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National Science Foundation

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U.S. Army Research Office

W911NF-04-1-0024 – HBCU/MI Infrastructure Support Program
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U.S. Office of Naval Research

N0014-99-1-0950 – SEM Education Programs for HBCU/MI/TCU



University of Houston-Downtown

Awards Convocation



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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May 3, 2005

Star Award

In December 2004, UHD Scholars Academy was awarded the **Texas Higher Education Star Award**, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to recognize exemplary contributions toward closing the educational gaps that challenge the state. The Scholars Academy has received acknowledgement nationally as an exemplar for fostering academic success within an urban university environment.

Many thanks to Dr. Larry Spears, Dr. Suzette Mouchaty and Mr. Rene Garcia for their submission of the Star Award Application. Congratulations to all the SA members, faculty and staff for your special contributions to the program. You have built one of the finest programs in the state and the country, and you should all be very proud.



Above picture (left to right): Dr. Larry Spears receiving award from Jerry Farrington, THECB Chairman.

Below at the Star Awards Ceremony (left to right): Dr. Vicky Estrera; Dr. Scott Slough; Dr. Richard Alo; UHD President, Dr. Max Castillo; Dr. Akif Uzman; Dr. Larry Spears; Mr. Rene Garcia; UHD VP for Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Molly Woods; Dr. Weining Feng; and Dr. Jorge Tito-Izquierdo



Scholars Academy Members Spring 2005

Mohammad Abedi	Fabiola Cortez	Okezie Igboeli	Marlin Mathews	Arbelia Roman
Kethlyn Africa	Olaolu Davies-Balogun	Melanie Iida	Ana Medina	Jose Sandoval
Nayef Al-Thani	Esmeralda Del Fierro	Brian Iken	Paula Medrano	Muna Saqer
Karla Alvarez	Emily DeLaGarza	Jose Jaimes	Ruby Mendez	Christopher Sharpe
Adolfo Aranzales	Anita Delgadillo	Shazma Jamal	Claudia Mendez	Olga Soto
Derrick Archer	Mohamed Diarra	Stephanie Jones	Rim Mohamed	Shaun Spencer
Shidrokh Ardestani	Jannie Dilber	Adam Jordan	Victoria Morillon	William Stegall
Christopher Ash, Jr.	Kim-Hue Dinh	Kimoy Joseph	Alma Munoz	Fouad Tabbaq
Jose Barajas	Ross Eglund	Jonathon Keele	Aaron Murray	Ping Tang
Lee Anne Barkley	Diamantina Escobedo	William Keele	Orest Mushi	Tarfa Tarar
Floribel Beiza	Andres Fals	Usman Khan	Wilmer Naranjo	Mohamed Temnati
Vanessa Benavides	Eimy Flores	Adnane Kidari	Cynthia Ngonga	Brian Terry
Ramona Bernard	Thomas Foster	Chad Kocurek	Thu Nguyen	Juan Tito
Imene Bokhetache	Sergio Gallardo	Charlotte Konikoff	Hunter Nguyen	Hung Tran
William Botkins, Jr.	Juan Gallegos	Jeeba Kuriakose	Mai Nguyen	Ngan Truong
Christopher Bowes	Jose Gamez	Vien Lam	Kristine Nguyen	Borislava Tsanova
Daniel Brenes	Jose Garcia	Mai Lam	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Marco Tzorin
Kevin Phuong Bui	Elaine Garcia	David Lang	Shamsideen Ojelade	Odira Ughanze
Joshua Burr	Elizabeth Garza	Diana Leal	Moriam Ojelade	Mary Vallesteros
Jennifer Bustos	Mario Garza	Lisa Leija	Cynthia Olvera	Justin Varghese
Prince Buzombo	Rolando Garza	Juan Leon	Jennie Orellana	Horacio Villarreal
Wendy Callejas	Adewale Giwa	Nadia Lera	Eloy Ortega	Amanda Walker
Kimberly Cantrell	Mario Gonzalez	Claudio Lima, Jr.	Moses Osoro	William Watson
Dulce Carbajal	Arely Gonzalez	Whitman Liu	Ariana Paniagua	Tek Williams
Michael Carolan	Lauren Gracia	Dexter Loa	Giovanna Patino	Vance Wise
Jana Carter	Iride Gramajo	Christopher Lopez	Lucio Patino	Yi-Hua Wu
Laura Castellanos	Celina Guillen	Elizabeth Magreola	Mesias Pedroza	Sarah Xie-DeSoto
Francisco Castillo	Estefania Gutierrez	Donica Manak	Sohail Penkar	Mohamed Zemmouri
Aura Chapa	Ngan Ha	Steven Manak	Kristi Pennington	Geza Zirzzy
Tiffany Chatman	Amir Hadaegh	Shuaib Mansoori	Trisha Pfluger	Aicam Zouhair
Candy Chavez	Fadi Haikal	Jenny Martinez	Tan Pham	
Daisy Cherian	Sean Hattenbach	Claudia Martinez	Tai Pham	
David Cherian	Ginger Haug	Carol Martinez	Dechdoung Prakoth	
Shih Bin Chiu	Lesslie Hernandez	Troy Mason	Carlos Ramirez	
Eric Contreras	Moses Hernandez	Karim Masri	Patricia Ramon	
Leslie Cook	Hilda Hinojosa	Jahaziel Mata	Juan Razo	
Alicia Corazon	William Holtkamp	Linu Mathew	Rachel Richison	
Nydia Cordero	Susanna Hooper	Sanu Mathew	Brian Rodriguez	

