8th Annual
UHD Student Research Conference

Sponsored by the UHD Scholars Academy

Funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (1T34GM079088-01), National Science Foundation (0336612, 0402623, 0734294, 0728408), U.S. Army Research Office (W911NF-04-1-0024), U.S. Department of Education (P120A050068, P120A070025), The Brown Foundation, and UH-Downtown

A showcase of academic excellence demonstrated by UHD undergraduates majoring within the Colleges of Business, Humanities and Social Science, Public Service, and Sciences and Technology.

Friday, April 17, 2009

8:00 - 9:30 am Registration and Continental Breakfast, Coffee House
9:30 am Dr. Max Castillo, President, University of Houston-Downtown
Welcoming Remarks, UHD Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium
9:35 am Dr. Clete Snell, Chair and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, UHD
Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Auditorium
9:40 - 10:10 am Vicki King, Assistant Chief of Police
Houston Police Department
Keynote Speaker, Auditorium
10:15 - 11:15 am Oral Presentations, Session I, Auditorium
11:20 - 12:20 pm Oral Presentations, Session II, Auditorium
Introductions by Dr. Vicky Estrera, Director, UHD Scholars Academy
12:20 - 1:30 pm Lunch Break
1:30 - 3:30 pm Open Poster Sessions, Room A300

Conference Co-Chairs:
Dr. Gene Preuss, Assistant Professor of History, UHD
Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon, Associate Professor of Mathematics, UHD

Conference Planning Committee:
Dr. Richard Alo, Executive Director, UHD Center for Computational Science, Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Ermelinda DeLaVina, Associate Professor of Mathematics, UHD
Dr. Vicky Estrera, Director, UHD Scholars Academy
Dr. Weinig Feng, Associate Professor of Engineering Technology, UHD
Mr. Rene Garcia, Program Manager, UHD Scholars Academy
Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Assistant Professor of Geology, UHD
Dr. Marilyn McShane, Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of the Institute for Community Justice, UHD
Dr. Lisa Morano, Associate Professor of Biology and Microbiology, UHD
Dr. Kenneth Oberhoff, Assoc. Dean, UHD College of Sciences & Technology
Dr. George Pincus, Dean, UHD College of Sciences and Technology
Dr. Aimee Roundtree, Assistant Professor of English, UHD
Dr. Larry Spears, Professor of Chemistry and Director of UHD Urban Center for Student Success in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Mrs. Mary Sykes, Lecturer of Finance, Accounting and CIS, UHD
Dr. Akif Uzman, Chair of Natural Sciences Department, UHD
Ms. Celeste Zamora, Media Relations Manager, Communications and Marketing, UHD

Oral and Poster Presentations:

29 - Alicia Corazon, “On Total Domination and Caro-Wei of Graphs”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ermelinda DeLaVina
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

42 - Micaela Gilbert, “The Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat (SHR) Model and Investigation of Glutathione Levels in Association with Renal Injury”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peter Doris
Project Location: University of Texas Houston Health Science Center

51 - Jonathan Keele, “E-Learning Agent System with Argumentation Based Negotiation”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Hong Lin
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

56 - Nguyen Lam, “DNA Microarray-Based Genome Hybridization of a Texas ‘Grape’ and a California ‘Grape’ strain of Xylella fastidiosa”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Morano
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

75 - Nathan O’Rourke, “Tajikistan Political Risk: Communist past, Muslim future”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

83 - Laura Yecelia Sanchez, “Regulation of HOX gene expression by SAFB1”
Faculty Mentors: Drs. Benny Kaipparettu and Steffi Oesterreich
Project Location: Baylor College of Medicine

93 - Connie Villasmil, “Clouds Over Happiness: Birthmothers’ Personality Characteristics 12-20 Years After Adoption Placement”
Co-Authors: Dr. Ruth G. McRoy (University of Texas at Austin), Dr. Harold Grotevant (University of Massachusetts at Amherst)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Henney
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

97 - Desiree Wilson, “Sensing the Harsh Environment: An Excellent Electrocatalyst for Fabrication of Sensors in Alkaline Media”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Mian Jiang and Larry Spears
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

