2022 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, The Honors College, & M.D. Anderson Library

Thursday, April 14, 2022

www.uh.edu/urday
**Senior Honors Thesis**

To enroll in the **Senior Honors Thesis** for Fall 2022, students must submit their Verification of Eligibility form and General Petition by **May 15, 2022**.

Students continuing in the thesis program must register for 4399 (or department equivalent) for Fall 2022.

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**Fulbright**

The campus deadline to apply for a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant for 2023-2024 is **September 2, 2022**.

Email Ben Rayder at **btrayder@uh.edu** for more information.

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**REACH**

The **Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities** program provides a $1,500 scholarship and mentored research experience contributing to an existing campus project in the humanities.

Learn more and apply at [www.uh.edu/reach](http://www.uh.edu/reach) by **September 7, 2022**.

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**Connect with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards**

Email undergrad-research@uh.edu with your full name and email address to receive information about events and deadlines related to undergraduate research and nationally competitive fellowships and major awards.

Follow @UHOURMA on Instagram and Facebook.
Thursday, April 14, 2022

Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion
2nd floor, M.D. Anderson Library
The Honors College

3:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Welcome and Remarks to Presenters
Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion

Paula Myrick Short, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Houston System
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston

Amr Elnashai, FREng
Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Transfer, University of Houston System
Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, University of Houston

Stuart A. Long, Ph.D.
John and Rebecca Moores Professor, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research and
the Honors College, University of Houston

Rikki Bettinger, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards,
University of Houston

4 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Viewing of Student Posters
Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, M.D. Anderson Library, and the Honors College

Thank you to the Office of the Provost, the Division of Research,
the Honors College, the Cullen College of Engineering, and the College of
Liberal Arts and Social Sciences for their generous support of the Office of
Undergraduate Research and Major Awards.
Welcome to Undergraduate Research Day...

...and welcome back! This year not only marks the 17th anniversary of Undergraduate Research Day, it also represents the return of the University of Houston’s premier research exhibition to the MD Anderson Library Building. We are excited for you to experience the energy and spirit of Undergraduate Research Day in person again or for the very first time. Through Undergraduate Research Day, we aspire to connect undergraduate researchers to other students, faculty, staff, and professionals in industry to showcase their work. We encourage you to speak with individual presenters, ask questions, and provide input about their research.

Undergraduate Research Day is a collaborative effort between the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards, the Honors College, and the MD Anderson Library that highlights the diverse range of research projects carried out by University of Houston undergraduate students. The 2022 presenters include students from programs such as the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), Action Research in Communities (ARC), Provost’s Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS), Mellon Research Scholars Program, Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH), and many others who conducted research under the guidance of University of Houston faculty in the past year. We are excited to celebrate the research of UH undergraduates, and they are eager to share their projects with you.

Like many others around the campus community, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards used the pandemic as an opportunity to reset and rethink. Many of our staple programs continued to thrive as students returned to the lab, the archives, and other research settings. Fifty students defended their senior honors theses, 48 projects were awarded for the fundamental research, over 150 faculty mentored research projects were funded through the SURF and PURS programs. Thanks to the generous support of Provost Paula Myrick Short, twice as many students will be awarded PURS stipends for the 2021-2022 academic year. We also introduced new programs to meet critical needs. With the support of a CITE grant, two cohorts of students have now participated in Action Research in Communities. This year-long program allows students to combine research with service learning in the local community to better understand and address some of Houston’s most important issues. This past year also marked the start of Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities. REACH provides an introductory research experience for students in humanities disciplines by connecting a dozen students to existing undergraduate research projects at the University of Houston, including “SYRIOS,” “Black Migration. Houston...,” and “Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage” projects, to name but a few. We hope that REACH will create more pathways for students looking to pursue research in the humanities, support the tremendous work of our UH faculty and staff, and provide a recruiting pipeline for the Mellon Research Scholars program.

Our presenters have collaborated with faculty mentors from 13 colleges in programs as diverse as Industrial Design, Ophthalmology, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and English. Faculty at the University of Houston are dedicated to mentoring students in the pursuit of advancing knowledge in their fields and are always looking for ways to advocate for students’ success. Students involved with faculty-mentored research in programs such as the Mellon Research Scholars, ARC, REACH, SURF, or PURS have unique opportunities to develop skills through problem solving, communication, leadership, and critical thinking.

The pandemic did not impede UH’s emergence as a fellowships powerhouse. Quite the contrary, last year, UH registered more fellowship recipients, finalists, and alternates than ever before (65g). In addition, UH students were named a Gates Cambridge Scholar and a Knight-Hennessy Scholar for the first time in UH history. For the second time in three years, two undergraduates received the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship for excellence in STEM. UH also posted its most ever Critical Language Scholarship recipients when nine students were selected to study Russian, Arabic, Urdu, and Mandarin. Most notably, with the supportive leadership of Provost Short, 10 Coogs were named Fulbright recipients, thus establishing the University of Houston as a Top Producing Fulbright Institution for the second time in three years. Only one other Texas research university achieved the same honor. The success of Fulbright and CLS is further evidence of the University of Houston’s commitment to global education and its role as an international institution.

We are also seeing more UH students taking advantage of research-related internships. A record 11 students were selected for the DAAD RISE program to conduct research abroad in Germany. While some students carried out their projects virtually, others worked directly in Germany during the pandemic. Additionally, UH was invited to participate in a new research initiative. In collaboration with MD Anderson, four UH students performed cancer research last summer as part of the Partnership for Careers in Cancer Science and Medicine. Six more students will participate in the program for this upcoming summer. Whether in the University Hospital or labs across the world, our students are demonstrating why UH is a Carnegie-Designated Tier One Public Research University.

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards welcomed a new staff member in 2021. Victoria Jupp joined as a Program Manager after completing her Master’s in Public Policy from the Hobby School at UH. A researcher herself with aspirations to continue her graduate studies, Victoria is currently co-authoring a manuscript with Dr. Michelle Belco about executive policymaking for African-Americans that analyzes a novel dataset of presidential directives. Victoria holds a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising with a minor in Law, Values, and Policy from the University of Houston. Students interested in getting started in research, the Houston Early Research Experience (HERE), and the SURF program should contact Victoria for more information.

Two student workers also joined OURMA this past year. Citlali Chavana supports Dr. Rikki Bettinger with the Mellon Research Scholars Program and additional special projects for the Office. Citlali is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Sociology. A former Mellon Research Scholar, Citlali researched educational disparities and health inequalities in Black and Brown communities through a sociological perspective. She hopes that her research will influence law and policy makers to better serve these neglected populations.

Carl Suerte, a recent alum who was named the 2021 NSM Student of the Year, is an ambassador for both undergraduate research and fellowships. Carl has participated in nearly every OURMA program, including HERE, Houston Scholars, SURF, and PURS. He was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Research grant to develop a high-performance tool to study the brain in Tokyo, Japan and will start his work there this April.

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards would like to thank the Office of the Provost, the Division of Research, the Honors College, UH Libraries, the Cullen College of Engineering, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and the many other colleges and departments on campus for their support of undergraduate research programs at the University of Houston. The programs featured here today would not be possible without the support of our campus partners (please see page 6 for listing of supporters).

Thank you for joining us for this year’s celebration of undergraduate research at the University of Houston. As you speak with the presenters, we hope you find opportunities to connect across disciplines and ask questions about how we can address some of today’s most pressing questions together. Now, more than ever, we acknowledge and appreciate the need for a cohesive global research community. We believe that is the type of community you will see modeled by our presenters today.
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND MAJOR AWARDS

OURMA PROGRAMS

The Houston Early Research Experience (HERE) is a two-week research program in May intended to orient rising sophomore and junior undergraduates to the fundamentals of conducting research. HERE awards $1,000 scholarships to students with at least a 3.5 GPA. uh.edu/here

The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) is a full-time, ten-week summer research program for students and provides a $4,000 scholarship to conduct research under the mentorship of a UH faculty member. Students from all disciplines with at least a 3.0 GPA are encouraged to apply. uh.edu/surf

The Provost’s Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS) is a part-time, semester-long research program and awards a $1,000 scholarship for students to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor. This scholarship is open to students from all colleges and disciplines. Candidates must have at least a 3.0 grade point average to apply. uh.edu/purs

The Mellon Research Scholars Program is for upper level students from historically marginalized backgrounds interested in conducting research and attending graduate studies in the humanities. Mellon Scholars participate in a faculty-led seminar series to learn more about research opportunities in the humanities, receive $1,100 to participate in a two-week camp on applying to graduate school, earn $3,900 to conduct a full-time summer research project under the mentorship of a University of Houston faculty mentor, and conclude the program by either completing an independent study or Senior Honors Thesis during their senior year. uh.edu/mellonscholars

The Senior Honors Thesis is a capstone program for a student’s undergraduate career in research. Open to all UH students, participants enroll in 3399 and 4399, a total of six hours of coursework, which is typically applied toward their major degree requirements during their senior year. For more information, visit the thesis website at uh.edu/seniorhonorsthesis.

The Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH) Program at the University of Houston is a collaborative effort supported by the Cougar Initiative to Engage and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards. REACH provides a year-long introductory research experience for students in humanities disciplines by connecting a dozen students to existing research projects at the University of Houston. Students from humanities disciplines are encouraged to apply. uh.edu/reach

Need more info? Email: undergrad-research@uh.edu
THE HONORS COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY
The Honors College at the University of Houston serves the intellectual needs of gifted undergraduates in more than 100 fields of study. We provide the careful guidance, flexibility, and personal instruction that nurture excellence. We offer the University’s finest students the best of both worlds—the community and advantages of a small college together with the resources and rich diversity of a large research university. Our faculty and staff believe that a university education should offer more than the acquisition of skills for the workplace. The Honors College challenges students to develop the attributes of mind and character that enhance all facets of life.

HONORS CURRICULUM
Our curriculum is designed to coordinate with all majors and degree plans offered at the University of Houston. You will fulfill many of your University core requirements through Honors courses that take the place of regular required classes. One key sequence of courses, The Human Situation, is team-taught by Honors faculty and is designed to ensure that you are introduced to the great books of the Western tradition. The Honors College also offers seven interdisciplinary minors. For many Honors students, the Senior Honors Thesis represents the exciting culmination of a bachelor’s degree. A thesis provides an excellent opportunity for you to work under the direction of faculty in your chosen field of study, applying your skills and knowledge toward the completion of a scholarly or creative project.

