2023 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, M.D. Anderson Library, & The Honors College
Thursday, April 13, 2023  www.uh.edu/urday
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IS...

...for everyone!
- URD presenters work with mentors from 16 different UH colleges and schools!
- 64% of participants in OURMA programs are Pell Grant recipients.
- A quarter of OURMA student researchers identify as first-generation students.

...funded!
- Scholarships range from $500 to $5,000.
- In the last academic year, students received over $5,000 in OURMA travel fellowships to present their research at national conferences.
- OURMA awarded over $590K in student scholarships last year!

...a gateway to fellowships!
- Presenters at URD have been named recipients of the prestigious Fulbright US Student Program, Gates Cambridge Scholarship, and Barry Goldwater Scholarship and many other major awards.

...supportive of the university!
- Undergraduate Research supports the university’s Carnegie-designation as a Tier One research university.
- Students contribute to cutting-edge, world-class research happening right here at UH!

SPECIAL THANKS TO...
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
- Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design
- 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)
- Institute for Global Engagement
Thursday, April 13, 2023

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

Diana Z. Chase, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Houston System
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston

Claudia Neuhauser, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President/Vice Chancellor, Research and Technology Transfer, University of Houston

Athena N. Jackson, M.S.
Dean of University Libraries and Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair, University of Houston

Stuart A. Long, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, Honors College, University of Houston
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research, University of Houston

Rikki Bettinger, Ph.D.
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

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards thanks 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 and continued support.
Welcome to the 18th Annual Undergraduate Research Day!

We invite you to explore, engage in conversation, offer feedback, and get inspired. This collaborative effort between the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards, the Honors College, and the M.D. Anderson Library highlights the diverse range of research projects carried out by University of Houston undergraduate students. The 2023 presenters include students from programs such as the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), 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. The energy that makes this event so special is only outmatched by the spirit and dedication the students have brought to their research this year. The number of participants in this year’s Undergraduate Research Day increased 35% from last year. We are excited to celebrate the research of UH undergraduates, and they are eager to share their projects with you.

Our presenters have collaborated with faculty mentors from 16 colleges and schools in programs as diverse as Philosophy, Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Art History, and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. 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. The research posters offer an invitation to discuss big ideas, granular analyses, and complex problems. Undergraduate Research Day provides the opportunity for undergraduate researchers to connect with other students, faculty, staff, and professionals in industry and gain feedback on their research. We encourage you to speak with presenters about their work.

In the last year, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards (OURMA) has supported over 310 faculty-mentored student research projects and awarded over $950K in student scholarships. This would not be possible without the generous support of the Office of the Provost and the Division of Research whose dedication to student success enables students at the University of Houston to pursue funded research opportunities. We are also always seeking new ways to expand research opportunities while addressing society’s urgent questions. With this in mind, and thanks to funding provided by Phillips 66, we launched the Energy Scholars Program this spring which provides a summer and fall research experience for students of any discipline working on energy-related research. Our funded undergraduate research programs allow students the necessary time and resources to delve deep and better understand and address some of Houston’s, and our world’s, most important issues.

UH students are also well-positioned as fellowships applicants. In the last year, our students have been named recipients of the Phi Beta Kappa Key into Public Service Scholarship, Voyager Scholarship, Avenir Scholars, Critical Language Scholarship, and NSF-GRFP. With 10 Coogs named as Fulbright recipients for 2022-2023, the University of Houston was again named a Top Producing Fulbright Institution, the third time it has received this prestigious designation in the last four years. In the lab and the library, in Houston and across the globe, our Coogs dare to dream big, and their successes demonstrate why University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One research university.

We are heartened by the increase in student participation and funding for undergraduate research opportunities, even amid the challenges of the pandemic. With these increases and in support of OURMA’s mission to provide faculty-mentored research opportunities and advising on fellowships and major awards to undergraduate students, OURMA welcomed new staff members in 2022. Deborah Reyes joined as a Program Manager in September and is completing her M.Ed. in Higher Education this year. Students interested in getting started in research and in the PURS and SURF programs should contact Deborah for more information. Livia Garza joined the office as a Program Manager in November. An alum of both the Honors College and the Mellon Research Scholars Program, Livia holds a M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Students interested in getting connected with OURMA opportunities through our listserv and social media, as well as those interested in the HER program, should contact Livia for more information.

We were pleased as well to welcome Esraa Wasel to our team as a student worker; Esraa is a member of the Honors College graduating this spring with a Bachelor’s degree in philosophy. A former Mellon Research Scholar and preparing for graduate study, Esraa will be presenting her research on moral encroachment at this year’s URD. She also has a published article in the third issue of FrameWorks: A Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Interdisciplinary Humanities. We feel fortunate to have a dedicated team working to ensure opportunities for undergraduate researchers at the University of Houston.

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 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.

We know that students who engage in undergraduate research are better positioned to assess and address the pressing issues of our time. Participation in undergraduate research allows students to hone key research skills and provides a foundation for collaborative problem-solving. We are excited to learn alongside these researchers. Thank you for joining us for this year’s celebration of undergraduate research at the University of Houston.

The OURMA Team: Ben Rayder, Stuart Long, Deborah Reyes, Livia Garza, Rikki Bettinger, Esraa Wasel
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 a $1,000 scholarship. Candidates with at least a 3.5 GPA are encouraged to apply. uh.edu/here

The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) is a full-time, 10-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 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. Awarding a $1,500 scholarship, REACH provides a year-long introductory research experience for students in humanities disciplines by connecting 12 students to existing research projects at the University of Houston. Students from humanities disciplines are encouraged to apply. uh.edu/reach

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 the degree requirements of their major, during their senior year. For more information, visit the thesis website at uh.edu/seniorhonorsthesis.

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 excellence 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
FELLOWSHIPS AND MAJOR AWARDS
The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards congratulates the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Scholars and Major Award recipients, finalists, and alternates:

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

Hamad Khan, Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship (Finalist); Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship (Finalist)

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Carlos Fuentes, Hispanic Scholarship Fund (Recipient)
Maggie Kamholz, BCM SMART Program (Recipient)
Jordan Pemberton, MD Anderson PCCSM Program (Recipient)

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Briana Azad, Critical Language Scholarship (Alternate)
Heather Butina-Sutton, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)
Joshua Cornelius, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Norway (Alternate)
Ola Dafaalla, Sumners Scholarship (Recipient)
Blake Deckard, Critical Language Scholarship Spark (Alternate)
Ariel Durham, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, South Korea (Recipient)

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS**

Tatiana Haddad, Boren Scholarship (Alternate); Critical Language Scholarship Spark (Alternate)
Perla Rae Henderson, NSF GRFP (Honorable Mention)
Cassidy Lee, PKP Scholarship (Recipient)
Ayan Mammadova, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)
Hana Mohamad, Critical Language Scholarship (Alternate)
Sondos Moursy, PBK Key Into Public Service (Recipient)
Jimmy Nguyen, Critical Language Scholarship (Alternate)
Paige Quinones, Fulbright Study/Research Grant, Slovenia (Alternate)
Hannah Reeves, Critical Language Scholarship Spark (Alternate)
Urvi Sakhija, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Czech Republic (Recipient)
Morgan Thomas, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Ghana (Recipient)
Sandra Tzul, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Mexico (Recipient)
Paul Vaughan, Fulbright Study/Research Grant, Poland (Recipient)
Cai Wilson, Sumners Scholarship (Recipient)
Peijun Zhao, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)
Nimra Zubair, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Bulgaria (Recipient); Critical Language Scholarship (Alternate)

**THAI NGUYEN, CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP SPARK (ALTERNATE)**

Thai Nguyen, Critical Language Scholarship Spark (Recipient)

**COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Anushka Oak, Fulbright Study/Research Grant, Spain (Recipient)
Amanda Pascali, Fulbright Study/Research Grant, Italy (Recipient)
Hai Pham, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Taiwan (Recipient)
Kala Pham, MD Anderson PCCSM Program (Recipient); Harry S. Truman Scholarship (Finalist)
Phillip Pham, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Taiwan (Recipient); NSF GRFP (Honorable Mention)
Jewel Phan, JET Program (Recipient)
Heeba Rahman, BCM SMART Program (Recipient)
Daniela Tover, MD Anderson PCCSM Program (Recipient)
Varshini Vakulabharanam, MD Anderson PCCSM Program (Recipient)
Mielad Ziaee, Critical Language Scholarship Spark (Alternate)
The Undergraduate Scholars and Major Awards Celebration was held on April 18, 2022 and hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards (OURMA). The University of Houston Outstanding Fellowship Mentor Award was featured in the Celebration and awarded to Mark Sursavage, Executive Director of the UH Writing Center.

