston Gem and Mineral Society

Judah Okolie - Memorial Assistance Ministries

Patricia Amador - St Charles Borromeo Church - Children's Outreach

Alexi Soto - Avanca Houston - Biologists for STEM Advocacy

Tina Prajapati - Children's Museum STEM Day

Zara Usman - Sunnyside Park with Houston Parks and Recreation - Gardening

FTIC

Edgar Llanas—Galena Park Middle School

Syed Khalil— Bracewell Neighborhood Library



Student Research Conference (SRC)



Graduate School & Internship Fair



Presenter: Ms. Mercedes Gonzales

Requirements for Honor Corps:

- ✓ Minimum of 9 semester credit hours of college-level work at UHD
- ✓ Minimum of 3.5 GPA
- ✓ No grade of I or F

Honor Corps - 4 Years

NA

Honor Corps - 3 Years

Jessica Gonzalez
Judah Okolie
Tina Prajapati
Victoria Sky-Eagle
Damilola Whedan

Honor Corps - 2 Years

Sadman Abdullah	Ghaydaa Kassar
Patricia Amador	Kha Nguyen
Omer Bar	Abdulrahman Omar
Fumnanya Biosa	Audrey Rubio
Ngoc Anh Nhi Bui	Delwin Sunil
Gabriel Coronado	Yasli Tax
Sommojoty Dasgupta	Diloma Traore
Camaya Ezeike	Christian Tuffelmire
Yaqueline Gutierrez	Jose Viera

Honor Corps - 1 Year

Jonathan Aguilar	Tam Hoang	Jayleen Montano	Hector Romero	Liza Tamang
Huriel Bautista	Aazar Jan	Hailey Moreno	Valerie Salgado	Stephanie Torres
Olamilekan Bello	Leonel Kachie	Stephanie Murrile	Emmanuel Sanchez	Johnson Tran
Ahmed Rayen Ben Aoun	Takoudjou	Ange Nganou	Ezekiel Sanchez	Zara Usman
Mercy Clement-Akiyamen	Ilma Khanbabi	John Nobles	Oriana Sanchez Jimenez	Jezel Valdez
Cristian Deleon	Ian Lapaglia	Samuel Nunez	Saul Santander	Makaila Whitmire
Jiya Desai	Viviana Lara	Opemipo Odejimi	Yuliana Santos Ventura	Shikyna William
Connor Durrenberger	Edgar Llanas	Oyinkansola Oyefusi	Landon Sanz	Junda Yin
Jz Kamille Eclarin	Isaiah Le	Prajwal Parajuli	Ana Sepulveda	Lucia Zafiris
Ashley Espinoza	Brenda Luis	Ashraya Piya	Simonsha Shrestha	
Mateen Hakeem	Anthony Mancini	Juan Oliveros	Melanie Solano	
Douglas Henriquez	Miguel Martinez	Omar Omar	Raul Soto-Alabarc	
	Fremond Mbanguza	Maximiliano Perez		
	Madison Miranda	Niyah Rey		

