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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 6, 2009

## Scholars Academy Program Staff

### Scholars Academy Staff

Director: Dr. Vicky Estrera  
 Peer Mentor Coordinator: Ms. Mitsue Nakamura  
 Program Manager: Mr. Rene Garcia  
 Administrative Assistant II: Ms. Lois Smith  
 Student Assistants: Frances Acevedo and Carlos Lacayo

### Executive Committee

Dr. Richard Aló	Dr. Kenneth Oberhoff	Dr. Dennis Rodriguez	Dr. Akif Uzman
Dr. Weining Feng	Dean George Pincus	Dr. Larry Spears	

### Peer Mentors Senior Peer Mentor: Nicolle Patterson

Ali Abedi	Nguyen Lam (Fall 08)	David Nanyes (Fall 08)	Kulsoom Shah
Araly Barrera	Marsida Lisi	Shajeer Noorudeen	Elvia Sierra
Jonathan Gamez (Fall 08)	Liem Luong	Danil Safin	Elizabeth Sosa
Audrey Gonzalez	Claudia Moreno	Laura Sanchez	Nicolas Spampinato
Michael Irving			

### Faculty Mentors

Dr. Jon Aoki	Dr. Weining Feng	Dr. Hong Lin	Dr. Catherine Shaffer
Dr. Ping Chen	Dr. Erin Hodgess	Dr. Phil Lyons	Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon
Dr. Maria Benavides	Dr. Brad Hoge	Dr. Deanna McCullough	Dr. Shengli Yuan
Dr. Byron Christmas	Dr. Kenneth Johnson	Dr. Lisa Morano	

Below are SA Graduates at the Fall 2008 Commencement: Adolfo Aranzales; Brendon Bingwa; Wendy Callejas; Grantley Christie; Fabiola Cortez; Jonathan Gamez; Eduardo Garzon; Lauren Gracia; Lindsay Harrigal; Claudia Jimenez-Lopez; Uffaf Khan; Benedict Khoo; Connie Larsson; Son Le; Josie Nava; Saile Palacios; Le Phan; Mark Smithers; Antonio Tito, Jr.; An Vo; and Gabriel Williams.



## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2009

Gloria Abarca	Fouad	Suzette Khan	Matthew Ojeda	Elva Sierra
Seyed Abedi	Elmoustaquim	Jarrett Kitchen	Chukwuma Okeke	Irena Sigel
Frances Acevedo	Betsy Escobar	Mitesh Koirala	Cynthia Olvera	Elizabeth Sosa
Rogelio Acuna	Elena Espino	Po-Hsien Kuo	Stephanie Omage	Jesus Soto
Kethlyn Africa	Ambreen Fatima	Nguyen Lam	Justine	Nicolas
Manuel Aguirre	Antoine Ferguson	Adolfo Lara	Onyedebelu	Spampinato
Tahlia Aickareth	London Flores	Ruben Larraga	Ee Lyn Ooi	Matthew
Javier Alamirra	Amy Flower	Julio LaTorre	Alarna Paterson	
Christian Alvarez	Bartlomiej	Tomy Le	Nicolle Patterson	<del>Mindy Sweeney</del>
Nameera Baig	Sanyazha	Marsida Lisi	Silvia Pejerrey	Ibiene Tamuno
Sujan Bajracharya	Sanyazha	Shawn Luce	Kristi Pennington	Tao Tang
Mario Barbosa		Liem Luong	Norma Pereida	Stephanie Thames
Araly Barrera	<del>Cecilia Garcia</del>	Elizabeth	Nhung Pham	Nghia Tran
Jesus Barron	Dennis Garcia		Phuong Pham	Jose Trinidad
Brandy Bell	Esmeralda Garcia	<del>Magnolia</del>	Catherine	Ebelin Vaquiz
Adrian Berry	Walter Garcia	Amber Martinez		Christine Varghese
David Brown	Arturo Garza, Jr.	Victor Martinez	<del>Marshall</del>	Karina Vazquez
Tung Bui	Edgar Gatica	Sunu Mathew	Ramesar-Babu	Rosa Villagomez
Michael	Micaela Gilbert	Robert McCardell	German Ramirez	An Vo
Butterworth	Dhiran Giri	Angelica Medina	Sheyla Randle	Christina Wallace
Jennifer	Audrey Gonzalez	Mustafa Mehmood	Rachel Richison	Tabitha Ward
<del>Kamali Castro</del>	Terri Hoover	Mohamedwesam	Karla Rios	Courtney Watts
Melissa Chan	Orlando Huerta	Mohamed	Reuben Rodriguez	Jaye Weston
Carlos Chavez	Victoria Ike	Yuricel	Elda Rueda	Antoine
Preeti Choudhary	Joseph Irving	Mondragon	Danil Safin	Williams-Baisy
Kelly Colby	Abdul Jangda	Benito Morales	Anisa Saleh	Desiree Wilson
Jessica Collins	Jorge Jaramillo	Claudia Moreno	Cynthia Sanchez	Annie Wong
Alicia Corazon	Nirmal John	Ivan Mosqueda	Laura Sanchez	Nazokat
Erick Cruz	Anthony Johnson	Jarod Mounger	Mayra Sanchez	
Rafael Cruz Ortiz	Alexander Jolley	David Nanyes	Ivo Sanjoh	Yaklibova
Marlyn Davila	Ashley Jones	Anna Nguyen	Salpy Sarkis	
Leonard Dees	Jonathan Jordan	Hung Nguyen	Stephen Seidel	
Rosalinda Delgado	Jonathan Keele	Jackie Nguyen	Oluwadamilola	
Casianna	Jeremy Kemp	Nhuy Nguyen		
	Russell Kendrick	Van Nguyen	<del>Karl</del>	Kulsoom Shah
	Rebecca Kern	Yuhanna Njeim	George Shitera	
<del>Dennis Quean</del>	Margie Key Swink	Shajeer Noorudeen	Daniel Siddiqui	