Poster Presentation Session I (1:30PM-2:15PM):

1 - Diana Candy Abidin, Dwayne Hurd, Emily J. Skinner, “Memory for What, When, and Where in Humans”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Stephanie Babb and Ruth Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

3 - Kethlyn Africa, “Characterization of the shells of Foraminifera in Salt Marsh”

The UHD Scholars Academy (SA) is an academically competitive program in the College of Sciences and Technology (CST) that promotes scholarship and student success for undergraduate students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). One Main Street, 725-North; Houston TX 77002-1001 Phone: 713-222-5344; Fax: 713-222-5356; scholars@uhd.edu; www.uhd.edu/scholars
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brad Hoge
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

5 - Berenice Alejandre, Nada Kassem, Susana Martinez, "Self-determination Theory: Understanding and Promoting Autonomy in a Hybrid Course"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christine Bachman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

7 - Mark Bryant Armstrong, "Wants and Needs Analysis of the STC-Houston Job Board"
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Aimee K. Roundtree and Wayne Schmiedek
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

9 - Nameera Fatima Baig and Rameshwari Korrapati, "TMOS and Carbon-60 based sensor for the detection of thiocyanates, Nitrates and Nitrates in Environmental and Biological systems using Cyclic Voltammetry"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mian Jiang
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

11 - Araly Barrera, "Assignment of ICD-9-CM Codes from Clinical-Free Medical Text"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ping Chen
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

13 - Brandy Bell and Juana Maria Olvera, "Thermal Analysis of Copper(II) Complexes Based on a New Binucleating 1,6-Diazecine Ligand"
Co-Authors: Dr. Salah S. Massoud, Department of Chemistry, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

15 - Elizabeth Jane Brogan, "eBooks and UHD: Findings from a Feasibility Study"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

17 - Tung Bui and Marsida Lisi, "Mathematical Modeling of the BMP4 and FGF Signaling Pathways during Neural and Epidermal Development in Xenopus laevis"
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Edwin Tecarro and Akif Uzman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

19 - Wendy Callejas and Juana Maria Olvera, "Thermal analysis of six new species of di-pyridyl ligands with Cu(II)"
Co-Authors: Dr. Salah S. Massoud, Department of Chemistry, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

21 - Michael Cannon, Oralio Campos, Estela Castillo, Myrna Mootzuma, "Reversing the Air Pollution in China’s Shanghai District"
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Merrilee Cunningham and Ruth Robbins
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

23 - Mirta Castro, Maria Cavaos, Chelsea Davidson, Raymond Rodriguez, "Combating the Loss of Biodiversity and Deforestation with the use of Carbon Credits"
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Merrilee Cunningham and Ruth Robbins
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

25 - Audrey Chatman, "Understanding Advertisements across Cultures: A Content Analysis of Consumer-Related Products in the United States and India"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

27 - Partha P. Choudhury, "The History of Nation-Building in Afghanistan"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

29 - Alicia Corazon, "On Total Domination and Caro-Wei of Graphs"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ermelinda DeLaVina
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

31 - Melissa Covington, "An Invitation to the Occasion: How do Birthmothers’ Romantic Partners Participate in Adoption Openness?"
Co-Authors: Dr. Ruth G. McRoy (University of Texas at Austin), Dr. Harold Grotevant (University of Massachusetts at Amherst)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Henney
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

33 - Marilyn Davila, "Novel Hydrogen Peroxide Electrocatalysis and its Application"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Catherine Shaffer

UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Mian Jiang and Larry Spears
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

35 - Nicole Dyles, "Cultural Differences and Its’ Effects on Disease Portrayal to Patients"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

37 - Antoine Ferguson and Jarrett Kitchen, "Thermal Analysis of Oil Shales"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

39 - Esmeralda P. Garcia, "Relativistic Ab initio studies of Thorium with Chelating Agents"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maria Benavides
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

41 - Stacy George, "How Antidepressant Drug Advertisements Create Regimes of Truth about Female Normality"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