MARK SURSAVAGE

Dr. Sursavage was recognized for his contributions to supporting student writing for national fellowships and undergraduate research at the University of Houston. His work extends to targeted programming for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, Boren Awards, Mellon Research Scholars, and the Research Experience for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH). For REACH, specifically, Dr. Sursavage helps students investigate the landscape of academic writing on campus as part of the Mapping Undergraduate Writing project.

Under Dr. Sursavage’s leadership, the UH Writing Center has long-supported the research efforts of undergraduates. The UH Writing Center offers the Writing Studio program to students in the Senior Honors Thesis program. Writing Studios provide more than an accountability group; they create a small, supportive forum through which students can test their ideas and writing during their thesis year. Thesis students are guided to reflect on their own writing and revision process, and students who participate in the Writing Studio program find a writing community and deepen and advance their own thesis experience.

In all of his these areas, Dr. Sursavage encourages students to channel their enthusiasm into intellectually disciplined pieces of writing that reflect who they are. He emphasizes personal connection in conversations about academic discourse and motivation for study. In turn, the undergraduate writing consultants in the UH Writing Center have taught Dr. Sursavage the importance of discussion, feedback, and revision as integral parts of the writing process, which has inspired him to apply these lessons in his own work.

“The collaborative efforts between OURMA and the UH Writing Center led by Dr. Sursavage have yielded great results for our students,” said Dr. Ben Rayder. “As a result of his contributions, our students have not only improved their writing, but also the kind of writing that they are assigned. This has prepared students for more success in fellowships, research, and applications for post-graduate programs.”

Congratulations to Dr. Sursavage on his award!
Consider applying for one of these opportunities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Program</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP</strong></td>
<td>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. 3, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP</strong></td>
<td>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. 3, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MORRIS K. UDALL &amp; STEWART L. UDALL SCHOLARSHIP</strong></td>
<td>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: Early Feb. 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP</strong></td>
<td>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. 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP</strong></td>
<td>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. 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td>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. 1, 2023</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).
The University of Houston is a top-producing Fulbright institution.

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.

2023 CAMPUS DEADLINE:
September 1, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Benjamin Rayder, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards
btrayder@uh.edu www.us.fulbrightonline.org
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
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 and two points toward the Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement transcript designation for participating in HERE.

HERE 2022
May 16-27, 2022
Forty-six students representing nine UH colleges participated in the 2022 HERE program. Students conducted research and proposed solutions to challenges regarding energy in Houston.

HERE Faculty Mentors:
Dan Burleson  Kelly Hopkins
Charles Becker  Olivia Johnson
Christiana Chang  Rita Sirrieh
Marc Hanke  Marina Trninic

HERE 2023
May 15-26, 2023
The 2023 theme for HERE will be “Food Systems: Culture, Security, and Sustainability.” Applications for the HERE program are accepted through early March each year. For more information on future HERE programming, contact Livia Garza at llgarzag@uh.edu or visit uh.edu/here.
The Houston Scholars is a competitive program for high-achieving freshmen and sophomores to receive mentorship and scholarship funding to pursue research, internships, and other distinctive experiential learning opportunities. Participants can receive three points toward the Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement transcript designation.

During the course of the academic year 2022-2023, Houston Scholars heard from a range of speakers about topics to help them make the most of their time at UH and develop their own unique skill sets. Subjects included Financial Literacy, Writing at the College Level, Developing a Global Perspective, the Value of Diversity and Inclusion, Identifying One’s Strengths and Weaknesses, Applied Learning Through Research and Fellowships, Civic Responsibility, and Balancing Mental Health with School. Houston Scholars programming kicked off with a cohort mixer in September and will conclude in April. By the end of the year, cohort members will not only have a better understanding of opportunities at UH and how to be a responsible student but will also be able to develop a more intentional plan for their futures.

Questions? For additional information about the Houston Scholars, please contact Ben Rayder, Ph.D. at btrayder@uh.edu in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards.

Houston Scholars Participants:

Claudia Aramburu-Tinoco  
Briana Azad  
Perrin Calzada  
Paul Daniel  
Jayden Gunsolley  
Gabriela Hamdieh  
Rosemarie Le  
Ehson Maleki  
David Nguyen  
Haley Romine  
Olivia Salinas  
Soraya Sato  
Ramya Valipe  
Nathan Varghese  
Rebecca Wagley  
Eshal Warsi  
Mielad Ziaee
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. Participants can also receive three points toward the Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement transcript designation. 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. Learn more at uh.edu/reach.

2022-2023 PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

**Making the History of UH Student Group Afro Americans for Black Liberation (AABL) Available Online**
- Mentors: Mary Manning, Saron Regassa
- Student Participants: Haadi Hasan, Rory Dempsey

**SYRIOS**
- Mentor: Peggy Lindner, Liz Rodwell
- Student Participants: Haadi Hasan, Rory Dempsey

**OER Textbook: Be a Tech Advanced Cultural Learner**
- Mentors: Fang Fang, Sammy Hwang, Ariana Santiago, Melody Yunzi Li
- Student Participant: Alejandra Gomez

**Opening Up Anti-Asian Racism Dialogues through Storymap**
- Mentors: Sammy Hwang, Melody Yunzi Li, Yali Zou
- Student Participant: Matthew Tao

**The Year 1771**
- Mentor: David Mazella
- Student Participant: Tatiana Haddad

**Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Program**
- Mentors: Lorena Gauthereau, Gabriela Baeza Ventura, Carolina Villarroel
- Student Participants: Erica Delgado, Lizbeth Jaimes, Chloe Levy

**Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey**
- Mentors: Sammy Hwang, Melody Yunzi Li, Yali Zou
- Student Participants: Katherine Galland, Kelly Montano

**Sharing Stories from 1977**
- Mentors: Sandra Davidson, Nancy Young, Leandra Zarnow
- Student Participants: Ishmam Alam, Diana Canales

**Mapping Undergraduate Writing Project**
- Mentor: Mark Sursavage
- Student Participants: Stephanie Masterson, Amna Siddiqui
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. Participants can also receive three points toward the Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement transcript designation. For more information, contact Debbie Reyes at dreyes13@uh.edu.

FALL 2022 PURS RECIPIENTS

Kathryn Aing  
Mentored by Jiming Bao  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

John Alvey  
Mentored by Dimitrios Kalliontzis  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Laraib Arain  
Mentored by Billy Hawkins  
Health and Human Performance

Mugdha Sai Bhagavatula  
Mentored by Bhavin Sheth  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Jayda Branch  
Mentored by Amanda Venta  
Psychology

Julio Cacho Bravo  
Mentored by Jeremy May  
Chemistry

Arushi Dheer  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

Kristin Dinh  
Mentored by Rosenda Murillo  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

Sarabeth Hanz  
Mentored by Tracey Ledoux  
Health and Human Performance

Benjamin Haverty  
Mentored by Alexander Statsyuk  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Tasneem Islam  
Mentored by Bradley McConnell  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Srijith Kambala  
Mentored by Stephen Spann  
Family Medicine

Gabrielle Kostecki  
Mentored by Colin Haile  
Psychology

Bao Le  
Mentored by Tianfu Wu  
Biomedical Engineering

Adriana Lopez Cajigas  
Mentored by Max Rayneard  
Creative Work, Honors College

Vicente Mandujano  
Mentored by Jeffrey Church  
Political Science

Devanshi Mistry  
Mentored by Michael Zvolensky  
Psychology

Karina Montero  
Mentored by Kinil Larin  
Biomedical Engineering

Fariz Nazir  
Mentored by Tianfu Wu  
Biomedical Engineering

Kim Nguyen  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

Minh Ngoc Nguyen  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Data and Society, Honors College

Geraldine Palacios  
Mentored by Debora Rodrigues  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Laura Rubio  
Mentored by Mario Romero-Ortega  
Biomedical Engineering