Honor Corps

First Year

Mohammad Abedi
Nayef Al-Thani
Karla Alvarez
Lee Anne Barkley
David Cherian
Rolando Garza
Celina Guillen
Ngan Ha
Fadi Haikal
Sean Hattenbach
Adnane Kidari
Charlotte Konikoff

Vien Lam
Nadia Lera
Whitman Liu
Troy Mason
Karim Masri
Moriam Ojelade
Erik Olstad
Moses Osoro
Blythe Parham
Sohail Penkar
Dechdoug Prakoth
Muna Saqer
Olga Soto

William Stegall
Ping Tang
Mohammed Temnati
Brian Terry
Justin Varghese
Sarah Xie-DeSoto
Aicam Zouhair

Second Year

Prince Buzombo
Dulce Carbajal
Esmeralda Del Fierro
Sergio Gallardo
David Lang

Giovanna Patino
Jose Sandoval

Third Year

Iride Gramajo
Mai Nguyen
Horacio Villarreal

Fourth Year

Shih Bin Chiu
Juan Gallegos
Jeeba Kuriakose
Mai Lam

Awards Program

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Vicky Estrera, Scholars Academy Director

Special Recognition:

Scholarship Achievements

Joint Admission Medical Program Scholars

Tiffanie Chatman Vien Lam Shafeeq Noorudeen

Red Rose Scholars

Mohammad Abedi Dulce Carbajal Vien Lam Moses Osoro
Prince Buzombo Adnane Kidari Karim Masri Jose Sandoval

Research Achievements

Internships & Research Programs (Summer 2004 to Spring 2005)

Mohammad Abedi	Elizabeth Garza	Tittu Mathew
Nayef Al-Thani	Arely Gonzalez	Chris McIntyre
Ugo Anayanwu	Iride Gramajo	Claudia Mendez
Hassan Asif	Celina Guillen	Aaron Murray
Deedra Balli	Ngan Ha	Mai Nguyen
Lee Anne Barkley	Cyril Harris	Moses Osoro
Ramona Bernard	Sean Hattenbach	Giovanna Patino
Kristi Bishop	Hilda Hinojosa	Lucio Patino
Joshua Burr	William Holtkamp	Sohail Penkar
Jennifer Bustos	Ron Hoppe	Trisha Pfluger
Prince Buzombo	Jose Jaimes	Dechdoug Prokoth
Kimberly Cantrell	Jeeba Kuriakose	Juan Razo
Colin Carandang	Mai Lam	Brian Rodriguez
Dulce Carbajal	Vien Lam	Janeth Sanchez
Michael Carolan	David Lang	Shaun Spencer
Alex Chan	Lesley Leggett	William Stegall
Tiffanie Chatman	Lisa Leija	Ping Tang
Daisy Cherian	Jim Little	Borislava Tsanova
David Cherian	Whitman Liu	Justin Varghese
Leslie Cook	Chris Lopez	Sarah Xie-DeSoto
Jannie Dilber	Claudia Martinez	
Sergio Gallardo	Teresa Martinez	

Graduating Seniors

Daniel Brenes
Jennifer Bustos
Charles Chiu
Tim Davies
Esmeralda Del Fierro
Sergio Gallardo
Juan Gallegos

Rolando Garza
Elizabeth Garza
Arely Gonzalez
Iride Gramajo
Fadi Haikal
Hilda Hinojosa

William Keele
Jeeba Kuriakose
David Lang
Diana Leal
Lisa Leija
Mai Nguyen

Giovanna Patino
Dechdoug Prakoth
Carlos Ramirez
Muna Saqer
Mohamed Temnati
Sarah Xie-DeSoto

Scholars Academy Staff

Administrative Secretary: Ms. Gabriela Galvan
Peer Mentor Coordinator: Ms. Mitsue Nakamura
Program Coordinator: Mr. Rene Garcia
Program Evaluator: Dr. Scott Slough
Student Assistants: Laura Castellanos, Kevin Dorsey, Mary Vallesteros

Co-Directors

Dr. Richard Aló
Dr. Alberto Gomez-Rivas
Dr. Kenneth Oberhoff
Dean George Pincus
Dr. Larry Spears
Dr. Akif Uzman

Scholars Academy Members Spring 2005



Student Presentations at

Student Research Conferences and Professional Meetings

American Society for the Advancement of Science Washington, D.C.

