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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.

One Main Street, 725-North; Houston TX 77002-1001

Phone: 713-222-5344; Fax: 713-222-5356; [scholars@uhd.edu](mailto:scholars@uhd.edu); [www.uhd.edu/scholars](http://www.uhd.edu/scholars)

# *Spring Convocation*



## *April 29, 2008*

## Scholars Academy Program Staff

### Scholars Academy Staff

Director: Dr. Vicky Estrera  
 Peer Mentor Coordinator: Ms. Mitsue Nakamura  
 Program Manager: Mr. Rene Garcia  
 Administrative Assistant: Ms. Lois Smith  
 Student Assistants: Carlos Lacayo, Claudia Moreno, Victoria Morillon

### Co-Directors

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

### Peer Mentors Senior Peer Mentor: Emily De La Garza

Grantley Christie	Liem Luong	Binh Nguyen	Juan Razo
Jonathan Gamez	Troy Mason	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Rachel Richison
Lauren Gracia	Robin May (Fall 07)	Shajeer Noorudeen	Nicolas Spampinato
Nguyen Lam	David Nanyes	Nicolle Patterson	Nghia Tran

### Faculty Mentors

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

Below are 2008-2009 Red Rose Scholars: Araly Barrera; Dennis Garcia; Joseph Irving; Nguyen Lam; Liem Luong; Mohamedwesam Mohamed; Shajeer Noorudeen; Kristi Pennington; Danil Safin; Elva Sierra; and Nicolas Spampinato.



## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2008

Gloria Abarca	Fouad Elmoustaquim	Po-Hsien Kuo	Van Nguyen	Stephen Seidel
Seyed Abedi	Betsy Escobar	Carlos Lacayo, Jr.	Vy Nguyen	Oluwadamilola Seriki
Clyde Abraham	Elena Espino	Timothy Laird, Jr.	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Kulsoom Shah
Frances Acevedo	Ambreen Fatima	Nguyen Lam	Shajeer Noorudeen	Daniel Siddiqui
Rogelio Acuna	Antoine Ferguson	Connie Larsson	Peter Obi	Elva Sierra
John Adamson	Chadisty Fleharty	Julio LaTorre	Matthew Ojeda	Irena Sigel
Kethlyn Africa	London Flores-Swanson	To-Kwok Lau	Shamsideen Ojelade	Marc Simon
Javier Alamirra	David Forero	Phoebe Laurent	Chukwuma Okeke	Mark Smithers
Adolfo Aranzales	Bartlomiej Fryszczyn	Son Le	Cynthia Olvera	Alvin Sosa
Rosalinda Arenas	Samantha Fuentevilla	Thien Le	Stephanie Omage	Jesus Soto
Norma Ascencio	Jonathan Gamez	Juan Leon	Justine Onyedebelu	Nicolas Spampinato
Christopher Ash, Jr.	Cecilia Garcia	Rolando Lew	Ee Lyn Ooi	Amita Tailor
Sujan Bajracharya	Dennis Garcia	Aaron Lewis	Daniel Osakue	Ibiene Tamuno
Midar Balimuttajjo	Esmeralda Garcia	Jessica Lewis	Kristopher Overholt	Tao Tang
Mario Barbosa	Mario Garza	Marsida Lisi	Saile Palacios	Antonio Tito, Jr.
Araly Barrera	Arturo Garza, Jr.	Shawn Luce	Alarna Paterson	Fred Trackwell
Floribel Beiza	Edgar Gatica	Liem Luong	Nicolle Patterson	Nghia Tran
Brandy Bell-Lee	Micaela Gilbert	Elizabeth Magreola	Silvia Pejerrey	Jose Trinidad
Adrian Berry	Dhiran Giri	Jerry Maliti	Kristi Pennington	Luis Valdez
Brendon Bingwa	Audrey Gonzalez	Amber Martinez	Krista Perdue	Evelin Vaquiz
Carmelita Blanco	Lauren Gracia	Carol Martinez	Nhung Pham	Jenzy Varghese
Reyna Bonilla	Martin Gutierrez	Jenny Martinez	Le Phan	Justin Varghese
David Brown	Michelle Halek	Victor Martinez	Domineca Pines	Karina Vazquez
Richard Bryant	Lindsay Harrigal	Troy Mason	Marsha Ramesar-Babu	Rosa Villagomez
Tung Bui	Ginger Haug	Sunu Mathew	German Ramirez	An Vo
Jacques Burhama	Zahid Hossain	Merlin Mathews	Sheyla Randle	Marium Waqar
Michael Butterworth	Nicholas Howery	Robert McCardell	Juan Razo	Tabitha Ward
Wendy Callejas	Victoria Ike	Paula Medrano	Rachel Richison	Courtney Watts
Flor Castro	Joseph Irving	Mohamedwesam Mohamed	Nida Rizvi	James Webb-Glass
Michelle Chatman	Miguel Jaimes	Pantea Mohammadi	Reuben Rodriguez	Lisa Weigle
Carlos Chavez	Claudia Jimenez-Lopez	Yuricel Mondragon	Elda Rueda	Gabriel Williams
Grantley Christie	Nirmal John	Timothy Morales	Danil Safin	Antoine Williams-Baisy
Kelly Colby	Anthony Johnson	Claudia Moreno	Anisa Saleh	Desiree Wilson
Alicia Corazon	Ashley Jones	Ivan Mosqueda	Samantha Salinas	Angelica Yanez
Fabiola Cortez	Jonathon Keele	David Nanyes	Cynthia Sanchez	
Rafael Cruz Ortiz	Rebecca Kern	Wilmer Naranjo	Laura Sanchez	
Emily De La Garza	Margie Key Swink	Josie Nava	Mayra Sanchez	
Rosalinda Belgado	Uffaf Khan	Jiawen Ng	Aldec Sanieel	
Anais Duran	Benedict Khoo	Binh Nguyen	Alexander Santiesteban	