Robert Schnur  
Mentored by J. Leigh Leasure  
Psychology

Aaron Smith  
Mentored by Marc Hanke  
Biology, Honors College

Hoang Tran  
Mentored by Mario Romero-Ortega  
Biomedical Engineering

Emilia Waters  
Mentored by Chatwara Duran  
English
## SPRING 2023 PURS RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mentored By</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anisa Abdulhussein</td>
<td>Jinsook Roh</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eberechkwu Adikaibe</td>
<td>Ashutosh Agrawal</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Ayala</td>
<td>Craig Johnston</td>
<td>Health and Human Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alissa Boxleitner</td>
<td>Haylee Harrell</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Byrd</td>
<td>Lorraine Stock</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Carleton</td>
<td>Kavita Singh</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Chakraborty</td>
<td>Jinsook Roh</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samiksha Chandran</td>
<td>Robert Comito</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy Do</td>
<td>Stacey Gorniak</td>
<td>Health and Human Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darren Doan</td>
<td>Jakoah Brgoch</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelley Doan</td>
<td>Emily LaVoy</td>
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<td>Alexa Emmons</td>
<td>Cynthia Yoon</td>
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<td>Christopher Arellano</td>
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<td>Paul Guajardo</td>
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<td>Marcel Gugala</td>
<td>Stacey Gorniak</td>
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<td>Daniel Heo</td>
<td>Minwoo Lee</td>
<td>Hotel and Restaurant Management</td>
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<td>Nancy Ho</td>
<td>Hanako Yoshida</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Kalena Holeman</td>
<td>Daniel Davies</td>
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<td>Diana Huynh</td>
<td>Pranav Parikh</td>
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<td>Mary Ann Ivbievbiokun</td>
<td>Ashutosh Agrawal</td>
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<td>Rohana Kuriakose</td>
<td>Megan Robertson</td>
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<td>Mehmet Sen</td>
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<td>Gabrielle Lea</td>
<td>Chandra Mohan</td>
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<td>Megan Lean</td>
<td>Beau Alward</td>
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<td>Mehmet Sen</td>
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<td>Gisela Mathew</td>
<td>Hanako Yoshida</td>
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<td>Lynnsie McBride</td>
<td>Emily LaVoy</td>
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<td>Kelly Montano</td>
<td>Marwa Ghazali</td>
<td>Comparative Cultural Studies</td>
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<td>Akhil Mulgaonker</td>
<td>Richard Mizelle</td>
<td>History</td>
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<td>Jonathan Nguyen</td>
<td>Saleha Khumawala</td>
<td>Accountancy &amp; Taxation</td>
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<td>Thu Nguyen</td>
<td>Diana De La Rosa-Pohl</td>
<td>Electrical and Computer Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Nguyen</td>
<td>Jiefu Chen</td>
<td>Electrical and Computer Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanh Nguyen</td>
<td>Qin Feng</td>
<td>Biology and Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alphonse Omer</td>
<td>Qin Feng</td>
<td>Biology and Biochemistry</td>
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</table>
Hem Patel  
Mentored by Dan Graur  
Biology and Biochemistry

Ryan Pereira  
Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering

Debruinna Porter  
Mentored by Tony Liao  
Information and Logistics Technology

Sarah Rizvi  
Mentored by Luis Medina  
Psychology

Lilly Roelofs  
Mentored by Mario Romero-Ortega  
Biomedical Engineering

Sachiko Sakai  
Mentored by Shuhab Khan  
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Ibad Siddiqui  
Mentored by Gul Zerze  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Caroline Sizemore  
Mentored by Marc Hanke  
Biology, Honors College

Ali-Rayhaan Soonasra  
Mentored by Kirill Larin  
Biomedical Engineering

Logan Tantibanchachai  
Mentored by Jeffrey Church  
Political Science

Nicholas Tijerina  
Mentored by Bo Zhao  
Mechanical Engineering

Vize Tobor  
Mentored by Tran Chen  
Mechanical Engineering

Dylan Tran  
Mentored by Rosenda Murrillo  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

Tien Tran  
Mentored by Yingchun Zhang  
Biomedical Engineering

Morgan Trapp  
Mentored by Vivien Coulson-Thomas  
Optometry

Marcus Tubera  
Mentored by Jinsook Roh  
Biomedical Engineering

James Valentine  
Mentored by Gangbing Song  
Mechanical Engineering

Andres Villarreal  
Mentored by Denise Reyes  
Psychology

Alexander Wright  
Mentored by Bo Zhao  
Mechanical Engineering

Sosina Yimam  
Mentored by Stacey Louie  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Noor Zughaibi  
Mentored by Vincent Tam  
Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research
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 health care 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.

### 2022 Fellows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cade Coligan</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Disparities in Rural vs Urban Public Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Garcia</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>An Examination of Houston ISD Bond Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin George</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Analyzing Teacher Retention Rate: Movement Trends within Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boi Ha</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Evaluate Roundtrip Transportation Programs by Generating Legacy’s &amp; Patients’ ROI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah Harrison</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Rethinking Access to Healthy Foods: Investigating Food Access in Harris County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neha Joshi</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>The Impact of STEM-focused High School Education on Texas Student Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivienne Pham</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Examining the Role of Organizational Communication in Food Distribution Networks: A Rapid Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna So</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Determining the Effects of Limited Transportation on Heart Disease Risk Factor Prevalence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sobia Syed</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Analyzing Consumer Complaints Against Companies in the Corrections Industry Using Qualitative Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Tran</td>
<td>Honors Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>The Effects of Language and Economic Status on Healthcare Access and Care Partnership in Families of Children with Special Health Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looysa Ulysse</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>The Influence of Age, Sex, Race, and Ethnicity on Prevalence Rates of Co-occurring Health Conditions in Autism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samiha Zaman</td>
<td>MIS &amp; Marketing</td>
<td>The Impact of STEM-focused High School Education on Texas Student Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mielad Ziaee</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Examining the Role of Organizational Communication in Food Distribution Networks: A Rapid Review</td>
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</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, selected students collaborate and work alongside worldwide cancer experts for 10 weeks in the summer.

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 present the results of their research as scientific posters, along with trainees from other summer programs, at the 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

- Briana Azad
- Paul Daniel
- Kala Pham
- Mielad Ziaee
- Noor Zughaibi

Congratulations to the following students accepted to the 2023 PCCSM Summer Program:

Kristen Harris
Rael Memnon
Jordan Pemberton

Kala Pham
Daniela Tovar
Varshini Vakulabhanam
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 2021/2022 was “Immunity.”

The best article published in each edition is awarded the FrameWorks Prize for Excellence in the Interdisciplinary Humanities. In 2022, the prize was awarded to Guadalupe Lombera for her article, “Immigrants are Essential: Paula Mendoza’s Aesthetic of the Undocumented.” The Prize was adjudicated by Interim Dean of the Honors College, Dr. Stuart Long, and Dr. Sally Connolly, Associate Dean of Student and Faculty Success in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

2022-2023 FELLOWS

In 2022-2023 the FrameWorks program challenged students to interpret the theme “Constellation.” FrameWorks Fellows, who hail from a variety of majors, have adopted inventive and exciting humanities-based approaches to a diversity of research topics:

- **Nine Abad**
  Major: Political Science/ Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
  Research Topic: The Santo Niño de Cebu and Filipino Nationalism

- **Kalena Holeman**
  Major: English Literature
  Research Topic: Dante’s influence in Walcott’s Omeros and Ellison’s Invisible Man

- **Skyler Houser**
  Major: Psychology
  Research Topic: Celestial Bodies, Burial Rituals, The Iron Dagger of Tutankhamun

- **Alivia Mayfield**
  Major: History/World Cultures and Literatures
  Topic: Representations of Alexander the Great

- **Isha Merchant**
  Major: Journalism (Minor in India Studies)
  Research Topic: The Bollywood “Item Song”

- **Tuyen Le**
  Major: Philosophy/Political Science
  Research Topic: North Vietnamese Perspectives of the War in Vietnam

- **Adriana Lopez Cajigas**
  Major: Computer Engineering
  Research Topic: 1994’s The Lion King and its 2019 CGI Remake

- **Meneh Ofomaja**
  Major: Chemical Engineering
  Research Topic: Ben Okri’s “Stars of the New Curfew”

- **Saron Regassa**
  Major: Public Health
  Research Topic: Afro-Surrealism in Jordan Peele’s The Twilight Zone

- **Adolfo Salazar**
  Major: Biotechnology/Philosophy
  Research Topic: Curanderismo and Holistic Medical Treatments

- **Zainab Tafish**
  Major: Biomedical Science
  Research Topic: Blindness in the Quran
FrameWorks 2023 Call for Applications
Deadline: June 30, 2023

Do you want to be a FrameWorks Fellow?
Applications for 2023-2024 are now open.

- Take part in a year-long mentorship and peer-support program – think and write about 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.

2023-2024 Theme: Generation
For more information, visit uh.edu/frameworks.

“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)
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 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 participant receives a total of $5,000 for conducting their summer research project and participating in developmental academic and mentorship activities. Participants can also receive up to six points toward the Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement transcript designation.

For more information, contact Rikki Bettinger at rrbettinger@uh.edu or visit the webpage: uh.edu/mellonscholars.

A special thanks to the faculty and staff from over 15 departments and offices at the University of Houston who shared their guidance and expertise with the Mellon Scholars this year!