Colin Carandang Patricia Ramon

American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology Annual Conference

Wendy Callejas*

Annual Research Symposium at UT-Brownsville/TSC

Lisa Leija*

*Evolution 2005 from the Society for the Study of Evolution, the Society of Systematic Biologists,
and the American Society of Naturalists*

Dulce Carbajal

LSAMP Student Research Conference

Tim Davies	William Holtkamp	Chris McIntyre	Patricia Ramon
Cyril Harris	Mai Lam	Aaron Murray	William Stegall

MAA Texas Section Meeting

Iride Gramajo

MGE at MSA / WAESO Student Research Conference

Daniel Brenes	David Cherian	Fadi Haikal	Vien Lam
Colin Carandang	Leslie Cook	Jeeba Kuriakose	Juan Razo
Dulce Carbajal	Arely Gonzalez		

National Sigma Xi Student Research Conference

Colin Carandang*	Leslie Cook*	Gina Miles (SJCN)*	
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PLTL National Conference

Daniel Brenes	Jennifer Bustos	Juan Gallegos	
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Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference

Daniel Brenes	Iride Gramajo*	Moses Osoro	
Elizabeth Garza	Claudia Mendez		

Texas Academy of Sciences

Leslie Cook*	Leslie Leggett*	Juan Razo	
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Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology

Dulce Carbajal*	Jannie Dilber	Moses Osoro	
Leslie Cook	Fadi Haikal		

UH Sigma Xi Meeting

Deedra Balli* Judith Vasquez

UTHSCH Undergraduate Research Conference

Imene Bokhetache*	Dulce Carbajal	Arely Gonzalez	
Prince Buzombo	David Cherian		

Fifth Annual Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair

25 Student Posters from the College of Sciences and Technology

Fourth Annual UHD Student Research Conference

55 Student Posters from the College of Sciences and Technology

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

Student Organization Leaders

Organization Name

American Chemical Society
Association for Computing Machinery
Birds and Bats on the Bayou
Environmental Club
Geology Club
Health Professions Organization
Leeuwenhoek Society
Mathematical Association of America
SA Members Organization

President

Brian Rodriguez
Bao Tran
Brian Rodriguez
David Lang
Judith Vazquez
Jose Sandoval
Colin Carandang
Rim Mohamed
Vien Lam

Advisor

Dr. Christmas
Dr. Chen and Dr. Yuan
Dr. Morano
Dr. Morano
Dr. Merrill
Dr. Gulati
Dr. Gulati
Dr. DeLaVina and Dr. Tecarro
Ms. Nakamura

Peer Led Team Learning Workshop Leaders

William Botkins	Juan Gallegos	Po-Hsien Kua	Patricia Ramon
Daniel Brenes	Victor Garcia	Aaron Murray	Olga Soto
Shih-Bin Chiu	Chris Harrison	Mai Nguyen	Daniel Valdez
Emily DeLaGarza	William Keele	Tan Pham	

Computer & Mathematical Science Tutors

Hassan Asif	Laura Castellanos	Chris Harrison	Chris McIntyre
Kevin Phuong Bui	Shih-Bin Chiu	William Keele	Mai Nguyen
Jennifer Bustos	Iride Gramajo	Gita Maisuria	Daniel Valadez

Engineering Technology Tutors

Nayef Al-Thani

Natural Science Tutors

Mohammad Abedi	Colin Carandang	Charlotte Konikoff	Karim Masri
Imene Bokhetache	Dulce Carbajal	Jeeba Kuriakose	Tek Williams
Daniel Brenes	Arely Gonzalez	Diana Leal	

Peer Mentors

Senior PM: Iride Gramajo			
Daniel Brenes	Leslie Cook	Elaine Garcia	Mai Lam
Jennifer Bustos	Sergio Gallardo	Arely Gonzalez	Diana Leal
Laura Castellanos	Juan Gallegos	William Holtkamp	Mai Nguyen
Daisy Cherian	Jose Gamez	Jeeba Kuriakose	Sarah Xie-DeSoto

Faculty Mentors

Dr. Jon Aoki	Dr. Poonam Gulati	Dr. Phil Lyons	Dr. Edwin Tecarro
Dr. Ali Berrached	Dr. Erin Hodgess	Dr. Deanna McCullough	Dr. Jorge Tito-Izquierdo
Dr. Byron Christmas	Dr. Brad Hoge	Dr. Lisa Morano	Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon
Dr. Weining Feng	Dr. Kenneth Johnson	Dr. Ongard Sirisaengtaksin	

In December 2004, the Scholars Academy was happy to celebrate the graduation of four members.

Lesley Leggett – cum laude
Teresa Martinez
Hassan Asif – cum laude
Cyril Harris