THE HONORS COLLEGE COMMUNITY
Special Classes and Course Selection
We draw on the talents of the brightest faculty members within the University to provide a wide range of special courses with limited enrollment. Honors courses encourage student participation, interaction, and discussion.

Membership in a Community
You will enjoy special privileges, including Honors College scholarships, priority course registration, computer facilities, reserved lounge and study areas, study abroad opportunities, and special housing in Honors College residence halls. Many intangible benefits also come with participation in the Honors community—the friendships that develop in the classroom carry over into other areas of student life. We foster an atmosphere of collegiality and a spirit of camaraderie through informal gatherings, social activities, and on- and off-campus cultural events.

Talented Classmates
When admitted to the Honors College, you will enter the company of the most academically talented undergraduates at the University. Members bring a variety of interests, aptitudes, and ambitions to their studies. Through daily association with other Honors students, you will be challenged to strive for excellent in academics and in character.

Apply Now at www.TheHonorsCollege.com/apply

Contact Information:
The Honors College
Office for Student Recruitment
(713) 743-1766
honorsadmissions@uh.edu
“Undergraduate research yields innumerable benefits to our students, our institution, and our region. Those students who work alongside peers and mentors on projects, posters, and papers are better prepared for the road ahead, whether that leads to graduate school or the workforce. I take immense pride in knowing that events such as UH’s Undergraduate Research Day are supporting successful outcomes for our Cougars.”

PAULA MYRICK SHORT
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston

“While I have always valued and supported REU programs throughout my career, the UH undergraduate research programs stand out as a high-bar standard for others to try to emulate. Since 2017 when I joined UH, every Undergraduate Research Day has set a new and higher standard, compared to both national standards and our own expectations. The exceptional quality of our students’ work, their amazing ability to present and defend their work, and the sheer quantity of this pervasive excellence never ceases to amaze. My unreserved gratitude to our wonderful students is only matched by my indebtedness to the OURMA leadership and staff.”

AMR ELNASHAI
Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, University of Houston

A special thanks to our campus and community partners for their support of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards and our undergraduate researchers:

- Office of the Provost
- Division of Research
- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- Cullen College of Engineering
- Cougar Initiative to Engage
- The Honors College
- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- The Writing Center
- UH Libraries
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH) and Honors in Community Health (HICH)
“Undergraduate Research Day is the premier event for our students to present their work to the campus community and distinguished guests. It’s an exciting day for everyone involved and an opportunity for the presenters to improve their communication skills, network, and be recognized for their accomplishments.”

STUART A. LONG
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research and the Honors College

“Meaningful undergraduate research opportunities occur when students learn that scholarship is a practice of connection. In working with their faculty mentors and research peers they become a part of a community of scholars who build and expand upon existing knowledge and creativity.”

ATHENA JACKSON
Dean of University Libraries

“Getting engaged in undergraduate research allows students to put in action what they have learned in the classroom to solve real world, societal challenges. Research experiences broaden the students’ opportunity to be innovative, grow intellectually, build confidence and envision themselves as leaders in their field who can make real change in their communities and beyond.”

DONNA STOKES
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Affairs and Student Success, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

“Undergraduate research is a valuable and engaging way for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom. As they participate in the formal processes of inquiry and discovery, students move beyond knowledge acquisition to become generators of new knowledge. Conducting research develops the ability to identify, investigate, and solve problems, and to communicate the solutions effectively, which are keys to leadership and professional success.”

DANIEL P. O’CONNOR
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

“The importance of research at all levels to better understand the roots of the challenges we face and to explore solutions to those challenges has been a common priority, theme, and shared value at universities I’ve been privileged to work with, from here at the University of Houston, to the University of Toliara in Madagascar, and across the globe.”

MICHAEL PELLETIER
Founding Executive Director, Institute for Global Engagement
Consider applying for one of these opportunities.

**BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP**
For sophomores and juniors who demonstrate academic excellence and intend to pursue research careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. This competitive scholarship covers eligible expenses for undergraduate tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to a maximum of $7,500 annually.
Campus Deadline: Nov 4, 2022

**HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP**
For college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers as change agents in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education, or elsewhere in public service. Each Truman Scholar receives up to $30,000 for graduate study.
Campus Deadline: Nov 4, 2022

**MORRIS K. UDALL & STEWART L. UDALL SCHOLARSHIP**
For sophomore and junior level students committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy or tribal health care. Awards of up to $7,000 and access to the Udall Alumni Network.
Campus Deadline: Feb 6, 2023

**CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP**
Language immersion program for undergraduates from all academic disciplines. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, this summer program allows students to study one of 15 critical languages abroad, including Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Russian.
National Deadline: Mid-Nov 2022

**NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**
For graduating seniors who intend to pursue a research-based master’s or doctoral degree in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, or STEM education. The award includes a $34,000 living stipend and $12,000 cost-of-education allowance.
National Deadline: Mid-Oct 2022

**FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM**
For graduating seniors, current graduate students, and alumni. Students may apply to teach English, enroll in a graduate degree program, or conduct research for one year in more than 140 countries. Recipients are awarded a living stipend, travel accommodations, and basic health insurance.
Campus Deadline: Sept 2, 2022

Application for these awards requires a strong academic, leadership, and service record. In some instances, you must be nominated to apply. For more information, visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards or contact Ben Rayder (btrayder@uh.edu).
FULBRIGHT GRANTS FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS OR STUDY/RESEARCH ABROAD

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for individually designed Study/Research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs. During their grants, Fulbrighters meet, work, live with, and learn from the people of the host country to foster mutual understanding. Fulbright is one of the largest academic exchanges in the world, providing approximately 2,200 grants annually in more than 140 participating countries.

2022 CAMPUS DEADLINE:

September 2, 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Benjamin Rayder
Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards
btrayder@uh.edu  www.us.fulbrightonline.org

http://www.uh.edu/fulbright/
The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards congratulates the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Scholars and Major Award recipients, finalists, and alternates:

**C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

Hamad Khan, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Turkey (Recipient)

Hamad Khan, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Jon Ahn, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, South Korea (Recipient)

Kainat Aziz, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Zaina Boriek, BCM SMART Scholarship (Recipient)

Jasmin Brooks, Ford Fellowship (Recipient)

Queen Epomba, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Devereux Fortuna, Fulbright Study/Research Grant, Italy (Alternate)

David Paul Hilton, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Tia Hufsteter, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Fatou Jallow, Princeton in Africa (Recipient)

Fatou Jallow, Princeton in Asia (Recipient)

Wasiq Javed, OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship (Recipient)

Kush Kiniwala, Houston Methodist Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (Recipient)

Phillip Kieval, Gates Cambridge Scholarship (Recipient)

Andre Mikhail, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Lisa Nguyen, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Vietnam (Alternate)

Danielle Niangar, Donald M. Payne Graduate Fellowship (Finalist)

Danielle Niangar, Marshall Scholarship (Finalist)

Tagalsir Osama, BCM SMART Scholarship (Recipient)

Saaj Patel, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, France (Recipient)

Saaj Patel, TAPIF (Recipient)

Kareem Soussan, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Taylor Thomas, JET Program (Alternate)

Nimra Zubair, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

**KATHRYN G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS**

Jaelynn Walls, Knight-Hennessy Scholars (Recipient)

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Parker Carwile, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, South Korea (Recipient)

Jordan Pemberton, MD Anderson Partnership for Careers in Cancer Science (Recipient)

Fatou Jallow, Princeton in Africa (Recipient)

Fatou Jallow, Princeton in Asia (Recipient)

Wasiq Javed, OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship (Recipient)

Kush Kiniwala, Houston Methodist Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (Recipient)

Phillip Kieval, Gates Cambridge Scholarship (Recipient)

Andre Mikhail, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Lisa Nguyen, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Vietnam (Alternate)

Shravani Deo, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Kevin Fleming, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

True Furrh, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Recipient)

Maham Gardezi, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Latvia (Recipient)

Nikki Hammond, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Vincent Laroche, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Recipient)

Fariz Nazir, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Nhung Nguyen, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Jocelyn Ramos, Hispanic Scholarship Fund (Recipient)

Javi Solano, Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship (Recipient)

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS**

Muhammad Akram, DAAD RISE PRO Scholarship (Recipient)

Ashley Cruz, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Mexico (Recipient)

Trang Do, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Alexander Garcia, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Smiti Gandhi, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Ana Belen Gutierrez, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Spain (Recipient)

Omar Harb, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Kristen Harris, MD Anderson Partnership for Careers in Cancer Science (Recipient)

Amenda Khoei, MD Anderson Partnership for Careers in Cancer Science (Recipient)

Olivia Lee, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Germany (Recipient)

Olivia Lee, US Teaching Assistantship in Austria (Recipient)

Piya Malhan, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Rael Memnon, MD Anderson Partnership for Careers in Cancer Science (Recipient)

Shailee Modi, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Czech Republic (Recipient)

Gabrielle Olinger, Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship (Recipient)

Areeba Navroz, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Hai Pham, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Taiwan (Alternate)

Phillip Pham, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Taiwan (Alternate)

Pierce Popson, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Alejandro Ramirez, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Recipient)

Carl Suerte, Fulbright Study/Research Grant, Japan (Recipient)

Carl Suerte, JET Program (Alternate)

Laura Taylor, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Recipient)

Daniel Wadhawan, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Christopher Wong, Fulbright Fogarty Grant, Ethiopia (Alternate)

Peijun Zhao, BCM SMART (Recipient)
The Undergraduate Scholars and Major Awards Celebration was held virtually on April 20th, 2021 and hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards (OURMA). The University of Houston Outstanding Fellowship Mentor Award was featured at the Celebration and awarded to Sally Connolly, Associate Dean for Student and Faculty Success in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

**SALLY CONNOLLY**

Dr. Connolly was recognized for excelling in faculty mentorship by stimulating developmental growth through advice, feedback and guidance on research activities, and honing skills essential to current and prospective careers. She has also been instrumental in the development and stability of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, and major awards to the United Kingdom, such as the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships.

**Dedication and Excellence**

The dedication of Dr. Connolly reflects an innate desire for excellence. Cultivating research abilities and a successful work-life balance, she has been a major contributor to creating unique opportunities for students and faculty to thrive and excel.