2022 MELLON RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Arreon Allen
Mentored by Luisa Orto
Art History

Jason Bang
Mentored by Eunjeong Lee
English

Carlos Campos Jr.
Mentored by Gabriela Baeza
Ventura
Hispanic Studies

Dara DeSilva
Mentored by Johanna Luttrell
Hobby School of Public Affairs

Maya Dompier
Mentored by Sunny Yang
English

Jenna Goodrich
Mentored by Leandra Zarnow
History

Alex Gurule
Mentored by José Angel Hernández
History

Tatiana Haddad
Mentored by Susan Rasmussen
Anthropology
MELLON RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Alexander Kerry
Mentored by Abdel Razzaq Takriti
History

Owen Lartson
Mentored by Sebastian J. Lecourt
English

Naveera Majid
Mentored by David Womble
English

Victoria Rances
Mentored by D. Justin Coates
Philosophy

Alfonso Reyes
Mentored by Margot Gayle Backus
English

Miranda Ruzinsky
Mentored by Manuel Gutiérrez
Hispanic Studies

Génesis Santillán
Mentored by Rex Koontz
Art History

Andres Tello
Mentored by Debbie Harwell
History

James Ian Thompson
Mentored by Richard Armstrong
Modern and Classical Languages

Tela Todd
Mentored by Jerome Crowder
Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of Medicine

León Valadés
Mentored by Kenneth Brown
Anthropology

Esraa Wasel
Mentored by Iain Morrisson
Philosophy, Honors College
The 2022 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) launched in June with 79 SURF recipients. Students participating in SURF come from a wide variety of disciplines, receive a $4,000 scholarship, and commit to a full-time, 10-week research experience. Each week the students came together on Zoom for a 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. Participants can also receive three points toward the Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement transcript designation. The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards thanks our 2022 presenters for their participation in this year’s lecture series.

2022 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The 2022 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) launched in June with 79 SURF recipients. Students participating in SURF come from a wide variety of disciplines, receive a $4,000 scholarship, and commit to a full-time, 10-week research experience. Each week the students came together on Zoom for a 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. Participants can also receive three points toward the Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement transcript designation. The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards thanks our 2022 presenters for their participation in this year’s lecture series.

2022 SURF BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

| WEEK 1 | Responsible Conduct of Research  
Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology  
Jeremy May  
Chemistry |
|---|---|
| WEEK 2 | Data Visualization Techniques  
Dan Price  
Data and Society, Honors College |
| WEEK 3 | UH Library Research Resources  
Veronica Douglas  
Mea Warren  
UH Libraries |
| WEEK 4 | Applying to Graduate School  
Sarah Ehlers  
Director for Graduate Studies, English  
Susan Scarrow  
Director for Graduate Studies, Political Science  
Melissa Lowrey  
Director for Graduate Studies, NSM |
| WEEK 5 | Independence Day Holiday |
| WEEK 6 | Building an Effective Resume and CV as a Researcher  
UH University Career Services |
| WEEK 7 | Time Management in Research, SURF, PURS, and Mellon Alumni  
Anushka Oak  
Andreina Ruiz  
Carl Suerte  
UH Alumni |
| WEEK 8 | Applying for Fellowships and Major Awards  
Ben Rayder  
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards |
| WEEK 9 | Developing an Effective Poster and Presentation Etiquette  
Chad Wilson  
Engineering  
Victoria Jupp  
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards |
| WEEK 10 | Celebration & SURF Alumni Panel Discussion |
2022 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Nawar Ahmed
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida
Psychology

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

Kendall Bailey
Mentored by Devin Shaffer
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Miriam Bautista
Mentored by Norah Gharala
History

Brandt Bechtel
Mentored by Dimitrios Kalliontzis
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Nicolas Betancourt
Mentored by Tian Chen
Mechanical Engineering

Matthias Chew
Mentored by Loi Do
Chemistry

Abigail Colbert
Mentored by Venkatesh Balan
Engineering Technology

Justin Collier
Mentored by Clayton Neighbors
Psychology

Justin Dang
Mentored by Michael Nikolaou
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Darren Doan
Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Mariam Dumitrascu
Mentored by Beau Alward
Psychology

Dima Ghazala
Mentored by Elizabeth Simas
Political Science

Alejandra Gomez
Mentored by Amber Thiessen
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Hasan Habazi
Mentored by Zheng Chen
Mechanical Engineering

Evelyn Hernandez Sanchez
Mentored by Summer Harlow
Journalism
David Paul Hilton  
Mentored by Tanya Bagashka  
Political Science

Nhi Hoang  
Mentored by Lars Grabow  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Valeria Hohl  
Mentored by Scott Clark  
Biology and Biochemistry

Diana Huynh  
Mentored by Pranav Parikh  
Health and Human Performance

Shanzeh Imran  
Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering

Tasneem Islam  
Mentored by Bradley McConnell  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Deaunte Johnson  
Mentored by Casey Dué Hackney  
Modern and Classical Languages

Danial Khan  
Mentored by Andreas Mang  
Mathematics

Lacey Knowles  
Mentored by Ferenc Bunta  
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Jay Lim  
Mentored by Ognjen Miljanic  
Chemistry

Jing Ming Lim  
Mentored by Renita Horton  
Biomedical Engineering

Bryan Luna  
Mentored by Gangbing Song  
Mechanical Engineering

Maria Jose Macias Zuniga  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

Manuel Martinez  
Mentored by Vivien Coulson-Thomas  
Optometry

Allen Mathew  
Mentored by Kamran Alba  
Mechanical Engineering Technology

Ayush Mehta  
Mentored by Alexander Statsyuk  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Aashna Momin  
Mentored by Venkatesh Balan  
Engineering Technology

Erin Myers  
Mentored by Jesse Rainbow  
Religious Studies, Honors College

Fariz Nazir  
Mentored by Tianfu Wu  
Biomedical Engineering

Emily Nguyen  
Mentored by Shoujun Xu  
Chemistry

Minh Khue Nguyen  
Mentored by Kerri Crawford  
Biology and Biochemistry

Ngoc Nguyen  
Mentored by Thomas Teets  
Chemistry

Miracle Ofomaja  
Mentored by Mehmet Orman  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Javier Padron  
Mentored by Loi Do  
Chemistry

Catherine Pham  
Mentored by Tony Frankino  
Biology and Biochemistry

Aryana Pourmotamed  
Mentored by Sheereen Majd  
Biomedical Engineering

Claudia Ramirez  
Mentored by Ferenc Bunta  
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Ethan Rothschild  
Mentored by Rebecca Zufall  
Biology and Biochemistry

Anna Rowbatham  
Mentored by Islam Rizvanoglu  
Economics

Amna Saleem  
Mentored by Natalia Zhivan  
Economics

Erin Satterwhite  
Mentored by Sandra Zalman  
Art History

Emily Schubert  
Mentored by Marc Hanke  
Biology, Honors College
2023 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

Nathan Seto
Mentored by Robert Comito
Chemistry

Aliasghar Shariff
Mentored by Tian Chen
Mechanical Engineering

Neha Sherif
Mentored by Megan Robertson
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Ali-Rayhaan Soonasra
Mentored by Kirill Larin
Biomedical Engineering

Elizabeth Spencer
Mentored by Dustin Gish
Political Science, Honors College

Nga Thai
Mentored by Chandra Mohan
Biomedical Engineering

Chloe Tondera
Mentored by Marzia Cescon
Mechanical Engineering

Tung Tran
Mentored by William Widger
Biology and Biochemistry

Morgan Trapp
Mentored by Vivien Coulson-Thomas
Optometry

Michael Trujillo
Mentored by Claudia Ratti
Physics

Ekta Upadhyay
Mentored by Sanghyuk Chung
Biology and Biochemistry

James Valentine
Mentored by Gangbing Song
Mechanical Engineering

Iva Wagner
Mentored by Mehmet Orman
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Elisabeth Walla
Mentored by Michael Zvolensky
Psychology

Katherine Wong
Mentored by Vaughn Climenhaga
Mathematics

Sarah Wong
Mentored by Jeff Feng
Industrial Design
Akhil Mulgaonker
Mentored by José Angel Hernández
History

Muhammad Ayser
Mentored by Venkatesh Balan
Engineering Technology

Laurent Bernadel
Mentored by Amber Thiessen
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Alexandra Goodin
Mentored by Carol Cooper
Political Science

Juan Guardia
Mentored by Johanna Bick
Psychology

Andrea Lopez
Mentored by Megan Robertson
Chemical Engineering

Madeline Moore
Mentored by Robert Shimko
Theatre & Dance

Maria Eduarda Mroczek
Mentored by Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau
Psychology

Jenna Zamil
Mentored by Samina Salim
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Juletsi Zuniga-Juarez
Mentored by Norah Gharala
History

Carla Romero
Mentored by Kerri Crawford
Biology and Biochemistry

Pranjal Sheth
Mentored by Diana Chow
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Victoria Teoh
Mentored by Marc Hanke
Biology, Honors College

Ana Vallejo Herrera
Mentored by Rajkamal Vasu
Finance

Emilia Waters
Mentored by Julie-Françoise Tolliver
Modern and Classical Languages

Juletsi Zuniga-Juarez
Mentored by Norah Gharala
History

Jenna Zamil
Mentored by Samina Salim
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences
The Office of the Provost, in conjunction with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards, offers Undergraduate Research Mentor Awards to honor the dedicated practice of undergraduate mentorship at the University of Houston. These awards recognize excellence in supporting undergraduate research and convey the campus’ high regard for outstanding contributions made to the academic and research community. Award winners advise and work one-on-one with students on personalized, creative, enriching projects; they are committed to providing undergraduate research experiences above and beyond the classroom.