43 - Audrey Gonzalez, "Multivariate Data Analysis: Relationship between Environmental Factors and Vector Frequencies Affecting the Spread of Pierce's Disease across Texas"
Co-Author: Ali Abedi
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Lisa Morano and Jeong-Mi Yoon
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

45 - Michael Keith Grady, Elham Angela Hemmat, Shaneika Mendes, "Identifying Student Expectations and Perceptions: A Focus Group Experience"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christine Bachman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

47 - Sarah Hirsch, "The Marriage and Gender Gap Regarding a Proposed Ban on Handguns"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Branham
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

49 - Charles Ryan Jeffcoat, "Magmatic Evolution of the Early Cretaceous Deep Creek Pluton, W. Idaho"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

51 - Jonathan Keele, "E-Learning Agent System with Argumentation Based Negotiation"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Hong Lin
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

53 - Rebecca Kern, "Collection of Collocation Events in Natural Language Processing"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ping Chen
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

55 - Carlos Rameses Lacayo, "Parsing Tree Matching Based Question"
Co-Authors: Timmothy Simmons, Dr. Wei Ding
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ping Chen
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

57 - Liem Thanh Luong, "Improving Web Search Results with a Natural Language Filter"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ali Berrached
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

59 - Lauren R. Mitchell, "Identifying Houston: A Quasi-Discourse Analysis of Complimentary Handouts from the Holocaust Museum Houston"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

61 - Mustafa Mehmood, "Relativistic Ab initio Studies of Thorium and Transferrin’s Metal Binding Site Interactions"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maria Benavides
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

63 - Pantea Mohammadi and Nida Rizvi, "Ionomer Based Device for Environmental Monitoring"
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Mian Jiang and Larry Spears
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

65 - Blayne Mounger and Nicolas Spampinato, "Utilizing Genetically Engineered Escherichia Coli and Clostridium Acetobutylicum for Isomyl Acetate Production"
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Catherine Shaffer
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Branhman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

Poster Presentation Session II (2:15PM-3:00PM):
2 - Tolani Abiola, “Mexico Political Risk”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

4 - Javier Alamirra and Amber Martinez-Rodriguez, “The Impact of Parental Education on Students at UHD”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Jon Aoki and Vicky Estrera
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

6 - Amy Aleman, “Columbia and its "Para politics”’
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

8 - Felipe Ignacio Astorga, “Evolutionary characteristics of Paphiopedilum spp. Orchids”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marcin Gorniak
Project Location: University of Gdansk, Poland

UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Merrilee Cunningham and Ruth Robbins
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

12 - Brandy Bell and Charles Ryan Jeffcoat, “Strontium and Neodymium Isotope Study of Apatite from an Fe-oxide Cu-Au Ore Deposit, Bullrun Creek District, Oregon”
Co-Authors: Dr. ZdzislawBelka and J. Dopieralski, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

14 - Joseph Bradley, “Nigeria Political Risk: Is there Hope in West Africa?”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

16 - David Mark Brown, “Successful Word Sense Disambiguation Using TreeMatch”
Co-Authors: Christopher Bows
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ping Chen
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

18 - Pamala N. Calip, “Health or Wealth?”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Drs. Patricia Golemon and Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

20 - Darena Canizalez, “India Political Risk: Moving towards Technological Innovation”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

22 - Flor S. Castro, “Evaluating Growth of Xyella fastidiosa Cultures through Biofilm Quantification”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Morano
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

24 - Melissa Chan, “Carbon Embedded Silicon Dioxide Network for Trace Analysis”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mian Jiang
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

26 - Melinda Chin and LaToya Green, “Finding the Most Reliable Path in a Complex Network”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shengli Yuan
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Byron Christmas
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