**Opportunity Creation**

Dean Connolly’s commitment to promoting student success through fellowships is both personal and academic. A first generation student herself who benefitted from the mentorship of others, Connolly works tirelessly to create awareness for competitive scholarships, identify candidates, and speak with faculty members in CLASS about major awards. She is also a national reviewer for the Fulbright U.S. Student Programs study awards to the United Kingdom.

**Success as Associate Dean**

“Since becoming Associate Dean for Student and Faculty Success, Dr. Connolly has been key in linking our talented students to fellowship, research, and scholarship opportunities on the national and international stages,” said Dean Dan O’Connor of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. “Her work inside and outside of the university is raising the profile of UH and CLASS and providing valuable experiences and supports for more of our students.”

Congratulations to Dr. Connolly on her award!
University of Houston Libraries serves the entire academic and research community by offering expert support in instruction, access, discovery, use, and scholarly/creative output; by providing engaging and relevant resources to address local and global societal questions; and by valuing and welcoming all who engage with us onsite and online.

You can find past works of undergraduate research in the UH Institutional Repository. The UHIR collects, preserves, and distributes scholarly output and creative works produced by the University of Houston community. Collections include “Undergraduate Research Day Projects” and “Senior Honors Theses.”

Email UH Libraries to:
- Map out your research approach
- Develop search strategies
- Use library resources

Contact libteach@uh.edu to get started today.

"Students discover that there are people like librarians who will facilitate their learning outside of the classroom and introduce them to information in all its complexity to enhance and complement their research. As librarians, we champion curiosity and do our best to minimize uncertainty as our students embark on answering society’s questions while they build their own civic awareness and scholarly confidence. Supporting these efforts with partners like those in the Honors College enhances the experience of our undergraduates whose interests, questions, and voices are our future.”

ATHENA JACKSON
Dean of University Libraries

Thank you to UH Libraries for supporting Undergraduate Research at the University of Houston.
Writing is thinking. It is an indispensable activity for every discipline conducting research within a university setting and an essential component of a university education. Ongoing instruction in writing helps to initiate students into the changing intellectual demands of university life and introduces them to the complexities of their chosen disciplines and professions. Because writing provides the tools to discover and articulate solutions to intellectual problems, improved writing remains a continual goal of university education.

To address these concerns, the mission of the University of Houston Writing Center includes Assessment, Writing Instruction, Curricular Innovation, Community Outreach, Professional Development, and Research in the Teaching of Writing. Website: writingcenter.uh.edu

Thank you to the Writing Center for supporting Undergraduate Research at the University of Houston.
(UGR@UH) WEBINAR SERIES

FALL 2021 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021
Getting Started in Research
Rikki Bettinger
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021
Ethics in Research: The IRB
Nettie Martinez
Division of Research

OCTOBER 29, 2021
Introduction to Digital Humanities for Undergraduate Researchers
Kristina Neumann and Elizabeth Rodwell, SYRIOS Project
Taylor Davis Van-Atta and Claude Willan, Digital Research Commons

NOVEMBER 12, 2021
Interviewing 101: Preparing for Fellowships and Graduate Opportunities
Anthony B. Cashman, III
College of the Holy Cross

NOVEMBER 19, 2021
Knowing Your Audience: Communicating Your STEM Research
Rita Sirrieh
The Honors College

SPRING 2022 SCHEDULE

JANUARY 28, FEBRUARY 25, AND MARCH 25, 2022
Getting Started in Research
Victoria Jupp
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

FEBRUARY 11, 2022
Crafting a Research Proposal
J. Leigh Leasure
Psychology

APRIL 8, 2022
Research Opportunities with UH Learning Abroad
Maggie Mahoney
Learning Abroad
Ben Rayder and Victoria Jupp
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

APRIL 29, 2022
Communicating your Research: Social Networks and Conferences
Rikki Bettinger and Victoria Jupp
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards
The Senior Honors Thesis is a 2-semester, 6 credit hour capstone research experience under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students of all majors can participate—membership in the Honors College is not required. The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards collaborates with The Honors College and the College of the student's major to oversee the thesis process and approval.

**Step 1:** Ask your professors about their research and creative work to see if their interests align with yours. Don’t be afraid to ask for advice!

**Step 2:** Talk to students currently enrolled in the Senior Honors Thesis and other undergraduate research programs about their experiences with research.

**Step 3:** Ask a faculty member to serve as your thesis director.

**Step 4:** Complete the Verification of Eligibility Form to receive enrollment approval the semester prior to beginning your thesis.

**Step 5:** Work with your major department to enroll in 3399 (or equivalent) Senior Honors Thesis course.

**Step 6:** Based on your research and conversations with your thesis director, draft a prospectus before the start of the 3399 semester and identify a second reader for your committee.

**Step 7:** Submit the Prospectus, Prospectus Approval Form, and the Senior Honors Thesis Checklist to the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards by the first day of the semester.

**Step 8:** The Office will assign an Honors Reader to your committee who will also review your prospectus.

**Step 9:** Continue your research and begin drafting initial chapters. Communicate regularly with your thesis director and your readers.

**Step 10:** Register for 4399 (or equivalent) prior to your second semester of thesis work. Maintain a consistent writing and communication schedule with your thesis director and other members of your committee.

**Step 11:** Finish drafting, revising, and formatting your thesis, in consultation with your committee and following the guidance of the Honors College and your college liaison.

**Step 12:** Schedule your thesis defense and defend your thesis.

**Step 13:** Finalize revisions and submit your thesis. Graduate with an Honors designation on your transcript!

**Participants must have:**
- a 3.25 cumulative GPA
- a 3.5 major GPA
- departmental approval
- Honors College approval

For more information, contact:
Rikki Bettinger, Ph.D.
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards
rrbettin@central.uh.edu
Undergraduate Research Day showcases the work of hundreds of students pursuing research in their disciplines from all across the University of Houston. Programs offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards and other faculty-mentored research opportunities provide academic and financial support for these students. Students who conduct research with UH faculty amplify their education and gain crucial skills that will serve them beyond their undergraduate career. Whatever your research interests are, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards can get you connected and starting your research project today!
The Houston Early Research Experience (HERE) program recognizes freshman and sophomore students who excel both inside and outside the classroom. This two-week seminar series engages students from all majors in various research methodologies through faculty-led small group discussions and research presentations. Students receive a $1,000 scholarship for participating in HERE.

HERE 2021
August 2-13, 2021
Forty-eight students representing six UH colleges participated in the 2021 HERE program. Students conducted research and proposed solutions to challenges posed by inequality in Houston.

HERE Faculty Mentors:
Charlie Becker  Monique Mills
Christiana Chang  Stacey Louie
Marc Hanke  Rita Sirrie
Kelly Hopkins  Lesli Vollrath

HERE 2022
May 16-27, 2022
The 2022 theme for HERE will be energy in Houston, and we look forward to welcoming our next cohort! Applications for the HERE program are accepted through early March each year. For more information on future HERE programming, contact Victoria Jupp at vjupp@uh.edu or visit uh.edu/here.
RESEARCH FOR ASPIRING COOGS IN THE HUMANITIES

The Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH) Program at the University of Houston is a collaborative effort supported by the Cougar Initiative to Engage and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards. REACH provides a $1,500 scholarship and a year-long introductory research experience for students in humanities disciplines by connecting a dozen students to existing research projects at the University of Houston. From projects in collaboration with UH Libraries Special Collections, to the digital humanities, to individual faculty research projects in humanities disciplines, the REACH program provides an entry-point to hands-on scholarly inquiry.

2021-2022 PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

**Black. Migration. Houston.**
- **Mentors**
  - Rachel Quinn
  - Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill
- **Student Participant**
  - Thomas Avent

**Black Power and Art in Houston**
- **Mentors**
  - Duy Nguyen
  - Cedric Tolliver
- **Student Participant**
  - Eos Sison

**Digital Research Commons:**
- **Data and Visualizations in English Literature**
  - **Mentor**
    - Claude Willan
  - **Student Participant**
    - Alexandra Gurule
    - Cameron Mitchell

**DJ Screw Sound Recordings**
- **Mentor**
  - Julie Grob
- **Student Participant**
  - Jenna Goodrich

**Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Program**
- **Mentors**
  - Lorena Gauthereau
  - Linda Garcia Merchant
  - Gabriela Baeza Ventura
  - Carolina Villarroel
- **Student Participants**
  - Alejandro Aguilar
  - Carlos Campos, Jr.
  - Carolina Lopez-Herrera

**Resilient Houston:**
- **Documenting Hurricane Harvey**
  - **Mentors**
    - Debbie Harwell
    - Todd Romero
  - **Student Participants**
    - Emmanuel Gonzalez
    - Maia Mendoza

**Sharing Stories from 1977**
- **Mentors**
  - Nancy Young
  - Leandra Zarnow
  - Sandra Davidson
- **Student Participants**
  - Jessica Rodriguez
  - Maya Perez
  - Naveed Ahmed
  - Phu Le

**SYRIOS**
- **Mentor**
  - Kristina Neumann
- **Student Participants**
  - Natalie Dean
  - James Ian Thompson

**Working with Primary Source Historical Archives**
- **Mentor**
  - Christian Kelleher
- **Student Participant**
  - Kennedy Williams
The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards, in partnership with the Cougar Initiative to Engage (CITE), offers the **Action Research in Communities (ARC) Program**. ARC provides selected students with a $1,500 scholarship to pursue a year-long, faculty-mentored action research project focused on a past or current service project the student has participated in. The goal of action research is continuous improvement, reflection, and growth.

ARC participants will develop research questions around issues observed in the community and gain a better understanding of why these issues exist. They will then use that knowledge, coupled with their own service experiences and reflections, to develop an action plan to improve outcomes within the Greater Houston Community. Toward the end of their year in ARC, students will be given the opportunity to present their service-based research projects and apply for an implementation grant of up to $750 to support turning their action plans into reality. Faculty mentors of ARC recipients also receive a $300 stipend.

### Action Research in Communities Program

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### Audrey Huang
**Exercise Science Major**  
**Mentored by Dan Price**  
**ARC Project:** Responsive Resourcing (RR)  
Responsive Resourcing (RR) is a collaborative effort between University of Houston undergraduates and the UH Community Health Worker Initiative (UH CHWI) to support Houston’s communities. Student volunteers work directly with CHWs (community health workers) from geographic hubs of low socioeconomic status to search for and verify resources that support community members impacted by COVID-19 and other crises. RR was founded in April 2020 to address immediate barriers that hubs experienced during the pandemic and has since evolved in structure. It utilizes a strengths-based approach in which students and CHWs coordinate their unique skills and assets to find the best resources for individual community members. The program evaluation I am conducting on RR will be used to measure the effectiveness of the collaboration in finding and applying useful resources. I will also be identifying the aspects of the program that enhance resource matching efficiency and success.