## 2008 Honor Corps

### First Year

Seyed Abedi	Rolando Lew
Floribel Beiza	Amber Martinez
David Brown	Carol Martinez
Tung Bui	Victor Martinez
Wendy Callejas	Troy Mason
Rafael Cruz Ortiz	Wesam Mohamed
Betsy Escobar	Claudia Moreno
Antoine Ferguson	David Nanyes
Bartlomiej Fryszczyn	Josie Nava
Micaela Gilbert	Saile Palacios
Audrey Gonzalez	Le Phan
Michelle Halek	Elda Rueda
Lindsey Harrigal	Danil Safin
Joseph Irving	Laura Sanchez
Claudia Jimenez	Elva Sierra
Uffaf Khan	Irena Sigel
Son Le	Alvin Sosa
	Jesus Soto

### LS-AMP Outstanding Scholar Awards

Lauren Gracia	Nguyen Lam	Kristopher Overholt
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### Brown Foundation Leadership Awards

Seyed Abedi	Nguyen Lam	Kristopher Overholt
Adolfo Aranzales	Liem Luong	Danil Safin

### Spring 2008 Graduating Seniors

Norma Ascencio	Ginger Haug	Troy Mason	Shamsideen Ojelade
Floribel Beiza	Juan Leon	Wilmer Naranjo	Kristopher Overholt
Jacques Burhama	Rolando Lew	Jiawen Ng	Krista Perdue
Michelle Chatman	Jerry Maliti	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Juan Razo
Emily De La Garza	Carol Martinez		

## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2008



## Awards Program

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Vicky Estrera, Scholars Academy Director

### Special Recognition:

#### Scholarship Achievements

##### Joint Admission Medical Program Scholars

Betsy Escobar	Audrey Gonzalez	Nguyen Lam	Shafeeq Noorudeen
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##### Red Rose Scholars for 2007-2008

Adolfo Aranzales	Nguyen Lam	Kristi Pennington	Nicolas Spampinato
Emily DeLaGarza	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Juan Razo	Antonio Tito
Lauren Gracia			

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

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

### Research Achievements

#### Internships & Research Programs (Summer 2007 to Spring 2008)

Seyed Abedi	Michelle Halek	Paula Medrano	Danil Safin
Kethlyn Africa	Robyn Hanna	Wesam Mohamed	Michael Salazar
Javier Alamirra	Lindsay Harrigal	Pantea Mohammadi	Anisa Saleh
Adolfo Aranzales	Ginger Haug	Mathew Monroe	Laura Sanchez
Jose Arias	Zahid Hossain	Timothy Morales	Oluwadamilola Seriki
Araly Barrera	Claudia Jimenez-Lopez	Claudia Moreno	Kulsoom Shah
Brandy Bell-Lee	Nirmal John	David Nanyes	Daniel Siddiqui
Adrian Berry	Anthony Johnson	Wilmer Naranjo	Elva Sierra
Brendon Bingwa	Uffaf Khan	Josie Nava	Irena Sigel
Reyna Bonilla	Benedict Khoo	Binh Nguyen	Natalie Sirisaengtaksin
Richard Bryant	Nguyen Lam	Ngum Ngwa	Mark Smithers
Tung Bui	Connie Larsson	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Alvin Sosa
Jacques Burhama	Julio LaTorre	Shajeer Noorudeen	Nicolas Spampinato
Wendy Callejas	To-Kwok Lau	Andrew Obiora	Amita Tailor
Alicia Corazon	Thien Le	Moriam Ojelade	Brian Terry
Emily DeLaGarza	Rolando Lew	Shamsideen Ojelade	Antonio Tito
Rosalinda Delgado	Yan Li	Chukwuma Okeke	Juan Tito
Betsy Escobar	Marsida Lisi	Daniel Osakue	Nghia Tran
Antoine Ferguson	Shawn Luce	Kristopher Overholt	Jose Trinidad
London Flores-Swanson	Laura Lucio	Saile Palacios	Jenzy Varghese
Jonathan Gamez	Liem Luong	Nicolle Patterson	Rosa Villagomez
Dennis Garcia	Jerry Malita	Kristi Pennington	An Vo
Edgar Gatica	Amber Martinez	Hugo Peralta	Marium Waqer
Micaela Gilbert	Carol Martinez	Le Phan	Lisa Weigle
Audrey Gonzalez	Jenny Martinez	Juan Razo	Gabriel Williams
Coley Gott	Marlin Mathews	Rachel Richison	Desiree Wilson
Lauren Gracia	Robin May	Elda Rueda	Josh Wolfe