Presenter: Ms. Mercedes Gonzales FALL 2024

Sadman S Abdullah	Ashley Espinoza	Shahbaz A Magsi	Roy Portales	Fatima Tanvir
Adair Tellez	Camaya Ezeike	Aliyan Maknojia	Tina Prajapati	Yasli B Tax
Ravi Nagi	Eterneti K. Ferguson	Brooklyn Martin	Catherine Quiala	Filmon
Emmanuel Adeyemi	Carlos Flores	Michelle Martin (Kurtz)	Jorge Quintana	Teweldebrhan
Johnathan Aguilar	Nigel Flowers	Enrique Martinez	Kenell Ramirez	Stephanie Torres
Mohaimen Al Dulaimi	Jabari Fowler	Eduardo Martinez	Martin Ramirez	Dan Khanh D Tran
Aziz Ali	Michael Fowler	Miguel Martinez	Sayed Raoufi	Diloma (Stiven)
Shifa Ali Maknojia	Natalie Galvan	Jaylene Martinez	Robert Reinartz	Traore
Dayvin Alvarado	Andrew Garcia	Fremond Mbanguzi	Nyah Rey	Alizha Trevino
Patricia Amador	Mark Garcia	Stephanie Melendez	Mary E. Robles	Hai Trinh
Ewomazino Areh	Kaede Gaut	Isaac Mendoza	Cristian Rodriguez	Kinh Long Truong
Stephanie Ayala	Jessica Gonzalez	Precious Merenu	John Rodriguez	Christian
Oneal Baptiste	Leonardo Gonzalez Padron	Madison Miranda	Alfredo Rodriguez	Tuffelmire
Omer Bar	Adam Gullion	Jayleen Montano	Abigail Rodriguez	Melissa Uchem
Abdulla T Basim	Yaqueline E Gutierrez	Maddox Moreno	Eusebio G Rodriguez	Jose Udave
Olamilekan Bello	Gael Gutierrez	Gloria Munyeshyaka	Pedro Rodriguez Navarro	Brisa Urias
Ahmed Rayen Ben Aoun	Mateen Hakeem	Ava Murphy	Hector Romero	Zara Usman
Oumayma Ben Aoun	Christina Hamilton	Stephanie Murrile	Audrey Rubio	Leslie Valdez
Luis? Benavides	Riley Hardwick	Krishnaraj Narayanan	Onid Ryan	Jezel M Valdez
Fumnanya Biosa	Tasneem Hassan	Mitchell Nasser	Valerie Salgado	Lorenzo Vasquez
Ariel Brown	Douglas Henriquez	Hanya Navarrete	Hillary Salgado	Jose Viera
Ngoc Anh Nhi Bui	Juandedios Hernandez	Taylor Newton	Tsneem Sallam	Jesus A. Villalobos
Nadia Camacho	Brigitte Hernandez	Ange Nganou	Edward Sanchez	Damilola Whedan
Kayla D Campbell	John Hernandez	Alex Nguyen	Emmanuel Sanchez	Makaila Whitmire
Ian Caraballo	Tam Hoang	Andrew Nguyen	Oriana Sanchez Jimenez	Junda Yin
Joseph Cascio	Riad Hossen	Kha Nhat Nguyen	Saul Santander	Lucia Zafiris
Galeno Castilleja	Aazar Jan	John Nobles	Yuliana Santos	
Zachary Castro	Leonel Kachie Takoudjou	Samuel Nunez	Evelyn Santoyo	
Kimberly Cepeda	Ghaydaa Kassar	Esmeralda Nuno Cortez	Landon Sanz	
Aliza Champagne	Tahj Kendrick	CJ "Christopher" Nwachukwu	Andrew Segovia	
Stephanie Chavarria	Syed Khalil	Opeimpo Daniel Odejimi	Jorge Segovia	
Amanda R Chavez	Laxman Kharel	Elizabeth Ogunrin	Ana R Sepulveda	
Mercy Clement Akioyamen	Tamiru Kotisso	Judah E. Okolie	Simonsha Shrestha	
Justin Cline	Rabina Lama	Juan J Oliveros	Muhammad Siddiqui	
Gabriel Coronado	Ian Lapaglia	Omar A Omar	Victoria I Sky-Eagle	
Lisa Curiel	Viviana Lara	Abdulrahman A Omar	Melanie Solano	
Sommojoty Dasgupta	Keith Laurendine	Oyinkansola Oyefusi	(John) Tristan Sollano	
Cristian Deleon	Isaiah N Le	Prajwal Parajuli	Daniela Solorzano	
Christian Deransburg	Deen LeBlanc	Kevin Y Patino Melesio	Alexi I. Soto	
Jiya Desai	Edgar Llanas	Maximiliano Perez	Raul Soto-Alabarce	
Thomas Duong	Casey Lopez	Tuan Huy Pham	Eric Stinemetz	
Connor Durrenberger	Brenda E Luis	Skyler Phillips	Ramla Sufi	
Jz Kamille Eclarin	Husna R Lumbila	Jorge Pineda	Delwin Sunil	
Victor Escobedo	Karibi Maclayton	Ashraya Piya	Nguyen Tan	

Scholars Academy Membership

Cont.