### David Rincon
**Architecture Major**  
**Mentored by Donna Kacmar**  
**ARC Project:** This research project studies the communities around the Columbia Tap Hike and Bike Trail, which crosses through East Downtown and Third Ward. Using community feedback to propose improvements along the trail, this project is intended to highlight some of the many benefits that urban infrastructure can provide. Currently, I am working with a group of people and nonprofits to create a pocket park along the trail, where we will be using my research to aid in its design and implementation.

### Kala Pham
**Biology Major**  
**Mentored by Kimberly A. Pilkinton**  
**ARC Project:** This project assesses the perceived gap in gynecological health knowledge for adolescent girls, determines what medical resources are commonly used by adolescent girls, and identifies what type of health education is most effective to help promote access to accurate information regarding adolescent gynecologic concerns based on our analysis. The research centers around data analysis of pilot classes for recently homeless adolescent girls to evaluate gaps in health literacy and effective modes of education. Through the results, I can create a health education initiative or platform that can successfully improve access to gynecological health information.

### Neha Sunkara
**Biology and Economics Majors**  
**Mentored by Michelle Belco**  
**ARC Project:** Food insecurity is briefly defined as experiencing the lack of or difficulty accessing affordable, nutritionally-dense foods. Providing food can be a stopgap measure, but ideally, food insecurity should be addressed in conjunction with health disparities. The goal of this ARC project is to conduct case studies on Texas food distribution organizations and evaluate institutional program practices that address food insecurity and health disparities together. The first stage of the project identifies two to four food distribution organizations across five Texas counties and collects publicly available information regarding their individual programs. The second stage involves creating a repository system with parameters for each program and developing a coding scheme using similarities identified among the facilities’ initiatives. Finally, a report will be produced that explains the coding scheme to identify key features of relevant programs and provide exemplars of each feature. This project will further evolve a more systematic relationship between food insecurity and health disparities within Texas food distribution organizations.
The Provost’s Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS) program provides talented University of Houston students with the opportunity to participate in a semester long research project under the guidance of a UH faculty mentor. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. PURS recipients receive a $1,000 scholarship to conduct a one-semester research project with their faculty mentors. For more information, contact Rikki Bettinger at rrbettinger@uh.edu.

**FALL 2021 PURS RECIPIENTS**

**Anaga Ajoy**  
Mentored by Pranav Parikh  
Health and Human Performance

**Lily Huang**  
Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch  
Chemistry

**Oluwaseun Lagbenro**  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

**Benita Lalani**  
Mentored by Joyce Ogunrinde  
Health and Human Performance

**Zhihong (Andrea) Lin**  
Mentored by Sujata Sirsat  
Hotel and Restaurant Management

**Jennifer Lin**  
Mentored by Frank McKeon  
Biology and Biochemistry

**Cindy Luu**  
Mentored by Liming Li  
Physics

**Piya Malhan**  
Mentored by Bradley Smith  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

**Jayda Martinez**  
Mentored by Lorraine Reitzel  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

**Hemanshu Mirchandani**  
Mentored by Kiran Parthasarathy  
Accounting

**Sondos Moursy**  
Mentored by Christine LeVeaux-Haley  
Political Science, Honors

**Dorothy Mwakina**  
Mentored by Yingchun Zhang  
Biomedical Engineering

**Nhi Nguyen**  
Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering

**Brian Nguyen**  
Mentored by Debora Rodrigues  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Anushka Oak**  
Mentored by Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau  
Psychology

**Maria Eugenia Romero**  
Mentored by Islam Rizvanoghlu  
Economics

**Alexis Ruiz**  
Mentored by Meghan Trivedi  
Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research

**Alexandra (Sasha) Samperio**  
Mentored by Kei-Mu Yi  
Economics

**Nabeela Siddeeque**  
Mentored by Ariel Ludwig  
Data Analytics in Student Hands, Honors

**Gundeep Singh**  
Mentored by Andreas Mang  
Mathematics

**Lujayna Taha**  
Mentored by Jose Contreras-Vidal  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Olivia Tran**  
Mentored by Gomika Udagamasooriya  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Fernando Vasquez**  
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Cenk Yigit**  
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Grace Conroy**  
Mentored by Debbie Harwell  
History

**Miles Bednorz**  
Mentored by Debbie Harwell  
History

**Anita Charg**  
Mentored by Sameer Desai  
Biological Sciences

**Benita Lalani**  
Mentored by Debbie Harwell  
History

**Justin Dang**  
Mentored by Mehmet Orman  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

**Ariana Delgado**  
Mentored by Nathan Canen  
Economics

**Susette Flores**  
Mentored by Elizabeth Gregory  
English and Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies

**Angel Gamez**  
Mentored by Yi-Lung Mo  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Nabeela Hasan**  
Mentored by Daniel Price  
Data Analytics in Student Hands, Honors

**Sondos Moursy**  
Mentored by Christine LeVeaux-Haley  
Political Science, Honors

**Jennifer Lin**  
Mentored by Frank McKeon  
Biology and Biochemistry

**Cindy Luu**  
Mentored by Liming Li  
Physics

**Piya Malhan**  
Mentored by Bradley Smith  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

**Jayda Martinez**  
Mentored by Lorraine Reitzel  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

**Hemanshu Mirchandani**  
Mentored by Kiran Parthasarathy  
Accounting

**Sondos Moursy**  
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Electrical and Computer Engineering

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Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Fernando Vasquez**  
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Cenk Yigit**  
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering
SPRING 2022 PURS RECIPIENTS

Ishmam Alam
Mentored by Rosenda Murillo
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

Edward Armijo
Mentored by Alamgir Karim
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Jacqueline Bahrami
Mentored by Beau Alward
Psychology

Raghav Baskar
Mentored by Jeffrey Rimer
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Brandt Bechtel
Mentored by Dimitrios Kalliontzis
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Carlos Benitez
Mentored by Tian Chen
Mechanical Engineering

Nicolas Betancourt
Mentored by Rodolfo Ostilla Monico
Mechanical Engineering

Caleb Broodo
Mentored by Gemunu Gunaratne
Physics

Amy Bui
Mentored by Chandra Mohan
Biomedical Engineering

Cole Carter
Mentored by Minjung Shin
Hotel and Restaurant Management

Jacob Cruz
Mentored by Ming Hu
Pharmaceutics

Jennifer Csicsery-Ronay
Mentored by Ioannis Kakadiaris
Computer Science

Ariel Durham
Mentored by Terry Hallmark
Political Science, Honors

Nusayba El-Ali
Mentored by Mario Romero-Ortega
Biomedical Engineering

Jose Esparza Pinelo
Mentored by Mehmet Sen
Biology and Biochemistry

Trevor Eustaquio
Mentored by Dimitrios Hatzignatiou
Petroleum Engineering

Ashley Foxworthy
Mentored by Lorraine Stock
English

Hedda Grelz
Mentored by Kevin Bassler
Architecture

Sophie Grubbs
Mentored by Donna Kacmar
Comparative Cultural Studies

Tatiana Haddad
Mentored by Susan Rasmussen

Nhi Hoang
Mentored by Lars Grabow
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Alaia Homawoo
Mentored by Stacey Louie
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Anh Huynh
Mentored by Jinghui Hou
Decision and Information Sciences

Benjamin Ilboudo
Mentored by Zhao Bo
Mechanical Engineering

Waldemiro Junqueira
Mentored by Jerrod Henderson
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Ted Kim
Mentored by Peter Vekilov
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Chloe Levy
Mentored by Caryl Tamber-Rosenau
Modern and Classical Languages

Alexander Mai
Mentored by Richard Meisel
Biology and Biochemistry

Jing Ming Lim
Mentored by Renita Horton
Biomedical Engineering

William Lipscomb
Mentored by Marzia Cescon
Mechanical Engineering

Arya Loloee
Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch
Chemistry

Lauren Lyles
Mentored by Julie Dunsmore
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

Ileagh Maclvers
Mentored by Howard Pollack
Musicology

Andrew Martinez
Mentored by Olaf’s Daugulis
Chemistry

Allen Mathew
Mentored by Kamran Alba
Engineering Technology

Ziyad Mohiuddin
Mentored by Charles Layne
Kinesiology

Maria Eduarda Mroczek
Mentored by Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau
Psychology

Saad Nadeem
Mentored by Chenne Hatem
Human and Health Performance
Bao Thuan Nguyen
Mentored by Tshepo Masango Chéry
History

Steven Nguyen
Mentored by Qin Feng
Biology and Biochemistry

Tommy Nguyen
Mentored by Tian Chen
Mechanical Engineering

Diane Nguyen
Mentored by Taewoo Lee
Industrial Engineering

Radha Nune
Mentored by Chandra Mohan
Industrial Engineering

Thi Phan
Mentored by Ali Kamrani
Industrial Engineering

Aryana Pourmotamed
Mentored by Sheereen Majd
Biomedical Engineering

Damien Price
Mentored by Claudia Ratti
Physics

Shaiyan Rahman
Mentored by Nikolaos Malamataris
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Steven Ramirez
Mentored by Jonny Wu
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Eshwar Ranganath
Mentored by Quenette Walton
Graduate College of Social Work

Syed Rizvi
Mentored by Hien Van Nguyen
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Andreina Ruiz
Mentored by Lorraine Stock
English

Nathan Seto
Mentored by Robert Comito
Chemistry

Anique Siddiqui
Mentored by Keri Crawford
Biology and Biochemistry

Dobri Stalev
Mentored by Dong Liu
Mechanical Engineering

Manal Taroua
Mentored by Bo Zhao
Mechanical Engineering

Jessica Thai
Mentored by Clayton Neighbors
Psychology

Divya Thomas
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida
Psychology

Bao Han Tran
Mentored by Adam Fetterman
Psychology

Tran Tran
Mentored by Tran Chen
Mechanical Engineering

Ekta Upadhyay
Mentored by Sanghyuk Chung
Biology and Biochemistry

Veera Venkata
Mentored by Lars Grabow
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Elisabeth Walla
Mentored by Michael Zvolensky
Psychology

Victoria Rose White
Mentored by Julie-Françoise Tolliver
Modern and Classical Languages

Nayani Wickramaratne
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Katherine Wong
Mentored by Vaughn Climenhaga
Mathematics
Each summer, the Data & Society program offers the **George “Trey” Pharis Fellowship** as a full-time, paid research opportunity open to undergraduate students across all majors. Fellows work collaboratively, with support from faculty mentors, to conduct 10-week projects focused on the application of data science to healthcare and the social determinants of health, including education, criminal justice, and the environment. Building on a model developed by the UH Community Health Worker Initiative, these projects are unified around a commitment to responsive engagement with community and show the many ways that new approaches to data science can avoid the pitfalls of top-down models for decision-making.