## 2009 Honor Corps

### First Year

Javier Alamirra  
 Sujan Bajracharya  
 Brandy Bell  
 Jennifer Carmichael  
 Kelly Colby  
 Rosalinda Delgado  
 Elena Espino  
 Cecilia Garcia  
 Edgar Gatica  
 Dhiran Giri  
 Victoria Ike  
 Jeremy Kemp  
 Russell Kendrick  
 Rebecca Kern  
 Margie Key Swink  
 Marsida Lisi  
 Hung Nguyen

Van Nguyen  
 Matthew Ojeda  
 Stephanie Omage  
 Ee Lyn Ooi  
 Norma Pereira  
 Phuong Pham  
 Reuben Rodriguez  
 Daniel Siddiqui  
 Mindy Swee  
 Jose Trinidad  
 Ebelin Vaquiz  
 Karina Vazquez  
 Tabitha Ward  
 Courtney Watts  
 Desiree Wilson

### Second Year

Seyed Abedi  
 David Brown

Tung Bui  
 Wendy Callejas  
 Rafael Cruz Ortiz  
 Betsy Escobar  
 Bartlomiej Fryszczyn  
 Micaela Gilbert  
 Audrey Gonzalez  
 Joseph Irving  
 Jonathan Keele  
 Amber Martinez  
 Victor Martinez  
 Wesam Mohamed  
 David Nanyes  
 Elda Rueda  
 Danil Safin  
 Laura Sanchez  
 Elva Sierra  
 Irena Sigel

Alvin Sosa  
 Jesus Soto  
 An Vo

### Third Year

Araly Barrera  
 Dennis Garcia  
 Shawn Luce  
 Liem Luong  
 Shajeer Noorudeen  
 Nicolle Patterson  
 Kristi Pennington  
 Rachel Richison  
 Oluwadamilola Seriki  
 Nicolas Spampinato  
 Nghia Tran

### Fourth Year

Nguyen Lam

## Awards Program

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Vicky Estrera, Scholars Academy Director

### Special Recognition:

#### Scholarship Achievements

##### Joint Admission Medical Program Scholars

Betsy Escobar Arturo Garza, Jr. Audrey Gonzalez

##### Red Rose Scholars for 2008-2009

Araly Barrera	Joseph Irving	Mohamedwesam Mohamed	Danil Safin
Dennis Garcia	Nguyen Lam	Shajeer Noorudeen	Elva Sierra
Micaela Gilbert	Liem Luong	Kristi Pennington	Nicolas Spampinato

##### Red Rose Scholars for 2009-2010

Ali Abedi	Dennis Garcia	Wesam Mohamed	Reuben Rodriguez
Brandy Bell	Micaela Gilbert	Jarod Mounger	Laura Sanchez
Tung Bui	Mustafa Mehmood	Stephanie Omage	Desiree Wilson
Betsy Escobar			