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

2007 The More Graduate Education at Mountain States Alliance (MGE@MSA)/Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO) Student Research Conference, Tempe, AZ

Merlin Mathews\* Kristopher Overholt \*

Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference, Anaheim, CA

Adrian Calvillo Grantley Christie Lauren Gracia Alexander Santiesteban  
Adrian Cantu Emily De La Garza Saile Palacios Garold Sears

American Medical Student Association at American Riverside College, Sacramento, CA

Wendy Callejas Hugo Peralta

Einsteins in the City, New York, NY

Dennis Garcia\* Zahid Hossien\* Kristopher Overholt \* Antonio Tito\*

Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference, Kansas City, MO

Michelle Halek\* Yan Li\* Daniel Osakue\* Juan Tito\*  
Zahid Hossien\* Liem Luong\* Nicolle Patterson\* An Vo\*

National Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Orlando, FL

Rolando Lew\* Robin May\*

Third Annual Texas Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, Huntsville, TX

Jonathan Gamez Vy Nguyen Jose Trinidad Courtney Watts  
Lauren Gracia Jerome Stephens

Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Austin, TX

David Nanyes\* Nicolle Patterson\*

U.S. Dept. of Energy 2007 Day of Science, Knoxville, TN

Phoebe Laurent Victoria Morillon

63rd Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Lubbock, TX

Rosa Villagomez\*

Supercomputing Conference 2007, Reno, NV

Emily De La Garza

2nd Annual Meeting for the Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Miami, FL

Troy Mason

111th Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Waco, TX

Mathew Monroe\* Claudia Moreno\* Amita Tailor\* Rosa Villagomez\* An Vo\*

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

Jose Arias Lindsay Harrigal\* Benedict Khoo \* Josie Nava\* Natalie Sirisaengtaksin\*  
Reyna Bonilla\* Claudia Jimenez-Lopez\* Laura Lucio Shafeeq Noorudeen Antonio Tito\*  
Esmeralda Garcia Uffaf Khan\* Annie Mann

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

Alicia Corazon\* Anthony Johnson Jose Trinidad Courtney Watts  
Lauren Gracia\* Juan Leon

Undergraduate Biomathematics Day at the Buffalo and Geneseo SUNY Colleges, Niagara Falls, NY

Tung Bui\* Marsida Lisi\* Binh Nguyen\*

American Chemical Society National Meeting, New Orleans, LA

An Vo\*

Texas-Section American Society of Civil Engineers Conference, Corpus Christi, TX

Adolfo Aranzales\*

2008 SHPE/GEM GRAD Lab at Univ. of Texas-El Paso, El Paso, TX

Araly Barrera Reuben Rodriguez

22nd National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Salisbury, MD

An Vo\*

Lone Star Graduate Diversity Colloquium, Lubbock, TX

Rebecca Kern Carlos Lacayo Antoine Williams-Baisy

2008 National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Annual Fire Conference, Gaithersburg, MD

Kristopher Overholt\*

Urban University Conference Series - LSAMP Program Undergraduate Student Research Conference, NY, NY

Lauren Gracia\* Emily De La Garza\*

Undergraduate Biomathematics Day at the Buffalo and Geneseo SUNY Colleges, Niagara Falls, NY

Tung Bui\* Marsida Lisi\* Binh Nguyen\*

8th Annual Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair

16 Student Posters from the UHD College of Sciences and Technology

7th Annual UHD Student Research Conference

77 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**

Benedict Khoo Kristopher Overholt

**Peer-Led Team Learning Workshop Leaders**

Ali Abedi	Nguyen Lam	Shajeer Noorudeen	Kulsoom Shah
Araly Barrera	Shawn Luce	Hugo Peralta	Natalie Sirisaengtaksin
Micaela Gilbert	Binh Nguyen	Reuben Rodriguez	Nicolas Spampinato
Po-Hsien Kuo	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Anisa Saleh	An Vo

**Computer & Mathematical Sciences Tutors**

Araly Barrera	Jonathon Keele	Troy Mason	Mark Smithers
Emily DeLaGarza	To-Kwok Lau	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Alvin Sulik
Edgar Gatica	Liem Luong	Le Phan	Nghia Tran
Lauren Gracia			

**Engineering Technology Tutors**

Grantley Christie Kristopher Overholt Daniel Siddiqui

**Natural Science Tutors**

Ali Abedi	Nguyen Lam	Wesam Mohamed	Nicolas Spampinato
Brendon Bingwa	Julio La Torre	Shamsideen Ojelade	Antonio Tito
Benedict Khoo	Shawn Luce	Juan Razo	