The Pharis Fellowship is supported by the Humana Integrated Health Systems Sciences Institute and Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute through its Engaged Data Science program. The program is named for George S. Pharis III (Trey), a University of Houston alumnus (Philosophy ’11), who served as an Honors College staff member until his passing in 2017. As a poet, musician, and writer with interests ranging from social justice to number theory, Trey exemplified the intellectual curiosity and open worldview we hope to inspire in our students.

### 2021 Fellows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lucinda Ba</th>
<th>Biology and Psychology</th>
<th>Examining Whether Adults Diagnosed with Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD) Receive Evidence-Based Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abby Chopra</td>
<td>Management Information Systems</td>
<td>Imposter Among Us: A Qualitative Analysis of Imposter Syndrome Posts on Reddit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Higdon</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Mapping LGBTQ Interaction with Federal and State Prisons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aleen Jacob</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Observing Houston English Language Learners to Teacher Relationship Based on Language Proficiency in Elementary Schools</td>
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<td>Montinice Jordan</td>
<td>Comparative Cultural Studies</td>
<td>Decoding Workplace Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Kamholz</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Investigating Treatment Barriers to those with Eating Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Martinez</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>The Impact of Isolation on Mental Health: Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Era</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwija Parikh</td>
<td>Computer Science and Mathematics</td>
<td>Decoding Administrative Data for Process of Care in Cancer Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kala Pham</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Identifying Perceptions and Intent Surrounding the HPV Vaccine in Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ada Sison</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>A Snapshot of Frailty in Humana Insurance Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Wolken</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Mapping Advanced Coursework Access: The Role of School Attendance Boundaries and Income Segregation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Partnership for Careers in Cancer Science and Medicine summer program with national cancer researchers is hosted annually by The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Nominated for exemplifying compassion and an aptitude for research in the medical field, four Honors College students will collaborate and work alongside worldwide cancer experts for 10 weeks in summer 2022.

The Partnership for Careers in Cancer Science and Medicine teaches and encourages passionate medical leaders through hands-on research training, weekly seminars, and workshops. At the end of the program, the trainees will present the results of their research as scientific posters, along with trainees from other summer programs, at the virtual MD Anderson Summer Experience Final Event as well as participate in an Elevator Speech contest, a fun, practical way to practice succinctly introducing their field of study and research to others.

MD Anderson is one of the world’s premier cancer centers focused on cancer patient care, research, education and prevention. Students interested in learning about undergraduate research programs and opportunities for competitive fellowships should contact the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards at undergrad-research@uh.edu.

2022 PCCSM RESEARCHERS

Kala Pham
Daniela Tovar
Varshini Vakulabharanam

2022 RETURNING PCCSM RESEARCHERS

Kristen Harris
Rael Memnon
Jordan Pemberton

“My experience in the PCCSM program exposed me to the tenacity required to work in clinical research as well as the amount of commitment required to drive a project to completion. I am looking forward to furthering my scientific expertise and advancing the goals of my research projects this upcoming summer.” - Kristen Harris

“I look forward to learning extensively about cancer research and studying under renowned experts in the field. With the knowledge and connections provided by this internship, I will develop a strong foundation for a career in medicine and public health.” - Kala Pham
Supported by the Office of the Provost and the Honors College, the Houston Scholars program is for high-achieving freshmen and sophomores to receive mentorship and scholarship funding to pursue research, internships, and other distinctive experiential learning opportunities. Through targeted programming, participants benefit from honing their academic and professional skills, developing connections with faculty, engaging in scholarly endeavors, and preparing to apply for nationally competitive scholarships and top graduate school programs.

Houston Scholars are encouraged to participate in self-reflection, critical thinking, passionate inquiry, and the application of theory and research to real-world problems. During the course of the academic year, Houston Scholars will have the opportunity to engage with current events through research, seminar series lectures, and debate activities.

For additional information about the Houston Scholars, please contact Ben Rayder at btrayder@uh.edu in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards.
The Houston Scholars theme for the 2021-2022 academic year is “Energy: Where Does Houston Go From Here?” In this context, Houston Scholars explored the challenges and opportunities associated with the rapid changes affecting our city and state. Students identified and researched contemporary problems such as mass transportation, alternative energy sources, carbon emissions, cryptocurrency, and many other subjects. Cohort members participated in an intensive research week in early January and will culminate the year’s activities in April when they present their research findings and policy proposals to a panel of experts.

**Houston Scholars Participants:**

- Kathryn Aing
- Briana Azad
- Zaina Boriek
- Helin Erdal
- Dima Ghazala
- Joaquin Gonzalez
- Alexandra Goodin
- Mark Hanna
- Nabeeha Hasan
- Baycha Isik
- Neha Joshi
- Amber Jozwiak
- Kiran Khan
- Ehson Maleki
- Or-El Meir
- Sondos Moursy
- Carlos Patterson
- Kala Pham
- Sarah Randall
- Jamie Rose
- Olivia Salinas
- Sabah Shaikh
- Amritha Siby
- Jason Suerte
- DeBorah Thomas
- Ramya Valipe
- Mielad Ziaee
FrameWorks is a year-long co-curricular program that provides curious, driven undergraduate students a supportive community of peers and faculty mentors as they conceive, research, write, present, and ultimately publish critical essays that draw on the interdisciplinary humanities. Each year, FrameWorks challenges students to broadly interpret an annual theme. Essays that meet editorial standards will be included in FrameWorks: A Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Interdisciplinary Humanities. The theme for 2020/2021 was “The Unknown.”

The best article published in each edition is awarded the FrameWorks Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Research in the Interdisciplinary Humanities. In 2021, the prize was awarded to Anna Mayzenberg for her article, “It is All One Thing: Ecological Stewardship, Nativism, and the Solwara 1 Deep Sea Mining Project.” In addition, in 2021 Morgan Thomas’s FrameWorks article “Speaking, Embodying, Living: Oral History and the 1963 Birmingham Children’s Crusade” was awarded the inaugural Irene Guenther Prize.

2021-2022 FELLOWS

In 2021/2022 the FrameWorks program challenged students to interpret the theme “Immunity.” FrameWorks Fellows, who hail from a variety of majors, have adopted inventive and exciting humanities-based approaches to a diversity of research topics:
FrameWorks 2022 Call for Applications
Deadline: June 30, 2022

Do you want to be a FrameWorks Fellow?
Applications for 2022-2023 are now open.

- Take part in a year-long mentorship and peer support program—think and write about the ideas that matter to you.
- FrameWorks guides you through the process of conceiving, researching, drafting, rewriting, refining, and presenting your article, for possible publication in FrameWorks: A Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Interdisciplinary Humanities.
- Rising sophomores and juniors of all majors with a GPA of 3.5 or higher are invited to apply.

2022-2023 Theme: Constellation

Visit the website: thehonorscollege.com/frameworks/apply

“I’m so happy I went through this process before I went to grad school, because I don’t have a lot of those doubts, like Am I going to be good? Am I going to be ready? I know I’m ready.”
Kat Newman (FrameWorks ’20)

“It opened a lot of doors for me, to do medical humanities research but also to take a step back and say, ‘Wow, I really did do that.’”
Leonard Wang (FrameWorks ’21)

“It translated into much better writing and much more cohesive thinking, for the rest of my life.”
Rebeca Hentges (FrameWorks ’20)
The Mellon Research Scholars Program at the University of Houston seeks to contribute to the mission of creating a diverse academy in the humanities. Funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the program supports undergraduate students from backgrounds underrepresented in the academy and others with a demonstrated commitment to the goal of building a diverse academy. Mellon Research Scholars participate in an intensive two-week graduate school preparation program in May and a full-time, faculty-mentored summer research experience. The scholars also participate in faculty-led seminars and receive holistic mentorship throughout the year-long program. All students have the opportunity to develop research projects that appeal to their scholarly interests in their field of study.

Each fall, approximately 20 humanities students are selected for participation in the Mellon Research Scholars Program which begins in January of their junior year. Each participant receives a total of $5,000 for conducting their summer research project and participating in developmental academic and mentorship activities. For more information, contact Rikki Bettinger at rrbettinger@uh.edu or visit the webpage: uh.edu/mellonscholars

The following 20 students completed the Mellon Research Scholars program in 2021 where they carried out a full-time summer research project and participated in a graduate school preparation bootcamp.