Presenter: Ms. Mercedes Gonzales

SPRING 2025

Sadman S Abdullah	Michael Fowler	Jayleen Montano	Evelyn Santoyo
Damilola J Afolabi	Andrew Garcia	Pamela D Morales Diaz	Carlina Schubert
Aziz Ali	Jessica Gonzalez	Gloria Munyeshyaka	Ana R Sepulveda
Patricia Amador	Yaqueline E Gutierrez	Stephanie Murrile	Simonsha Shrestha
Silvia G. Arteaga	Gael Gutierrez	Ravi Nagi	Victoria I Sky-Eagle
Marco Asuncion	Thi Mai Khoi Ha	Hanya Navarrete	Kyle Smith
Anthony Avilez	Mateen Hakeem	Taylor Newton	Irvin G Solano
Shawn-Dawn Awagu	Christina Hamilton	Tan Nguyen	Alexi I. Soto
Stephanie Ayala	Riley Hardwick	Kha Nhat Nguyen	Raul Soto-Alabarce
Nehaa Balaji	Tam Hoang	Phuoc T Nguyen	Eric Stinemetz
Oneal Baptiste	Riad Hossen	Samuel Nunez	Ramla Sufi
Omer Bar	Aazar Jan	Esmeralda Nuno Cortez	Delwin Sunil
Abdulla T Basim	Joanne Judge	Judah E. Okolie	Fatima Tanvir
Olamilekan Bello	Ghaydaa Kassar	Juan J Oliveros	Yasli B Tax
Ahmed Rayen Ben Aoun	Tahj Kendrick	Omar A Omar	Filmon Teweldebrhan
Kyra A Bennett	Syed Khalil	Abdulrahman A Omar	Kieu, Ngoc Diem To
Fumnanya Biosa	Arbaz Khan	Kevin Y Patino Melesio	Dan Khanh D Tran
Ngoc Anh Nhi Bui	Asad irfan Khan	Maximiliano Perez	Johnson Tran
Nadia Camacho	Laxman Kharel	Tuan Huy Pham	My Thi Truc Tran
Kayla D Campbell	Tamiru Kotisso	Skyler Phillips	Diloma (Stiven) Traore
Abraham D Castillo	Rabina Lama	Roy Portales	Hai Trinh
Zachary Castro	Isaiah N Le	Tina Prajapati	Kinh Long Truong
Kimberly Cepeda	Deen LeBlanc	Zainab Qureshi	Huy Chi Truong
Stephanie M Chavarria	Yang Li	Sayed Raoufi	Christian Tuffelmire
Amanda R Chavez	Edgar Llanas	Robert Reinartz	Zara Usman
Justin Cline	Ryan Long	Nyah Rey	Jezel M Valdez
Nicholas Conde	Cindy Lopez	Ricardo Rios	Jose Viera
Gabriel Coronado	Hugo Lopez	Juan Rivera	Jesus A. Villalobos
Destiny Cruz	Brenda E Luis	Mary E. Robles	Garrett S. Weems
Cesar Cutz	Husna R Lumbila	Abigail Rodriguez	Damilola Whedan
Long Dang	Shahbaz A Magsi	Eusebio G Rodriguez	Makaila Whitmire
Sommojoty Dasgupta	Jade Majekodunmi	Pedro Rodriguez Navarro	Allegra Williams-Wright
Cristian Deleon	Michelle Martin	Audrey Rubio	Junda Yin
Aby Diagne	Brooklyn Martin	Estefanie Ruiz	Lucia Zafiris
Thomas Duong	Miguel Martinez	Hillary Salgado	
Connor Durrenberger	Eduardo Martinez	Tsneem Sallam	
Camaya Ezeike	Jaylene Martinez	Sasha Samuel	
Eterneti K. Ferguson	Perla Mendoza	Yuliana Santos	
Nigel Flowers	Isaac Mendoza		
	Precious Merenu		

Graduates & Next Steps

Graduates

Fall 2024

David Abdollahi
Afaf Atiyah
Sandra Azekwoh
Zachary Belanger
Daniela Castro
Rachel Cu
Bhagwat Dhakal
Ha Le Khanh Do
Jabari Fowler
Evelise Guenda

Spring 2025

Patricia Lucero Amador	Leonel Franklin Kachie Takoudjou
Olamilekan A Bello	Tamiru Alemayehu Kotisso
Fumnanya Ziona Biosa	Miguel Alejandro Martinez
Cristian A Deleon	Kevin Yair Patino Melesio
Camaya Ezeike	Robert Allan Reinartz
Yaqueline Esperanza Gutierrez	Daniela Alejandra Solorzano Lopez
Christina Marie Hamilton	Raul Soto-Alabarce
Aazar Jan	Junda Yin

Next Steps?

Graduate/Professional School

Leonel Kachie is applying to graduate school.
Omar Omar is transferring to the University of Houston-College of Pharmacy.

Workforce

Sandra Azekwoh is a Registered Nurse, UHD Student Health Services.
Camaya Ezeike was accepted to two PA schools, Baylor College of Medicine and the University of North Texas Health Science Center.
Jabari Fowler was offered jobs as a Quality Engineer at Apple, at Lockheed, as an intern at IBM, and as an intern at Nvidia.
Aazar Jan was offered a job as a full time Software Developer at Uber.



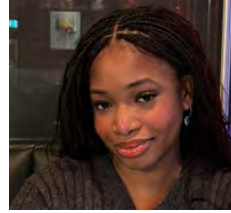
Spring 2025 Graduates



Patricia Amador



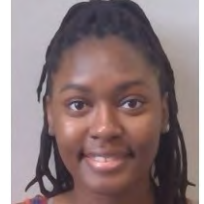
Olamilekan Bello



Fumnanya Biosa



Christian Deleon



Camaya Ezeike



Yaqueline Gutierrez



Christina Hamilton



Aazar Jan



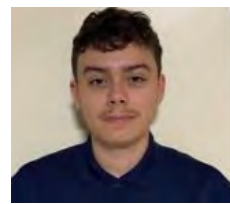
Leonel Kachie
Takoudou



Tamiru Kotisso



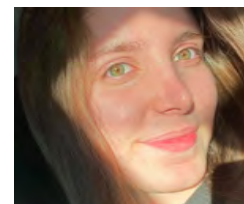
Miguel Martinez



Kevin Pation Melesio



Robert Reinartz



Daniela Solorzano



Raul Soto-Alabarce



Junda Yin

Please join us in congratulating our

Spring 2025 Graduates

Spring Awards 2025

May 8, 2025

1999-2025



Scholars Academy
University of Houston - Downtown
One Main Street, N-813
Houston, Texas 77002