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards congratulates the 2022 Undergraduate Research Mentor Award recipients: Loi Do, W. Anthony (Tony) Frankino, and Kirill Larin.

**LOI DO**
Associate Professor Loi Do is the winner of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, as well as a Junior Faculty Award for Excellence in Research from NSM. Dr. Do has published 28 peer-reviewed papers since joining UH in 2013 in the Department of Chemistry and is a founding member of the newly established National Science Foundation Center for Integrated Catalysis. During his time at UH, Dr. Do has mentored 18 undergraduate students who have been included in seven peer-reviewed publications and 13 presentations. Several of his former mentees are currently pursuing advanced degrees. Dr. Do tailors his mentees’ projects to their individual research interests and what they want to learn. “My strategy for promoting chemical research is to give students the ability to explore the molecular world guided by their own curiosity and creativity,” writes Dr. Do.

**W. ANTHONY (TONY) FRANKINO**
Associate Professor Tony Frankino, the Associate Chair of Undergraduate Affairs for the Biology and Biochemistry Department, has mentored hundreds of undergraduate students across various disciplines. Several of his students have received SURF and PURS awards, and roughly 50 have gone on to pursue graduate education. Dr. Frankino coordinates the Biology and Biochemistry Undergraduate Research Scholarship (BURES) and the GalapaGo! Research-based Learning Abroad programs, while additionally serving as a faculty co-advisor for SACNAS UH (Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science). Dr. Frankino uses culturally aware and sustaining mentorship within his programming to address the systemic barriers that exclude students from some populations from STEM success. Dr. Frankino shares that his “goals are to increase the retention and success of all my mentees, and to foster a culture supportive of the diverse populations of students on our campus.”
KIRILL LARIN
Cullen College of Engineering Distinguished Professor Kirill Larin has co-authored more than 200 peer-reviewed articles since joining UH in 2004. He is a winner of the Cullen College of Engineering Faculty Excellence Award and was elected as a fellow for the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), the Optical Society (OPTICA), and the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE). He has mentored 45 undergraduate students who have been included as co-authors in over 30 peer-reviewed publications. Several of Dr. Larin’s past mentees have pursued graduate degrees, medical school, or secured biomedical engineering-related jobs outside academia. “The overall goal of my undergraduate education activities is to create a stimulating learning environment inside and outside the classroom,” writes Dr. Larin. The integration of research and education is an essential part of Dr. Larin’s mentoring philosophy.
Research and Student Engagement at UH Libraries

Under the leadership of Associate Dean Santi Thompson, Research and Student Engagement (RASE) includes Information and Access Services, Open Education Services, Research Services, and Teaching and Learning. RASE exists to collaborate with students, faculty, and the scholarly community across the research and learning lifecycle; to cultivate the enhancement of learning and research spaces; and to implement information literacy efforts and co-curricular learning experiences in support of student success.

University of Houston Libraries serves the UH community by enhancing student learning, participating in the development of scholarly research and creative output, and promoting discovery of information and knowledge from diverse and relevant resources. You can find past works of undergraduate research in the UH Institutional Repository, which collects, preserves, and makes accessible scholarly output and creative works produced by members of the UH community. Collections include “Undergraduate Research Day Projects” and “Senior Honors Theses.”

Contact libteach@uh.edu to:
- Map out your research approach
- Develop search strategies
- Find library resources

“I am excited to work alongside talented colleagues at UH Libraries to create diverse and enriching experiences for students, faculty, and staff to learn, create, and connect with one another. The RASE focus is to support the student experience and establish a tangible and potential path for their opportunity to engage with a community of scholars. This approach empowers us to solidify the transformational experiences happening across learning, research, and daily access to our materials, specialists, services, and spaces. RASE frames the larger context of access, learning, and research that takes place every day throughout the Libraries.”

SANTI THOMPSON
Associate Dean, UH Libraries Research and Student Engagement
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.
## FALL 2022 SCHEDULE

**September 16, 2022**  
Getting Started in Research  
Rikki Bettinger  
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

**October 24, 2022**  
Incorporating Feedback  
Mark Sursavage  
UH Writing Center

## SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE

**February 3, 2023**  
Getting Started in Research  
Debbie Reyes  
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

**February 17, 2023**  
Research Opportunities Abroad  
Debbie Reyes  
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards  
Jade Green  
Learning Abroad

**March 3, 2023**  
Undergraduate Researchers Alumni Panel  
Livia Garza  
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

**April 17, 2023**  
Applying to Life Sciences/STEM Ph.D. Programs  
Richard Meisel  
College of Natural Sciences
Senior Honors Thesis

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
2023 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY PRESENTERS
Undergraduate Research Day celebrates the achievements of all University of Houston undergraduates pursuing faculty-mentored research. Congratulations to the following students.

### INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

**Samantha Agyapong**  
Mentored by Kevin Garey  
Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research  
Investigation of Fecal pH in Healthy Volunteers Receiving Omadacycline or Vancomycin

**Nawar Ahmed**  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology  
Lexical Composition of Bilingual vs. Monolingual Parental Verbal Input & Its Influence on Child Vocabulary

**Ishmam Alam**  
Mentored by Rosenda Murillo  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences  
Patterns in Hypertension by Job-related Support Across Race/Ethnicity

**Arreon Allen**  
Mentored by Luisa Orto  
Art History  
The Harder They Fall and the Importance of Contemporary Black Storytelling

**Hufsa Arain**  
Mentored by Hyun Lee  
Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute  
Assessing the Effects of Daam2 and its Human Variants on Glioma Proliferation

**Laraib Arain**  
Mentored by Billy Hawkins  
Health and Human Performance  
Name, Image, and Likeness Legislation: Who’s Benefiting?

**Sophia Asif**  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida and Lichao Sun  
Psychology  
Influence of Caregiver Status on Joint Attention in Children

**Alexandra Ayala**  
Mentored by Craig Johnston and Cynthia Yoon  
Health and Human Performance  
COVID-19 Stress and COVID-19 Distress with Maladaptive Eating and Adaptive Eating Among College Students

**Muhammad Ayser**  
Mentored by Venkatesh Balan  
Engineering Technology  
Fractionation of Mushroom Stems to Various Bioactive Molecules and Processing Chitin to Hydrogel for Wound Healing Application

**Funmi Babajide**  
Mentored by Tasneem Bawa-Khalfe  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Impact of SUMO Post-translational Modification on Breast Cancer Development

**Kendall Bailey**  
Mentored by Devin Shaffer  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  

**Carter Baker**  
Mentored by Candice Alfano and Anthony Cifre  
Psychology  
The Relationship Between Weighted Blanket Use and Sleep Disturbances Among Children Recently Adopted from Foster Care

**Jason Bang**  
Mentored by Eunjeong Lee  
English  
Vietnamese American Intergenerational Trauma: Conflict as Rhetoric In Vietnamese American Memoirs

**Yolanda Batz Tzul**  
Mentored by Cheryl Brohard  
Nursing  
Modifying A Life Review Intervention For People Living With Dementia.