Ashlita Acuña-Mena
Mentored by Guillermo De Los Reyes, Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill
Hispanic Studies and WGSS; Sociology
Constraints, Resourcefulness, and Resilience in the Immigrant Latinx Community: Alternative Health Promoting Strategies for Diabetes Self-Management

Alejandro Aguilar
Mentored by Maria Gonzalez
English
“A Rainbow of Razas”: An Analysis of the Chicano Identity through Writings

Carla Bullock
Mentored by Johanna Luttrell
Political Philosophy
Cissexism and Trans Women’s Denial of Subjectivity

Citlali Chavana
Mentored by Kate Anderson
Sociology
Education as a Fundamental Cause of Health

Joshua Cornelius
Mentored by Mark Sursavage
Writing Center
Perception and Power: How Student Perception of Assigned Texts in First Year Composition Impacts Their Self-Efficacy

Laura Delgado-Guzman
Mentored by Mabel Cuesta
Hispanic Studies
New Feminist Wave in Latin America

Ariel Durham
Mentored by Terry Hallmark
Political Science, Honors College
How to Think About Civic Education in Our Modern America [Divided]

Queen Epomba
Mentored by Melody Li
Modern and Classical Languages
Representation of Republican-Era Chinese Cities in State-Owned Adaptations Redefining Popular Culture in State-Controlled Media
Susette Flores
Mentored by Lauren Brozovich
English
Nature Greets Man: An Ecofeminist Reading of Elizabeth Bishop’s “The Moose”

Allie Funk
Mentored by Laurie Lambeth
Creative Writing, Honors College
You Have a Boyfriend?: Representations of Disabled People and Intimacy in Film

Tara Georgeson
Mentored by Norah Gharala
History
Conquering Tierra Firme: Labor Dependence and Conflict in Early Colonial Panama

Diego Lopez
Mentored by Carol Cooper
Political Science, Honors College
Native American Rights in the New World: A Spanish Perspective

Jack Morillo
Mentored by Roberto Tejada
English and Art History
Collaging Identity: Poetics to “Un-One” the Filipino

Jimmy Nguyen
Mentored by Brandon Lamson
English, Honors College
Buddhism and Spiritual Technologies Amid the Pandemic

Sydney Nutter
Mentored by David Rainbow
History, Honors College
What Do You Want? Comparing Psychological, Sociological, and Buddhist Theories on Happiness

Andreina Ruiz
Mentored by Amanda Baumle
Sociology
Reception of Transgender Women in Online Lesbian Spaces

Morgan Thomas
Mentored by Debbie Harwell
History
Creating the Spirit: Spirit of the Confederacy and the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy

Daniela Trejo
Mentored by Gabriela Baeza Ventura
Hispanic Studies
Lifestyle of People of Mexican Heritage and Heart Disease

Sandra Tzul
Mentored by Debbie Harwell
History
An Exchange Between Latinxs and Houston

Victoria White
Mentored by Julie F. Tolliver
Modern and Classical Languages
Equity in Education: The Accessibility of Higher Education for Native American Students
2021 Mellon Seminar Series

Spring & Fall 2021

Students met regularly during the spring semester for research development with their mentors and faculty-led seminars introducing the students to a variety of scholarship in the humanities. Mellon Scholars developed and presented their research proposals in April. Following the two-week graduate school prep bootcamp held in May, Mellon Scholars conducted a full-time, 10-week research experience during the summer. They also attended the weekly SURF lecture series and met regularly as a cohort. They presented their work in small groups for peers and Mellon Faculty Mentors in August.

In the fall, Mellon Research Scholars attended cohort meetings, a seminar on “Keeping Your Research Alive: Book Writing and More,” and graduate application writing workshops. Mellon Scholars receive financial support for GRE registration and graduate school applications to programs in the humanities. In addition to the thoughtful guidance provided by faculty mentors, through the year the Mellon Scholars were able to learn from over 25 talented UH faculty in Humanities disciplines. We thank them for sharing their time and insights with the Mellon Scholars.

Graduate School Bootcamp

May 17, 2021
Considering Graduate School and Selecting the “Right” Program
Elizabeth Goodin-May and Mabel Cuesta, Hispanic Studies

May 18, 2021
Developing Competitive Application Materials/The Selection Committee Experience/The CV & Personal Statement
Justin Coates, Philosophy
Richard Mizelle, History
Jennifer Wingard, English
Ben Rayder and Nimra Zubair, OURMA

May 19, 2021
Demystifying Research and the Senior Honors Thesis
Brittni MacLeod & Rikki Bettinger, OURMA

Fundamentals and Ethics in Research
Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill, Sociology and Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

May 20, 2021
Developing Your Mentor Network and Conducting Undergraduate Research
Amanda Ellis, English
Conducting Undergraduate Research, Mellon Scholar Roundtable

May 21, 2021
Components of a Strong Application Package
Erika Jo Brown and Giuseppe Taurino
English and Creative Writing

May 24, 2021
Developing a Writing Practice
Cedric Tolliver, English
Mark Sursavage, Writing Center

May 25, 2021
Strategies for Thriving in Graduate School
Morgan McCain, Counseling and Psychological Services
The Graduate School Experience, Graduate Student Roundtable

May 26, 2021
Getting Your Research out There: Conference, Proposals, and the Elevator Pitch
Richard Armstrong, Modern and Classical Languages
Max Rayheard, Honors College

Applying to Fellowships and Major Awards
Ben Rayder, OURMA

May 27, 2021
Digital Humanities
Lorena Gauthereau, US Latino Digital Humanities

May 28, 2021
Bootcamp Wrap-Up and Research Kick-Off
Eligibility for 2023 Cohort:
• UH main student in the humanities with an expected graduation of Fall 2023 or Spring 2024
• Students highly motivated to conduct research and attend graduate school in the humanities
• Students from backgrounds underrepresented in the academy and others with a demonstrated commitment to the goal of building a diverse academy in the humanities

Application Deadline:
Mid-November 2022 (TBA)

“In many ways, my experience with the Mellon program was a life-changing experience because it gave me the tools to make where I am now possible.”

Manuel Martinez Alvarenga
2019 Mellon Research Scholar

2022 Mellon Research Scholars

Congratulations to the following students selected for the 2022 Mellon Research Scholars program. These students will conduct full-time, faculty-mentored research in the humanities during summer 2022.

• Arreon Allen
• Jason Bang
• Carlos Campos Jr
• Dara De Silva
• Maya Dompier
• Jenna Goodrich
• Tatiana Haddad
• Alexander Kerry
• Owen Lartson
• Naveera Majid
• Victoria Rances
• Alfonso Reyes
• Miranda Ruzinsky
• Genesis Santillian
• Andres Tello
• James Ian Thompson
• Tela Todd

2021 Mellon Research Scholars

2020 Mellon Research Scholars

2019 Mellon Research Scholars

2022 Mellon Research Scholars
The 2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program launched in June with 78 SURF Recipients. SURF students met the challenge of the continuing pandemic and provided remote research and communication plans to carry out their research in the event such flexibility was required. The students came together on Zoom each week for the virtual lecture series and learned about data science and management, how to seek out and apply to competitive fellowships and graduate programs, and how to develop posters and present their work.

2021 SURF BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

**WEEK 1**
Responsible Conduct of Research  
Laura Gutierrez and Penny Maher  
Division of Research

Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

Jeremy May  
Chemistry

**WEEK 2**  
Getting the Most Out of Mentorship  
Norah Gharala  
History and OURMA Alumni Panel

**WEEK 3**  
Expectations and Challenges in Research  
David Mayerich  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Jakoah Brgoch  
Chemistry

Sarah Ehlers  
English

Luis Medina  
Psychology

**WEEK 4**  
Managing Your Research Data  
Claudia Neuhuser  
Division of Research

Reid Boehm  
University of Houston Libraries

**WEEK 5**  
July 4th Holiday

**WEEK 6**  
Applying for Fellowships and Major Awards  
Ben Rayder and Nimra Zubair  
OURMA

**WEEK 7**  
Building an Effective Resume and CV as a Researcher  
Adalia Espinoso and Priyanka Raut  
University Career Services

**WEEK 8**  
Applying to Graduate School  
Panel of Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students

**WEEK 9**  
Developing an Effective Poster and Presentation Etiquette  
Stuart Long  
OURMA

**WEEK 10**  
Celebration & SURF Alumni Panel

Special Thanks to SURF and OURMA Alumni for their participation:

Paulina Ezquerra  
Christina Gligorova  
Ersie Gentzis  
Vincent Laroche  
Anushka Oak  
Gabby Olinger  
Verónica Ordóñez  
Pierce Popson
2021 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Amoolya Agadi
Mentored by Bradley Smith
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences
Using Summer Camp to Improve Well Being and Development Assets of Underprivileged Children

Anaga Ajoy
Mentored by Pranav Parikh
Health and Human Performance
A Novel Method for the Assessment of Precision Force Control in Children

Syed Ali Hamza Abidi
Mentored by Andreas Mang
Mathematics
From PDE-Constrained Optimization to DNNs

Laraib Arain
Mentored by Billy Hawkins
Health and Human Performance
Identifying Youth Sports Programs in the Houston Area and Their Pros and Cons

Edward Armijo
Mentored by Alamgir Karim
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Shape-Selective Filtration Using Block Copolymer Membranes

Eliane Baaklini
Mentored by Priyanko Guchait
Hotel and Restaurant Management
Frontline Employees vs Service Robots: Development and Validation of Empathetic Creativity Scale

Anne-Elisabeth Baker
Mentored by Andrew Kudless
Architecture
Precious Plastic: Creating a Circular Campus Through Community-Based Plastic Recycling

Cody Betzner
Mentored by Xiaonon Shan
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Creating a System to Remotely Monitor the Impedance Change of Cement

Karina Bhattacharya
Mentored by Jeff Feng
Industrial Design
Body-Powered Prosthesis Design for a Patient with a Partial Hand Amputation

Aspen Bickel
Mentored by Elizabeth Farfán-Santos
Anthropology
Fatphobia as a Hinderance to Illness Diagnosis

Lauren Black
Mentored by Natalia Zhivan
Economics
Addressing the Labor Force Participation Disparity Between Veterans and Non-Veterans

Caleb Broodo
Mentored by Gemunu Gunaratne
Physics
Almost-Ideal Filtering: A Demonstration of New Signal Processing Tools in GW150914, The First Observation of Gravitational Waves

Zosia Bulhak
Mentored by Willa Friedman
Economics
Underrepresentation of Women in Sports Media Impacts Their Social Media Marketability

Ana Cenobio
Mentored by Yi-Chao Chen
Mechanical Engineering
Theoretical Framework for the Mechanics of the Daphnagm

Justin Chan
Mentored by Eric Bittner
Chemistry
How Bielectron Systems interact in a Quantized Radiation Field

Baichuan Chi
Mentored by Amaury Lendasse
Information and Logistics Technology
A Multi-ELM Model for Incomplete Data
Audrey Gale Hall
Mentored by Caryn Tamber-Rosenau
Comparative Cultural Studies
Outing Tsar'at, the Torah’s Queer Plague

Colin Copeland
Mentored by Dimitrios Georgios Hatzigmatiou
Petroleum Engineering
Evaluation of Carbon Emissions, Energy Resources, and Climate Mitigation

Maya Dompier
Mentored by Sarah Ehlers
English
Jane Mayhall and the Recovery of Black Mountain College Women’s Poetry

Raul Cruz Quintanilla
Mentored by Christopher Clarke
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Development of Wireless Smart Concrete Sensing Technology Using Carbon Nanofiber Aggregate

Mary Catherine Hambrick
Mentored by Julia Wellner
Geology
Smear Slide Analysis to Assess Variability of 210-Pb Dates in Sediment Cores from Offshore Thwaites Glacier, Antarctica

David Del Rio
Mentored by Jeremy May
Chemistry
Synthesis of (-)-Indolactam V for the Total Synthesis of Cytoblastin

Midhat Jafry
Mentored by Lorraine Reitzel
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences
The Effects of Remittances on Population’s Income Share

Omar Harb
Mentored by Melika Shirmohammadi
Human Development and Consumer Sciences
Well-being of Remote Workers Amidst the Pandemic

Summer Ijarah
Mentored by Clayton Neighbors
Psychology
Incarcerated Substance Use: Does Procedural Justice Play a Role?