### Research Achievements

#### Internships & Research Programs (Summer 2008 to Spring 2009)

Gloria Abarca	Samantha Fuentesvilla	Shawn Luce	Domineca Pines
Seyed Abedi	Dennis Garcia	Laura Lucio	Aswini Ramachandran
Frances Acevedo	Esmeralda Garcia	Liem Luong	Marsha Ramesar-Babu
Kethlyn Africa	Arturo Garza	Amber Martinez	German Ramirez
Ibrahim Al Khalil	Edgar Gatica	Sunu Mathew	Sheyla Randle
Javier Alamirra	Micaela Gilbert	Mustafa Mehmood	Juan Razo
Felipe Astorga	Audrey Gonzalez	Wesam Mohamed	Nida Rizvi
Nameera Baig	Lauren Gracia	Pantea Mohammadi	Stanley Roberts
Sujan Bajracharya	LaToya Green	Yuricel Mondragon	Reuben Rodriguez
Midar Balimuttajjo	Lindsay Harrigal	Mathew Monroe	Erum Roopani
Araly Barrera	Renauda Helaire	Timothy Morales	Elda Rueda
Brandy Bell-Lee	Yvonne Hernandez	Blayne Mounger	Danil Safin
Brendon Bingwa	Joseph Michael Irving	Claudia Moreno	Laura Sanchez
David Brown	Charles Jeffcoat	David Nanyes	Mayra Sanchez
Tung Bui	Jonathon Jordan	Van Nguyen	Stephen Seidel
Wendy Callejas	Syeda Kazmi	Shajeer Noorudeen	Daniel Siddiqui
Flor Castro	Jonathon Keele	Andrew Obiora	Elva Sierra
Melinda Chin	Jeremy Kemp	Mathew Ojeda	Elizabeth Claire Simpson
Grantley Christie	Rebecca Kern	Shamsideen Ojelade	Natalie Sirisaengtaksin
Jessica Collins	Uffaf Khan	Juana Olvera	Mark Smithers
Alicia Corazon	Benedict Khoo	Justine Onyedebelu	Nicolas Spampinato
Marilyn Davila	Jarrett Kitchen	Ee Lyn Ooi	Tao Tang
Jamal Dawson	Rameshwari Korrapati	Daniel Osakue	Antonio Tito
Rosalinda Delgado	Carlos Lacayo	Saile Palacios	Ebelin Vaquiz
Elena Espino	Nguyen Lam	Nicolle Patterson	Karina Vazquez
Ambreen Fatima	Julio LaTorre	Kristi Pennington	An Vo
Antoine Ferguson	To-Kwok Lau	Norma Pereira	Tabitha Ward
Bartlomiej Fryszczyn	Marsida Lisi	Tia Pilaroscia	Desiree Wilson

### LS-AMP Outstanding Scholar Awards

Araly Barrera Nguyen Lam Phuong Pham

### Brown Foundation Leadership Awards

Seyed Abedi Audrey Gonzalez Nicolle Patterson Elizabeth Sosa

### Spring 2009 Graduating Seniors

Sujan Bajracharya	Cecilia Garcia	Nguyen Lam	Justine Onyedebelu	Elizabeth Sosa
Araly Barrera	Esmeralda Garcia	Liem Luong	Ee Lyn Ooi	Nicolas Spampinato
Alicia Corazon	Joseph Irving	Elizabeth Magreola	Nicolle Patterson	Mindy Swee
Rosalinda Delgado	Anthony Johnson	David Nanyes	Kristi Pennington	Nghia Tran
Fouad Elmoustaquim	Jonathan Keele	Van Nguyen	Rachel Richison	Courtney Watts
Ambreen Fatima	Rebecca Kern	Chukwuma Okeke	Daniel Siddiqui	Nazokat Yaklibova
Bartlomiej Fryszczyn	Po-Hsien Kuo	Cynthia Olvera		

## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2009



## Student Attendance and Presentations at Student Research Conferences and Professional Meetings

*Geological Society of America (GSA) 2008 Joint Annual Meeting, Houston, TX*

London Flores\*      Benedict Khoo\*      Jose Salinas\*      Leena Thompson\*  
Claudia Jimenez\*      Josie Nava\*      Natalie Sirisaengtaksin\*

*Fourth Annual Texas Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, Huntsville, TX*

Grantley Christie      Jonathan Gamez\*      Marsida Lisi      Danil Safin  
Alicia Corazón\*      Yvonne Hernandez      Victor Martinez      Jose Trinidad

*UH Undergraduate Research Day, Houston, TX*

Daniel Siddiqui\*

*Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference, Keystone, CO*

Melinda Chin      LaToya Green      Rebecca Kern

*Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference, Houston, TX*

Javier Almirra	Melinda Chin	Orlando Huerta	Robert McCardell	Cynthia Sanchez
Itzel Baltazar	Rafael Cruz Ortiz	Anthony Johnson	Gilbert Padraic	Mayra Sanchez
Araly Barrera	Loisa Ford	Jonathan Keele	Saile Palacios	Aldec Saniel
Adrian Berry	Jonathan Gamez	Rebecca Kern	Alarna Paterson	Alexander Santiesteban
Reyna Bonilla	Lauren Gracia	Shamsa Khalil	Aswini Ramachandran	Daniel Siddiqui
David Brown	Latoya Green	Carlos Lacayo	Hina Rehman	Elva Sierra
Kevin Bullock	Hooman Hemmati	Marsida Lisi	Reuben Rodriguez	Mark Smithers
Adrian Cantu	Terri Hoover	Liem Luong	Danil Safin	Courtney Watts

*Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference, Salt Lake City, UT*

Jennifer Beltran\*      Antoine Ferguson\*      Micaela Gilbert\*      An Vo\*  
Betsy Escobar\*      Edgar Gatica\*      Tao Tang\*      Desiree Wilson\*

*Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Orlando, FL*

Dennis Garcia\*      Claudia Jimenez\*      Julio LaTorre\*      Nicolle Patterson\*      Natalie Sirisaengtaksin\*  
Edgar Gatica\*      Uffaf Khan\*      David Nanyes\*      Kristi Pennington\*      Nicolas Spampinato\*  
Micaela Gilbert\*      Benedict Khoo\*      Josie Nava\*      Laura Sanchez

*Supercomputing Conference 2008, Austin, TX*

Melinda Chin      Hooman Hemmati\*      Jonathon Keele\*  
Rafael Cruz Ortiz      Orlando Huerta      Danil Safin\*

*National Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Washington, DC*

Betsy Escobar\*      Micaela Gilbert\*      An Vo\*      Desiree Wilson\*

*Mathematical Association of America (MAA) 2009 Joint Mathematics Meetings, Washington, DC*

Ali Abedi\*      Tung Bui\*      Yvonne Hernandez\*      Pantea Mohammadi\*      Nida Rizvi\*  
Lauren Bernelle      Audrey Gonzalez\*      Marsida Lisi\*      Tia Pilaroscia

*Georgia Institute of Technology 2009 FOCUS Scholars Program, Atlanta, GA*

Betsy Escobar      Wesam Mohamed      Nida Rizvi      Laura Sanchez

*Computing Alliance for Hispanic-Serving Institutions Annual Meeting, Mountain View, CA*

Araly Barrera      Rafael Cruz Ortiz      Hooman Hemmati\*      Carlos Lacayo      Alexander Santiesteban  
Adrian Cantu      Jose Gamez      Orlando Huerta      Liem Luong\*      Mark Smithers  
Melinda Chin\*      LaToya Green\*      Jonathan Keele\*      Reuben Rodriguez\*

*Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, New Braunfels, TX*

Flor Castro\*      Nguyen Lam\*      Johnny Ramos\*      Ebelin Vaquiez\*  
Audrey Gonzalez\*      Julio LaTorre\*      Claire Simpson\*      Karina Vasquez\*  
Claudia Jimenez\*      Claudia Moreno\*      Nicolas Spampinato\*

*Lone Star Graduate Diversity Colloquium, San Antonio, TX*

Melinda Chin      Preeti Choudhary      Alexander Jolley      Hung Nguyen      Nhuy Nguyen

*Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference, Portland, OR*

Javier Almirra      Edgar Gatica      Rebecca Kern      Stephanie Thames  
Walter Garcia      Jeremy Kemp      Robert McCardell

*Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Texas Section Annual Meeting, Denton, TX*

Ali Abedi\*      Jose Trinidad

*9th Annual Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair*

21 Student Posters from the UHD College of Sciences and Technology

*8th Annual UHD Student Research Conference*

64 Student Posters 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

Dennis Garcia      Claudia Jimenez      Nguyen Lam      Desiree Wilson

## Peer-Led Team Learning Workshop Leaders

Ali Abedi      Audrey Gonzalez      Anisa Saleh      Amanda Sirisaengtaksin  
Michael Butterworth      Po-Hsien Kuo      Kulsoom Shah      Nicolas Spampinato  
Melinda Chin      Nguyen Lam      Elva Sierra      Jose Trinidad

## Computer & Mathematical Sciences Tutors

Araly Barrera      Jonathon Gamez      Jonathon Keele      Mai Nguyen  
Melinda Chin      Edgar Gatica      Shawn Luce      Reuben Rodriguez  
Alicia Corazon      Hooman Hemmati      Liem Luong      Daniel Safin  
Rosalinda Delgado

## Engineering Technology Tutors

Grantley Christie      Leonard Dees      Daniel Siddiqui

## Natural Science Tutors

Sujan Bajracharya      Michael Irving      Nguyen Lam      Shajeer Noorudeen  
Brandy Bell      Jonathan Jordan      Julio La Torre      Ivo Sanjoh  
Tung Bui      Benedict Khoo      Wesam Mohamed      Nicolas Spampinato  
Elena Espino