**Janelle Bauske**  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Ioannis Konstantinidis  
Data and Society, Honors College  
COVID-19, Mental Health, & Women with Children: An Intersection

**Laurent Bernadel**  
Mentored by Amber Thiessen  
Communication Science and Disorders  
Effectiveness of Key Wording on Story Comprehension and Visual Attention for People with Aphasia
2023 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY PRESENTERS

Jayda Branch
Mentored by Amanda Venta
Psychology
Emotional Intelligence Across Different Races for Justice-Involved Adolescence

Devin Brown
Mentored by Amy Sater and Pratip Bhattacharya
Biology and Biochemistry; Cancer Systems Imaging
Targeted Molecular Imaging of CRC using Hyperpolarized silicon nanoparticles

Amy Bui
Mentored by Chandra Mohan and Srinandhini Chandran
Biomedical Engineering
Effects of Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSCs) on Cancer Cell Proliferation and Apoptosis

Raul Caballero Montes
Mentored by Javier Garcia Bermudez
UT Southwestern Children Research Institute
Dissecting the Transcriptional Regulation of the Tumor Antioxidant Response

Alfredo Calderon-Macedo
Mentored by Greg Morrison and Esteban Dodero-Rojas
Physics; Rice University
Analysis of the SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein suggests multiple structures suitable for use in vaccine design

Carlos Campos Jr.
Mentored by Gabriela Baeza Ventura
Hispanic Studies
Connections Within the Greater Houston Partnership: A Social Network Analysis of the GHP Board of Directors

Alexia Changalpet
Mentored by Mario Romero-Ortega and Sierra Cowan
Biomedical Engineering; College of Medicine
Differential Neurovascular Plexus Innervation in the Spleen

Matthias Chew
Mentored by Loi Do and Rahul Jana
Chemistry
Aldehyde Reduction via Mitochondria Targeting Iridium Complex

Abigail Colbert
Mentored by Venkatesh Balan
Engineering Technology
Producing Peptostreptococcus Magnus Protein L and binding domain using E. Coli

Justin Collier
Mentored by Clayton Neighbors
Psychology
The Keys That Bind Us: Belongingness in Discord Servers

Leo Collier
Mentored by Robert Stewart
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Barringer Crater: Recreating Anomalous Impact Morphology through Sandbox Modelling

Taylor Cornett
Mentored by Diana Chow
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Pharmacokinetic Modeling of Vincristine and Its Metabolite in Kenyan Pediatric Cancer Patients

Justin Dang
Mentored by Michael Nikolau
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Enhanced Geothermal System: A Simulation Study

Erica Delgado
Mentored by Lorena Gauthereau and Carolina Villarroel
Arte Público Press
Hidden Latina Figures Overshadowed By Western Media

Caycel Desales
Mentored by Yuhong Wang and Jacob Steele
Biology and Biochemistry
Mutagenesis of Escherichia coli Elongation Factor G for Domain IV sm-FRET and Force Studies

Dara DeSilva
Mentored by Johanna Luttrell
Hobby School of Public Affairs
The Implications of the Criminality Spectacle on Marginalized Groups

Arushi Dheer
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida and Lichao Sun
Psychology
The Effect of Object Distance on Word Learning: Nouns and Verbs

Darren Doan
Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch
Chemistry
Investigating Gold Intermetallics Featuring Disordered Networks
Maya Dompier
Mentored by Sunny Yang
English
Theresa Cha's *Dictee* read as a Layered Account
Autoethnography

Mariam Dumitalscun
Mentored by Beau Alward and Lillian Jackson
Psychology
Identifying Neural Activation of Sex-Typical Aggressive Behaviors in Astatotilapia burtoni

Nusayba El-Ali
Mentored by Mario Romero-Ortega
Biomedical Engineering
Fibrotic Response of Electrical Stimulation on the Sciatic Nerve of Rats

Fatima Elmouden
Mentored by Jerrod Henderson
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Lexi Emmons
Mentored by Cynthia Yoon and Craig Johnston
Health and Human Performance
Associations of Adverse Childhood Experiences with Maladaptive eating and Adaptive eating among college students

Kevin Fleming
Mentored by Lars Grabow
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Computational Study of CO2 Capture Using MIL-100 (Cr)

Caitlyn Foret
Mentored by Lindita Camaj and Hojoon Choi
Communication
Corporate Social Responsibility and the Magic of Meaning Theory in Major Corporations LGBTQ+ Pride Advertisements

Carlos Fuentes
Mentored by Luis Medina
Psychology
Beliefs, Attitudes, and Knowledge of Alzheimer’s Disease in Hispanic/Latin Americans Living in the U.S.: A Systematic Review

Justin George
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Ioannis Konstantinidis
Data and Society, Honors College
Analyzing Teacher Retention Rates: Movement Trends within Texas

Dima Ghazala
Mentored by Elizabeth Simas
Political Science
Does Politicians’ Use of Moral Rhetoric Polarize Voters?

Alejandra Gomez
Mentored by Amber Thiessen
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Virtual Therapy Experiences of Speech-Language Pathologists who Work with Clients with Aphasia

Jenna Goodrich
Mentored by Leandra Zarnow
History
Discourses of Violence in True Crime Narratives

Jenna Goodrich
Mentored by Julie Grob
Special Collections, UH Libraries
From Coast to Coast: A Tour of DJ Screw’s Record Collection

Juan Pablo Guardia
Mentored by Johanna Bick
Psychology
The 6th Age of the World: Anglo-Saxon England and The Great Heathen Army

Alexandra Gurule
Mentored by José Angel Hernández
History
The 6th Age of the World: Anglo-Saxon England and The Great Heathen Army

Boi Ha
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Dan Price
Data and Society, Honors College
Evaluating Return on Investment in Transportation Program

Hasan Habazi
Mentored by Zheng Chen
Mechanical Engineering
The Impact of Temperature, Pressure and Humidity on the Actuation of Dielectric Elastomer Actuators

Tatiana Haddad
Mentored by Susan Rasmussen
Comparative Cultural Studies
Tourism in Wadi Rum, Jordan: Bedouin Cultural Commercialization and Economic Agency

Tatiana Haddad
Mentored by David Mazella
English
1771, A Literary History: Genre, Origin, and Authorship
Nikki Hammond
Mentored by Lars Grabow
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Computationally Modeling the Effectiveness of Pd/Cu as a Diesel Oxidation Catalyst

Noah Harrison
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Dan Price
Data and Society, Honors College
Can a More Comprehensive Index Be Formed to Identify Areas of Low Access to Food Sources in Harris County?

Daniel Heo
Mentored by Minwoo Lee
Global Hospitality Leadership
Does Inclusivity Matter in Hospitality and Tourism? Exploring the Needs of People with Disabilities through Business Intelligence

Evelyn Hernandez Sanchez
Mentored by Summer Harlow
Communication
Worlds of Journalism Study

David Paul Hilton
Mentored by Tanya Bagashka
Political Science
The Impact of Sanctions on Bilateral Trade between Russia and Non-Sanctioning Countries

Nancy Ho
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida and Lichao Sun
Psychology
A New Method for Measuring Infant’s Multimodal Experiences: Combining Head-Mounted Eye-Tracking and Electroencephalogram (EEG) Techniques

Valeria Hohl
Mentored by Kerri Crawford and Scott Clark
Biology and Biochemistry
The Suppressive Effect of Verbena brasiliensis on Native Species in Individual and Community Competition

Janita Hussain
Mentored by Claudia Ratti and Joaquin Grefa
Physics
Realistic QCD Equation of State from Black Hole and Hadronic Physics

Diana Huynh
Mentored by Pranav Parikh
Health and Human Performance
Reduced Modulations in Leg Muscle Activity During a Challenging Balance Task in Stroke Survivors

Shanzeh Imran
Mentored by Chandra Mohan and Anton Crosslee
Biomedical Engineering
Effects of Cytokines on Blood Brain Barrier in Neuropsychiatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Tasneem Islam
Mentored by Bradley McConnell and John Craft
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Biology and Biochemistry
Finding Molecular Inhibitors to Neutralize SARS-CoV-2 Infection and its Variants

Lizbeth Jaimes
Mentored by Carolina Villarroel and Lorena Gauthereau
Arte Público Press
Recording Gender and Children Violence Through Historical Newspapers

Deaunte Johnson
Mentored by Casey Dué Hackney
Classical Studies
Investigating the Link Between Ideals of Masculinity in Ancient Greek and Roman Society and the Ideals of Masculinity in the American Black Community

Srijith Kambala
Mentored by Stephen Spann and Ana Corral
Family Medicine
Integrating Social Care in Healthcare Approaches – A Scoping Review and Cost-Benefit Analysis

Alexander Kerry
Mentored by Abdel Razzaq Takriti
History
My People Will Not Die: Staging the Revolution/ary in Palestinian Resistance Theater

Danial Khan
Mentored by Andreas Mang
Mathematics
Stein Variational Gradient Descent

Aditi Kashinath Khareedhi
Mentored by Patrick Slater
Austin Ear Clinic
The Injurious Association Between Traumatic Brain Injuries and Perichondrial Hematomas