Jennifer Hernandez
Mentored by T. Randall Lee
Chemistry
Carbonate-Terminated Self-Assembled Monolayers for Mimicking Polycarbonate Surfaces

Gabrielle Kostecki
Mentored by Therese Kosten
Psychology
Development of a SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine

Daniel Johns
Mentored by Douglas Erwing
History, Honors College
Permanently Recording History to Mitigate Censorship and Data Rot
Natalie Kubosh
Mentored by Yoon Koh
Hotel and Restaurant Management
The Community’s Impact on Crowdfunding Success

Brennen Kuhn
Mentored by Michael Murphy
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Active Faulting, Seismicity and their Relationship with Megathrust Ramps and Inherited Structures in Western Nepal: Insights from a Three-Dimensional Model

Christine Le
Mentored by Richard Garner
English, Honors College
Q-Anon and the Superego

Megan Lean
Mentored by Beau Alward
Psychology
Validation of Custom Antibodies Against Androgen Receptors Alpha and Beta in Astatotilapia burtoni

Arya Loloee
Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch
Chemistry
Evaluating the Hardness of Yttrium Ruthenium Borides

Cindy Luu
Mentored by Liming Li
Physics
Computing the Radiant Energy Budget of Enceladus

Vanessa Marcano
Mentored by Erin Kelleher
Biology and Biochemistry
Comparing Expression of Myc Between Drosophila Genotypes of Hybrid Dysgenic Offspring at the Larval Stage

Andrew Martinez
Mentored by Olafs Daugulis
Chemistry
Strong Base Mediated Intramolecular Cyclopropanation

Mark Mathews
Mentored by Beau Alward
Psychology
Androgen Receptor Mutation Affects Testes Organization in an African Cichlid A. Burtoni

Reagan McCawley
Mentored by Adam Fetterman
Psychology
How Inducing Empathy Affects Metaphoric Speech and Emotions

Cameron Mitchell
Mentored by Casey Dué Hackney
Classical Studies
Valuations of Truth in Indo-European Epic

Sondos Moursy
Mentored by Christine LeVeaux-Haley
Political Science
Barriers in Re-entry Faced by Formerly Incarcerated Women

Dorothy Mwakina
Mentored by Yingchun Zhang
Biomedical Engineering
Assessing Brain Function During Stroke Recovery Using Multimodal EEG-fNIRS Concurrent Analysis

Anh Nguyen
Mentored by Venkatesh Balan
Engineering Technology
Integrated Process for Red Algae Culturing and Processing High Value Algal Products: EPS & CPS, B-PE and PUFAs

Connor Nguyen
Mentored by Gemunu Gunaratne
Physics
Chaotic Dynamic Through Its Invariance That Does Not Depend On Initial State

Hoang Nguyen
Mentored by Shailendra Joshi
Mechanical Engineering
Analysis of Ductile Damage with Sigmoidal Hardening
Daniela Tovar  
Mentored by Jennifer Vardeman  
Communication  
Comparison of Pelvic Floor Disorder Communication Between Younger and Older Women in Rural Communities

Zoe Vela  
Mentored by Teresa Chapman  
School of Theatre and Dance  
Best Practices in Injury Prevention for High School Drill Team Dancers

Mallory Walters  
Mentored by Arturo Hernandez  
Psychology  
Examining the Effects of Bilingualism and ADHD on Executive Functions in Children

Khoa Nguyen  
Mentored by Jeffrey Rimer  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Identifying Potential Modifier To Inhibit Uric Acid Growth in Dolphins

Ayse Ozkan  
Mentored by Frank McKeon  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Multidrug Resistance Mechanisms in High-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer: Literature Review

Jacob Pakula  
Mentored by Dimitrios Georgios Hatziagiotou  
Petroleum Engineering  
A Deep Learning Approach for Screening Enhanced Oil Recovery Methods

Aadarshi Patel  
Mentored by Nikolaos Malamataris  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Process of Device Communication and Hardware-Software Integration

Kala Pham  
Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering  
In-Vitro 3D Glomerular System for High-Throughput Biomarker Screening

Thi Phan  
Mentored by Ali Kamrani  
Industrial Engineering  
An Integrated Approach to Design and Manufacturing of an Artificial Leg

Braian Pita  
Mentored by Dani Madrid-Morales  
Journalism  
Sentiment and Topic Classification Approaches to African News Articles About COVID-19 and Vaccines

Jocelyn Ramos  
Mentored by Aaron Becker  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Improving Capabilities and Performance of Magnetic Milli-Scale Swimmers

Maria Eugenia Romero  
Mentored by Islam Rizvanoglu  
Economics  
Please California my Texas: Would Adopting the Low Carbon Fuel Standard Impact Texas’ CO2 Emissions?

Nivriti Sabhnani  
Mentored by Jose Contreras-Vidal  
Electric and Computer Engineering  
Biomechanical Simulation of Pediatric Exo

Aniqua Salwa  
Mentored by Anka A. Vujanovic  
Psychology  
Suicide Ideation and Suicide Risk among Latina University Students: Examining the Main and Interactive Effects of Childhood Maltreatment and Mindfulness

Lujayna Taha  
Mentored by Jose Contreras-Vidal  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Process of Device Communication and Hardware-Software Integration

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Mentor(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Casey Freeman</td>
<td>Lars Grabow</td>
<td>Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering</td>
<td>CO and NO Co-Oxidation in PdCu Catalysts</td>
</tr>
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<td>Jack O’Connell</td>
<td>Richard Armstrong</td>
<td>Modern and Classical Languages</td>
<td>Political Violence in the Late Roman Republic</td>
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<td>Amrutha Padmasolala</td>
<td>Saira Rab</td>
<td>Psychological, Health, &amp; Learning Sciences</td>
<td>Dating During the Pandemic with an Emphasis on Dating Apps</td>
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<td>Lantz Han</td>
<td>Agnes DeFranco</td>
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<td>An Analysis Characterizing the Composition of the Corneal Limbal Epithelial Stem Cell Niche (LSCN)</td>
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Undergraduate Research Day celebrates the achievements of all University of Houston undergraduates pursuing faculty-mentored research. Congratulations to the following students.

**Alejandro Aguilar**  
Mentored by Lorena Gauthereau  
Mexican American Studies  
James L. Novarro Digital Collection

**Alexis Allamprese**  
Mentored by Tai-Yen Chen  
Chemistry  
Visualizing Single-Molecule Fluorescence Imaging Beyond the Diffraction Limit

**Zahir Amin**  
Mentored by Khurram Nasir  
Houston Methodist, Cardiology  
Social Vulnerability and Premature Cardiovascular Mortality Among US Counties, 2014 to 2018

**Thomas Avent**  
Mentored by Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill and Rachel Afi Quinn  
Sociology; Comparative Cultural Studies and Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies  
Black. Migration. Houston.

**Briana Azad**  
Mentored by Ann Cheek  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Mammal Biodiversity Across Houston’s Bayous

**Lucinda Ba**  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Honors, Engaged Data Science  
Examining Clinical Treatment Patterns in Adults Diagnosed with Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD)

**Thomas Broekhuis**  
Mentored by Ioannis Konstantinidis  
Honors, Computer Science  
Uncovering Relationships Between Climate Change and Quality of Life

**Dylan Campbell**  
Mentored by Hieu Nguyen  
Chemistry  
Investigating Glutathione Tolerance of a Macrocyclic Dinuclear Organoiridium Catalyst in Transfer Hydrogenation

**Carlos Campos Jr**  
Mentored by Lorena Gauthereau and Linda Garcia Merchant  
Mexican American Studies and U.S. Latino Digital Humanities  
Shifting Demographics in Houston

**Cole Carter**  
Mentored by Minjung Shin  
Hotel and Restaurant Management  
Revising Hotel SERVQUAL amid COVID-19

**Jennifer Csicsery-Ronay**  
Mentored by Ioannis Kakadiaris  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
A Data-driven, Graphical Approach to Dismantling Illicit & Counterfeit Medicine Markets (ICMs)

**Jared Davis**  
Mentored by Jerrod Henderson  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
An Integrated Approach Towards Increasing Black Male Engineering Graduate Outcomes

**Natalie Dean**  
Mentored by Kristina Neumann  
History  
Coinage of Zenobia, Rebel Queen of Palymra

**Caycel John Desales**  
Mentored by Greg Morrison  
Physics  
Actin under stress: A Coarse Grained Approach

**David Edquilang**  
Mentored by Jeff Feng  
Industrial Design  
3D Printed Limb Prosthesis

**Susette Flores**  
Mentored by Elizabeth Gregory  
English  
Mastery of The Visual Tapestry

**Smiti Gandhi**  
Mentored by Lionnel Ronduen and Jennifer Bryan  
UH STEM Center; Veterans Affairs, Baylor College of Medicine  
Characterizing the Prevalence and Nature of Cannabis Use Disorder and Comorbidities in Older Veterans
### 2022 Poster Presentations