30 - Codi E. Court, “To Tell or Not to Tell: Birthmothers’ Adoption Disclosure to their Romantic Partners”
Co-Authors: Dr. Ruth G. McRoy (University of Texas at Austin), Dr. Harold Grotevant (University of Massachusetts at Amherst)
32 - Aaron M. Cowart, “Relationships After Adoption: Contact Between Birthmothers and Birthfathers 12-20 Years Post-Placement”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ruth G. McRoy (University of Texas at Austin), Dr. Harold Grotevant (University of Massachusetts at Amherst)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Henney
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
34 - Marylin Davila, Casianna Dominguez; Adolfo Lara; Jackie Nguyen, “Effectiveness of the Flu Vaccine in Reducing the Mortality Rate of Influenza in the United States”
Co-Author: Ali Abedi
UHD Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vicky Estrera, Mitsue Nakamura
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
36 - Elena Espino, Elda Rueda, Renauda Helaire, “Development of UV-Polymerizable Model Formulations”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Byron Christmas
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
38 - Bartlomiey Fryszczyn and Norma Pereida, “Protein Interactions and Structure Studies of the Transcriptional Modulator Ashwin”
Co-Author: Dr. Amy Sater and Chih-Hong Lou, University of Houston Central
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Akif Uzman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
40 - Edgar Alan Gatica, “Incorporating Protein Flexibility in Virtual Screening”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claudio N. Cavasotto
Project Location: University of Texas Health Science Center
42 - Micaela Gilbert, “The Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat (SHR) Model and Investigation of Glutathione Levels in Association with Renal Injury”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peter Dorin
Project Location: University of Texas Health Science Center
44 - Audrey Gonzalez and Julio LaTorre, “Initial Analysis of Endophytes in Wild, Susceptible (European) and Hybrid Gravevines”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Morano
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
46 - Yvonne Hernandez and Justine Onyedebelu, “Building a Diatom Succession Model for a Fresh Water Marsh”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Bradley Hoge and Ronald Barnes
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
48 - Joseph Michael Irving and Shajeer Noorudeen, “Novel and Stereotypical Age-Related Changes in Retinal Synaptic Structure: Implications for Age-Related Vision Loss”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jerry Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
50 - Jonathan Jordan and Tia Pilaroscia, “Multivariate Analysis of Fungal Populations along Buffalo Bayou”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Phil Lyons
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
52 - Jeremy Kemp and J. Cole Brand, “Cluster Resources for UH-D Faculty and Students”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Hong Lin
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
54 - Suzette Khan, Ruhem Larraga, Christine Varghese, Jaye Weston, “I Believe I Can Fly”
Co-Author: Nguyen Lam
UHD Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vicky Estrera, Mitsue Nakamura
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
56 - Nguyen Lam, “DNA Microarray-Based Genome Hybridization of a Texas “Grape” and a California “Grape” strain of Xylella fastidiosa”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Morano
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
58 - Sunu Susan Mathew and Tao Tang, “Preparation and Application of Titania Based Detector”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mian Jiang
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Natalia Matveeva and Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
Co-Author: German Ramirez, Midar Balimuttajjo
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deanna McCullough
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
64 - Claudia Moreno and Johnny Ramos, “Perfecting an Efficient Method for Identifying strains of Xylella fastidiosa with variable differences in the GyraseB gene”
Co-Author: Dennis Garcia
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Morano
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
66 - Richard David Murphy, “Venezuela: A Country Struggling with Strongman Control”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
68 - Richard D. Nguyen, “Political Risk Indonesia: Political Paradoxes and American Implications”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
70 - Cynthia Odika, “Does Age Make a Difference? The Impact of Education on Generational Voting in the 2008 Presidential Election”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Branham
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
72 - Juana Maria Olvera, “Thermal Properties and Crystallization Kinetics of Poly(trimethylene terephthalate)/Poly(trimethylene isophthalate) Copolymers”
Co-Authors: Russ Vison and Dr. Hoe Chuah, Shell Global Solutions, Houston, TX
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
74 - Ee Lyn Ooi, “Inhibition of Dental Biofilms Using Commercial Mouthwashes”
Co-Author: Uffaf Khan, Laura Lucio, Alejandra Randle
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Poornam Gulati
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
76 - Nicolle Patterson, “Advancing Computational Methods for Protein Structure Determination: Rosetta + Footprinting”
Co-Author: Dr. Xiaojing Zheng
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Chance
Project Location: Case Western Reserve School of Medicine
78 - Peter Vu Pham, “The Earth’s Temperature is Rising: the Effects of Education and Political Ideology on Global Warming Attitudes”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Branham
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
80 - Marsha Ramesar-Babu, “Metals Leaching from Sulfide-poor Ores by Rainwater: An Example from the Bullrun Creek District, Oregon”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
82 - Danil Safin, “Simulation of Intelligent Traffic Controllers Using a Computational Grid”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ongard Sirisaengtaksin
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
84 - Jose Sanchez-Almonte, “Turkey Political Risk: An East or West Dilemma”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
86 - Stephen Seidel, Timothy Morales, Domingo Pines, “Population Dynamics of Mosquitoes in Rural and Urban Harris County, Texas”
Co-Author: Jasmine Javadi
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Flosi
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
88 - Elizabeth Claire Simpson, “Diversity of Ascomycete Fungi in Coastal Prairie Grasslands Using rDNA Internal Transcribed Spacer Regions”
Co-Authors: Jose A. Arias, Annie Mann, Michael Salazar
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Phil Lyons
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
90 - Stephanie Thames, “The Effects of Rising Ambient Temperatures on the Polar Bear Population of Alaska”
Co-Authors: Liliana Garcia, William Golden, Ebony Ivory, Audrey Gonzalez
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vicky Estrera, Mitsue Nakamura
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