Lacey Knowles
Mentored by Ferenc Bunta
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Bilingual Phonological Acquisition with Cochlear Implant Use: A Comparison of Vowel Production with Normal Hearing Peers
Borna Koohbor
Mentored by Edgar Bering and Andrew Renshaw
Physics
Reflective Properties of Aerosols Relative to Environmental Factors

Gabrielle Kostecki
Mentored by Colin Haile
Psychology
Fentanyl vaccine prevents opioid overdose in rats

Owen Lartson
Mentored by Sebastian Lecourt
English
Transgendering the Gothic: Unearthing Transgender Lived Experience and Reappropriating Abjection in Gothic Texts

Gabrielle Lea
Mentored by Chandra Mohan
Biomedical Engineering
The Identification of Urinary Proteins as Markers of Disease Activity in Childhood-onset SLE

Preston Lee
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Math Mentoring Program on Underserved 7th-Grade Students in HISD

Chloe Levy
Mentored by Caryn Tamber-Rosenau
Modern and Classical Languages
Two Fawns and the Figure of Desire

Chloe Levy
Mentored by Lorena Gauthereau
Arte Público Press
Latina Beauty Queens

Jay J. T. Lim
Mentored by Ognjen Miljanic
Chemistry
Aromatic Guest Incorporation in Naphthalene-Based Cyclotetrabenzil Host

Bryan Luna
Mentored by Gangbing Song
Mechanical Engineering
Study of a Single-Sided Pounding Tuned Mass Damper for Vibration Control on a Cantilevered-Pipe System

Lauren Lyles
Mentored by Julie Dunsmore
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences
YouTube Kids: Understanding Gender and Emotion through Modern Media

Maria Jose Macias Zuniga
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida
Psychology
Early Joint Attention and Its Influence on Socio-Emotional Development and Language Skills

Naveera Majid
Mentored by David Womble
English
“What will people say?”: An Autoethnographic Look into Desi Women, Voice-Finding, and Not Living for Others

Ehson Maleki
Mentored by Benjamin Deneen
Neurosurgery, Baylor College of Medicine
Ventral Spinal Astrocyte Reactivity is Context Dependent on Nkx6.1

Manuel Martinez
Mentored by Vivien Coulson-Thomas
Optometry
The Role of the Extracellular Matrix in Regulating Corneal Angiogenesis and Lymphangiogenesis

Stephanie Masterson
Mentored by Mark Sursavage and Johnathan Richards
UH Writing Center
Evaluating Undergraduate History Writing Objectives, Expectations, and Perceptions

Allen Mathew
Mentored by Kamran Alba
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Creating Instrumentation To Test Opto-Mechanical Properties Of Hydrogel For Use In Cataract Surgery

Gisela Mathew
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida and Lichao Sun
Psychology
HR-ASD Infants’ Social Attention and Neural Activity during Parent-Child Play

Rael Memnon
Mentored by Petra Den Hollander
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Investigating the Chemosensitizing Effect of p38 MAPK inhibition in a TNBC cell model

Jarely Mendez
Mentored by Francisco Gomez
Geological Sciences, University of Missouri
LiDAR Drone Surveying near Rio El Tambor to study the 1976 earthquake of the Motagua Fault in Guatemala

Isha Merchant
Mentored by Laura Bland
History, Honors College
The 'Item Song' and Community within the South Asian Diaspora in the United States
Devanshi Mistry
Mentored by Michael Zvolensky
Psychology
The Role of Pain Avoidance in the Relation Between Pain Intensity and Smoking Cessation Processes

Aashna Momin
Mentored by Venkatesh Balan
Engineering Technology
Extracting Mushroom Polysaccharides for Intended Benefits of Immunostimulation and Therapeutic Uses

Karina Montero
Mentored by Kirill Larin and Yogeshwari Ambekar
Biomedical Engineering
Neural Tube Imaging using Brillouin Spectroscopy and Optical Coherence Tomography

Akhil Mulgaonker
Mentored by José Angel Hernández
History
 Shivaji: The Many Dreams for a Maratha King, 1818 – 2003

Erin Myers
Mentored by Jesse Rainbow
Religious Studies, Honors College
First Enoch: “The Apocalypse of Weeks” as Prophecy

Paola Najera
Mentored by Richard Meisel
Biology and Biochemistry
Ectopic expression of ovary expressed polo transcripts and duplicates in Drosophila melanogaster testis creates female-biased sex ratios

Dan Nguyen
Mentored by Clayton Neighbors and Joann Angosta
Psychology
What Roles do Depression and Stress Play in Suicidal Thoughts?

David Nguyen
Mentored by Yaxin Wang and Victor Tedesco
Texas Heart Institute
Study of Passive and Active Magnetic Levitation Bearings for Implementation in Pediatric Left Ventricle Assistant Device

Emily Nguyen
Mentored by Shoujun Xu
Chemistry
Acoustic Radiation Force and Noncovalent Bonds

Kim Nguyen
Mentored by Christina Miyawaki
Graduate College of Social Work
Development of a Community-Engaged Dementia Education Program for the Houston Vietnamese American Community

Kim Nguyen
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida
Psychology
Infant Sustained Attention During Parental Gesture

Minh Khue Nguyen
Mentored by Kerri Crawford and Scott Clark
Biology and Biochemistry
A native Coreopsis variant competes more strongly against the invasive Verbena brasiliensis

Minh Ngoc Nguyen
Mentored by Gul Zerze
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
A computational investigation of folding free energy surfaces and structural characterization of Staphylococcal Protein A

Ngoc Nguyen
Mentored by Thomas Teets
Chemistry
Azide addition in Iridium carbodiimide complex

Theresa Nguyen
Mentored by Alexander Statsyuk
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences
A General Approach to Kinase Inhibitors

Miracle Ofomaja
Mentored by Mehmet Orman
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Characterizing Z-rings in Persister Cells

Javier Padrón
Mentored by Loi Do and Abhipsa Srimani
Chemistry
Bio-Inspired Tishchenko Reaction

Kimeera Paladugu
Mentored by Chandra Mohan
Biomedical Engineering
The Diagnostic Potential of Stool Proteins Outperforms Plasma Proteins in Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Shaiza Pasha
Mentored by Greg Morrison and Erez Aiden
Physics; Baylor College of Medicine
Dual Cross-Linking Improves Ability to Map Chromatin Loops

Lillian Pennington
Mentored by Erin Kelleher and Llewellyn Green
Biology and Biochemistry
Mapping Irradiation Sensitivity in Drosophila melanogaster
Catherine Pham  
Mentored by William Frankino  
Biology and Biochemistry  
The Evolutionary Relationship Between Size and Shape

Vivienne Pham  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Ioannis Konstantinidis  
Data and Society, Honors College  
Investigating the Deciding Factors of the Location of a Food Distribution

Aryana Pourmotamed  
Mentored by Sheereen Majd  
Biomedical Engineering  
Fabrication and Characterization of GelMA Filled Nanoliposomes for Delivery Applications

Sakina Quaid  
Mentored by Martin Nunez and Romina Dimarco  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Health impact of native and non-native invasive mosquitoes: the case of Aedes aegypti

Laila Rahman  
Mentored by Donaji Stelzig  
Community Health Worker Training Center, Honors College  
Lived Experiences Of The Financial Burden Of Period Poverty On Latinas In Texas

Claudia Ramirez  
Mentored by Ferenc Bunta  
Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Phonological Processes Produced by Spanish-English Bilingual Children who Have Hearing Loss and Use Cochlear Implants Compared to their Normal Hearing Peers

Victoria Rances  
Mentored by Justin Coates  
Philosophy  
The CRISPR Dilemma: A Philosophical Analysis of Michael Sandel’s Argument Against Genetic Engineering

Saron Regassa  
Mentored by Mary Manning  
Special Collections, UH Libraries  
Forged Through Protest - History of Afro Americans for Black Liberation

Alfonso Reyes  
Mentored by Margot Backus  
English  
Writing What You Know, Not Just What You Are: LGBTQ+ & POC Representation in 21st Century Literary Fiction

Sarah Rizvi  
Mentored by Luis Medina and Michelle Martinez  
Psychology  
The Role of Caregiver Burden On Cognition in Older Adult Care Receivers

Lillian Roelofs  
Mentored by Mario Romero-Ortega  
Biomedical Engineering  
Representation Learning for Feature Analysis in Synthetic Neuronal Signals

Carla Romero  
Mentored by Kerri Crawford and Scott Clark  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Suppression of native plant by invasive Verbena brasiliensis increases with soil fertility.