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Emma Garcia</td>
<td>Kara Manning</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>The Moderating Role of Fatigue Sensitivity in the Relation between Depression and Alcohol and Opioid Misuse among Adults with Chronic Low Back Pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophie Grubbs</td>
<td>Donna Kacmar</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Timeline of Accommodation and Travel</td>
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<td>Tatiana Haddad</td>
<td>Susan Rasmussen</td>
<td>Comparative Cultural Studies</td>
<td>Tourism in Wadi Rum, Jordan: An Anthropological Examination of the Bedouins’ Contemporary Cultural Adaptation</td>
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<td>Lars Grabow</td>
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<td>Andrew Kapral</td>
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<td>LGBTQ Overrepresentation, Experience, and Mental Health Outcomes in Federal and State Prisons by State</td>
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<td>Audrey Huang</td>
<td>Daniel Price</td>
<td>Honors, Data and Society</td>
<td>The Evolution of the Collaborative Model in Resource Matching Between CHWs and Undergraduate Students</td>
</tr>
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<td>Waldemiro Junqueira</td>
<td>Jerrod Henderson</td>
<td>Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering</td>
<td>Exploring Undergraduate Engineering Experiences</td>
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<td>Margaret Kamholz</td>
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<td>Seun Lagbenro</td>
<td>Hanako Yoshida</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Infant Attention to Mouth During Expressive and Still-Face Trials</td>
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<td>Richard Meisel</td>
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<td>Bradley Smith</td>
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<td>Prosocial Outcomes of Mindfulness for College Students in Terms of Game Theory</td>
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<td>Jayda Martinez</td>
<td>Lorraine Reitzel</td>
<td>Psychological, Health, &amp; Learning Sciences</td>
<td>Guest Support for Outdoor Smoke-Free Policies within a Homeless Shelter</td>
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<td>Bryan Medina</td>
<td>Bradley McConnell</td>
<td>Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
<td>A Long-acting β arrestin “Biased” Agonist to Selectively Activate AT1R to Confer Cardioprotection During Heart Failure and COVID-19 Cardiovascular Complications</td>
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<td>Hana Mohamad</td>
<td>Johanna Bick</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Neural correlates of Emotion Regulation In Syrian Refugee Children: An ERP Study</td>
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<td>Raul Caballero Montes</td>
<td>Meidi Gu</td>
<td>UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Immunology</td>
<td>Manipulation of MAP3K Signaling to Improve CAR-T Cell Therapy</td>
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<td>Mohammadmehdi Mortazavi</td>
<td>Jeff Feng</td>
<td>Industrial Design</td>
<td>Assisting Children with Hand and Wrist Spasticity with 3D Printing and Elastic Materials</td>
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<td>Jalal Mohsin</td>
<td>Khashayar Hematpour</td>
<td>EP Heart/UT Physicians</td>
<td>Post Left Ventricular Assist Device Implantation Ventricular Tachycardia</td>
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<td>Steven Nguyen</td>
<td>Qin Feng</td>
<td>Biology and Biochemistry</td>
<td>Identifying the Role of IncRNAs in CRPC</td>
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<td>Kim Nguyen</td>
<td>Christina Miyawaki</td>
<td>Graduate College of Social Work</td>
<td>Vietnamese Aging and Care Survey (VACS) Wave 2: Sociodemographic and Health Characteristics of Vietnamese Older Adults and Family Caregivers in Houston, Texas</td>
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<td>Nimra Niazi</td>
<td>Joyce Ogunrinde</td>
<td>Health and Human Performance</td>
<td>College Student-Athlete: The Effect of Athletic Identity on Student-Athlete Wellbeing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radha Nune</td>
<td>Chandra Mohan</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>ALCAM Deficiency Dampens Renal Inflammation in Lupus Nephritis</td>
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<td>Anushka Oak</td>
<td>Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Searching for Gait Markers of Cognitive-Motor Dual-task Interference using Machine Learning</td>
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<td>Daniel Palacios</td>
<td>Terry Hill</td>
<td>NASA - Johnson Space Center</td>
<td>Taxonomical Modeling and Classification in Space Hardware Failure Reporting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwija Parikh</td>
<td>Andrew Kapral</td>
<td>Honors, Engaged Data Science</td>
<td>Decoding Administrative Data for Process of Care in Cancer Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kala Pham</td>
<td>Andrew Kapral</td>
<td>Honors, Engaged Data Science</td>
<td>Identifying Perceptions and Intent Surrounding the HPV Vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kala Pham</td>
<td>Kimberly Pilkinton</td>
<td>Clinical Science, UH College of Medicine</td>
<td>Assessing and Expanding Gynecological Knowledge in Houston Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Ramirez</td>
<td>Jonny Wu</td>
<td>Earth and Atmospheric Sciences</td>
<td>Searching for Slabs within the Earth’s Mantle through Tomographic Analysis of the Pacific Basin</td>
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<td>David Rincon</td>
<td>Donna Kacmar</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>The Columbia Tap Trail - Measuring Heat Island Effect and Air Quality Discrepancies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexis Ruiz</td>
<td>Meghana Trivedi</td>
<td>Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research</td>
<td>Effects of ADGRF1 Overexpression on Phospho- and Total HER2 Proteins by IHC in HER2+ Breast Tumors in Vivo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parsa Safa</td>
<td>Mahdi Safa</td>
<td>Civil and Environmental Engineering</td>
<td>The Role of HydroDiesel in Sustainable Development and Economic Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ritu Sampige</td>
<td>Brenda Rhoden and Cintia de Paiva</td>
<td>Honors, Leadership Studies; Ocular Surface Center, Baylor College of Medicine</td>
<td>Utilizing Conjoined Mice Models to Explore the Aging Lacrimal Gland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quratulain Shekoh</td>
<td>Noorulain Shekoh</td>
<td>Ophthalmology and Valley Retina Eye Institute</td>
<td>Association of Visual Acuity in MacTel 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachary Shilling</td>
<td>Candice Alfano</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Childhood Trauma Severity is Associated with Objective Sleep Disturbance but not Elevated Cortisol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gundeep Singh</td>
<td>Andreas Mang</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Effective Numerical Schemes for Ill-Posed Inverse Problems</td>
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<td>Saamiya Syed</td>
<td>Greg Morrison</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Self-assembly and Nonlinear Rheology of Crosslinked Semiflexible Polymer Networks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Divya Thomas  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology  
Social Gaze Patterns During Play in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Ekta Upadhyay  
Mentored by Sang-Hyuk Chung  
Biology and Biochemistry  
ML265 Promotes PKM2 Tetramerization and Reduces Cell Proliferation in Cervical Cancer Cells

Ian Thompson  
Mentored by Kristina Neumann  
History  
Religious Life in Ancient Damascus: A Study Through Coins

Elisabeth Walla  
Mentored by Michael Zvolensky  
Psychology  
The Role of Anxiety Sensitivity Among Latinx COVID-19 Survivors

Samuel Tran  
Mentored by Douglas Erwing  
Honors, History  
The Effect of COVID-19 on Third Ward Food Distribution Attendance

Nayani Wickramaratne  
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Intelligent Ariel Robots for Autonomous Wind Turbine Blade Maintenance

Olivia Tran  
Mentored by Gomika Udugamasooriya  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Evaluating Cytotoxic Activity of KRAS-Targeted Peptoids

Hannah Wolken  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Honors, Engaged Data Science  
Mapping Advanced Coursework: The Role of School Attendance Boundaries and Income Segregation
Ishmam Alam, David Mullens, and Jagath Nambiar
Mentored by Rosenda Murillo
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences
Perceived Workplace Safety is Not Associated with Hypertension among U.S. Adults

Arfa Ali, Jhanvi Bhatt, and Kristin Dinh
Mentored by Rosenda Murillo
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences
Food Insecurity is Associated with Moderate and Severe Psychological Distress in Latino Adults

Faith Amerson, Sarosha Momin, Ana Morales, Justine Samaroo, and Priya Thomas
Mentored by Laura Lee
College of Education
UH CODE RED: Menstrual Hygiene Needs of Individuals on the University of Houston Campus

Hufsa Arain, Caroline Sizemore, and Phuongthy Tran
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
Writing to Inspire Successful Education: Analyzing the Effects of Mentor Confidence on Mentee Performance

Tiffany Bui, Hannah Reeves, and Michelle Tran
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
The Effects of Science Mentoring on Mentee Confidence

Brandon Castaneda, Edwin Quintanilla, and Jillian Voehl
Mentored by Mahdi Safa
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Plastic Bricks, The Future for Infrastructure

Vyshnavi Davuluri, Zunayra Hemani, and Ronald Thomas
Mentored by Marc Hanke
Honors, Biology and Biochemistry
The Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19

Anayeli Euceda, Alyssa Green, Michelle Nguyen, Kala Pham, and Tracy Vu
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
Speak It Into Existence: Empowering Women Through Public Speaking

Shane Foreman, David Nguyen, Diya Patel, and Samiha Zaman
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
How has the COVID-19 Pandemic Affected Traditionally Disadvantaged Students Taking the ACT in a Low-income Houston High School?

Esteban Gomez, Dynesse Lapizar, and Josue Ramirez-Torres
Mentored by Mahdi Safa
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Are Hempcrete Blocks a Reliable Replacement in the Construction Industry?

Dynesse Lapizar and Jocelyn Zarazua
Mentored by Mahdi Safa
Civil and Environmental Engineering
King Solomon’s Temple a Cornerstone for Modern Construction

Mark Mathews and Peijun Zhao
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
Evaluating SAT and College-based High School Mentorship Program Effectiveness from Fall 2019 to Fall 2021

Noor Shabaneh and Sophia Sierra Quintero
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Math Mentoring Program on Underserved 7th-Grade Students in HISD

Neha Sunkara and Samuel Tran
Mentored by Michelle Belco
Honors, Political Science
Comprehending Institutional Program Practices of Texas Food Distribution Organizations
“Participating in undergraduate research has been incredibly inspiring and has taught me numerous skills that I look forward to applying in future research endeavors. I have had a wonderful experience conducting in-field research thus far and am excited to see what’s in store for the future!”

**Briana Azad**
Psychology and Spanish Major
PURS and HERE Recipient and Houston Scholar

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“I will always be grateful to OURMA for introducing me to the world of research by providing a supportive and collaborative environment in which I was empowered to explore my interests. Having the support of my advisors and peers demystified the research process, and inspired me to make research a foundational pillar of my future academic plans.”

**Paul Vaughn**
Economics Major
SURF and HERE Recipient

“Doing research as an undergraduate opened a lot of doors for me. I feel more confident reaching out and applying to programs. Plus, I learned so many skills for my research that will help me in grad school and future work opportunities.”

**Andreina Ruiz**
Sociology and English Major
PURS Recipient and Mellon Research Scholar

“Participating in undergraduate research has been one of the most formative experiences for me here at UH. Through OURMA research opportunities, I discovered and developed my passion for chemistry research, and plan to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry. I will take all the lessons I learned as an undergraduate researcher with me as I move forward.”

**Kevin Fleming**
Chemical Engineering Major
HERE, SURF, PURS, and DAAD RISE Recipient