92 - Evelin Vaquiz, “Molecular-based Identification of Bacteria Within Dental Biofilms Before and After Treatment with Commercial Mouthwashes”
Co-Authors: Natalie Sirisaengtaksin, Karen Martinez
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Poonam Gulati
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

94 - Tabitha Ward, “Chemical Fingerprinting of Brewed Coffees as a Tool against Commodities Fraud”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

96 - Crystal Rhea Wells, “Hispanic Attitudes on NAFTA: The Attitude Gap and the Education Effect on Public Opinion”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Branham
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

98 - Desiree Wilson, “Purification and Thermoanalysis of Phosphonium Salts”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tyra Montgomery
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

100 - Tejinder Yasini, “In-Group/Out-Group Biases of Fans’ Perceptions of Referee Judgments in College Football”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Derek de la Pena
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

Acknowledgements
It is a pleasure to recognize the many individuals, organizations, and institutions supporting UHD students in their research endeavors. These include significant funding of on-campus research over the past year from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (1T34GM079088-01), National Science Foundation STEP Program (DUE 0336612), National Science Foundation UBM Program (0734294), National Science Foundation S-STEM Program (0728408), U.S. Army Research Office HBCU/MI Infrastructure Support Program (W911NF-04-1-0024), U.S. Department of Education MSEIP Program (P120A050068, P120A070025), The Brown Foundation, Welch Foundation (BJ-0027), NASA, Shell Oil Co. and the University of Houston-Downtown. Many students conducted their research during summer research programs on and off-campus. Faculty and staff members of these and many other academic institutions, as well as personnel at industrial facilities, have done much to support and mentor our students.

In addition, we would like to thank the UHD faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly to support undergraduate research experiences as well as the UHD staff, faculty and administrators who have helped make this conference a success. We especially thank Drs. Richard Alo, Vicky Estrera, Weining Feng, Kenneth Oberhoff, Larry Spears, Akif Uzman, Dean Susan Ahern, Dean Donald Bates, Dean Elizabeth Pelz, Dean George Pincus, and UHD President Max Castillo.

Thank you for participating in the 8th Annual UHD Student Research Conference!

Please share your impressions of the event by completing a conference evaluation.

Thanks to the generous supporters of this student conference:

- The Brown Foundation, Inc.
- National Institute of General Medical Sciences (Award No. 1T34GM079088-01)
- National Science Foundation (Award Nos. 0336612, 0402623, 0734294, 0728408)
- U.S. Army Research Office (Award No. W911NF-04-1-0024)
- U.S. Department of Education MSEIP (Award Nos. P120A050068, P120A070025)
- UHD Center for Computational Sciences
- UHD College of Sciences & Technology
- UHD Department of Computer & Mathematical Sciences
- UHD Department of Natural Sciences
- UHD President’s Office
- UHD Scholars Academy