Alexis Ruiz  
Mentored by Meghna Trivedi  
Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research  
Venetoclax Decreases Cell Clusters in TNBC Cells

Jason Ruszkowski  
Mentored by Edgar Bering and Andrew Renshaw  
Physics  
Sampling Microplastics and Extremophile Organisms on Balloon Borne Payloads

Miranda Ruzinsky  
Mentored by Manuel Gutiérrez  
Hispanic Studies  
Spanish in Relation to Socioeconomic Status Over Time in America

Sachiko Sakai  
Mentored by Shuhab Khan  
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
Study of sand dunes and coastal erosion at Mustang Island and North Padre Island

Anma Saleem  
Mentored by Natalia Zhivan  
Economics  
Assessing Changes in Healthcare Utilization among Various BMIs in the United States After the AMA’s Decision in 2013 to Declare Obesity a Chronic Disease

Ritu Sampige  
Mentored by Leslie Frankel and Julie Dunsmore  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences  
Mismatch Between Perceived and Objective Indices of Infant Vulnerability: NICU Status and Parental Mental Health

Génesis Santillán  
Mentored by Rex Koontz  
Art History  
The Ancient Colors in the Public Art of Tenochtitlán
Erin Satterwhite  
Mentored by Sandra Zalman  
Art History  
Dorothy Hood

Ali-Rayhaan Soonasra  
Mentored by Kirill Larin  
Biomedical Engineering  
The Effect of Alcohol and Cannabinoids on the Microvasculature in Embryonic Brain

Emily Schubert  
Mentored by Marc Hanke  
Biology, Honors College  
Pathogenic Perkinsus marinus Frequency in Consumable Oysters Used in Reef Restoration

Elizabeth Spencer  
Mentored by Dustin Gish  
Phronesis, Honors College  
Understanding History through a Musician’s Perspective: Contextualizing the Works of Dmitri Shostakovich

Risha Sethi  
Mentored by Alexey Golubev  
History  
Feminism in the Bolshevik Revolution

Andres Tello  
Mentored by Debbie Harwell  
History  
“Call me Mr. Zhang.” A Historical Fiction Short Story By Andrew Tello

Nga Thai  
Mentored by Chandra Mohan and Yaxi Li  
Biomedical Engineering  
ELISA Validation of Novel Biomarkers of Lupus Nephritis Discovered Using O-link Proximity Extension Assay

Risha Sethi  
Mentored by Alexey Golubev  
History  
Feminism in the Bolshevik Revolution

Neha Sherif  
Mentored by Megan Robertson  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Epoxidation and Curing of Bio-Renewable para-Coumaric Acid

Pranjal Sheth  
Mentored by Lu Dai  
Pharmacy  
Traumatic Brain Injury Therapeutics Progress

Anma Siddiqui  
Mentored by Mark Sursavage  
UH Writing Center  
Process vs. Product Classes in English Literature: Students’ and Professors’ Perspectives on Teaching Writing

Anique Siddiqui  
Mentored by Bradley McConnell  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Biased Agonism at the Angiotensin II Type 1 Receptor

Aaron Smith  
Mentored by Marc Hanke and Jenny Oakley  
Biology, Honors College; University of Houston - Clear Lake  
Oysters on the Menu: Wildlife Interactions with the Oyster Sun Curing Process

Anna So  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Dan Price  
Data and Society, Honors College  
Determining the Effects of Limited Transportation on Heart Disease Prevalence

Nga Thai  
Mentored by Chandra Mohan and Yaxi Li  
Biomedical Engineering  
ELISA Validation of Novel Biomarkers of Lupus Nephritis Discovered Using O-link Proximity Extension Assay

Ian Thompson  
Mentored by Richard Armstrong  
Modern and Classical Languages  
Women’s Political Agency: Vestal Virgins, Livia, and the First Ladies of the U.S.

Nicholas Tijerina  
Mentored by Bo Zhao  
Mechanical Engineering  
Designing High-Efficiency Thermophotovoltaics by Recycling Below-Bandgap Photons Through High Reflectivity

Tela Todd  
Mentored by Jerome Crowder  
Social and Behavioral of Sciences  
Examining Harris County’s Flawed Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations and Their Outcomes

Chloe Tondera  
Mentored by Mariza Cescon  
Mechanical Engineering  
Autonomous Crazyflie Drones

Hoang Tran  
Mentored by Mario Romero-Ortega, Farial Rahman, and Zuha Yousuf  
Biomedical Engineering  
Investigation of LRG-I as A Biomarker For Stress Urinary Incontinence In A Rabbit Model
Olivia Tran
Mentored by Andrew Kapral
Data and Society, Honors College
The Effects of Language and Economic Status on Healthcare Access and Care Partnership in Families of Children with Special Health Needs

Thai Tran
Mentored by Ben King
Health Systems and Population Health Sciences
Dual Systematic Review Characterizing the Relationship Between Homelessness and Infectious Diseases

Tung Tran
Mentored by William Widger
Biology and Biochemistry
Fluorescence assay to monitor dormancy in M. luteus.

Morgan Trapp
Mentored by Vivien Coulson-Thomas
Optometry
Effects of Hyaluronic Acid on Salivary Glands of Adult and Aged Mice

Eva Trevino
Mentored by Paul Ruchhoeft and Dmitri Litvinov
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Development of Magnetic Nanoparticles for Lateral Flow Assays using Atom Beam Lithography

Michael Trujillo
Mentored by Claudia Ratti
Physics
Quantifying the Uncertainty on the Location of the Holographic Critical Point

Khiem Truong
Mentored by Ben King
Health Systems and Population Health Sciences
Systematic Review of the Lower Perceived Access to Care Among Populations Experiencing Homelessness

Ekta Upadhyay
Mentored by Sanghyuk Chung
Biology and Biochemistry
TRAF4 has potential interaction with E7 oncogene in HPV+ Cervical Cancer Cells

Leon Valades
Mentored by Kenneth Brown
Comparative Cultural Studies
Ceramic Analysis in Atzompa: Maintaining a millennium old tradition in Zapotec utilitarian ceramics

James Valentine
Mentored by Gangbing Song
Mechanical Engineering
Verification of Solenoid-Enabled Percussion to Monitor Bolted Structures with Neural Network and Support Vector Machine Classifiers

Ana Vallejo
Mentored by Rajkamal Vasu
Finance
Financial Documents Reported During The Blue Sky Laws

Nathan Varghese
Mentored by Jeffrey Rimer and Adam Mallette
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Chabazite Zeolite Synthesis Using Inorganic Structure-Directing Agents

Johanna Villagomez
Mentored by Guoquan Wang
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Using GPS to Monitor Subsidence and Faults in the Greater Houston Area

Andres Villarreal
Mentored by Denise Reyes
Psychology
Organizational Diversity and External Recognition

Alyson Vu
Mentored by Xinli Liu
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Fabrication of lipophilic drug-loaded microneedles

Iva Wagner
Mentored by Mehmet Orman
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Z-Rings as a Biomarker in Persister Resuscitation

Elisabeth Walla
Mentored by Michael Zvolensky
Psychology
Perception of Stigma in Medical Settings During COVID-19: The Role of Sex Differences Among Latinos

Esraa Wasel
Mentored by Iain Morrison
Philosophy, Honors College
Moral Encroachment and Moral Reasons For and Against Withheld Belief
Katherine Wong  
Mentored by Vaughn Climenhaga  
Mathematics  
Hyperbolicity of Surfaces with Positive Curvature

Sarah Wong  
Mentored by Jeff Feng  
Industrial Design  
Developing a Headset Integrating Vision Testing and VR with EEG Scan

Ameer Zaman  
Mentored by Vlad Sandulache  
Otolaryngology, Baylor College of Medicine  
GPX-2 Protein Synthesis Using Recombinant E. Coli

Jenna Zamil  
Mentored by Samina Salim  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Breast Cancer Awareness, Screening Attitudes, and Biochemical Profile in a Sample of Houston-Based Afghan Refugee Women

Mielad Ziaee  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Data and Society, Honors College  
Evaluating Food Security and Summer Meal Access in Harris County

Noor Zughaibi  
Mentored by Vincent Tam and Brianna Eales  
Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research  
Iron Supplementation’s impact on Deferiprone inhibited Acinetobacter baumannii
GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Raina Abraham, Eunice Alvareng, Sampada Gokhale, and Tonia Malayil
Mentored by Yaping Wang
Industrial Engineering
Your Timeless Celebration

Adeola Adeleye and Hadil Eldakli
Mentored by Weiyi Peng
Biology and Biochemistry
Real-Time Monitoring of T-Cell Function to Identify Tumor Evasion Mechanisms

Oluwadurotimi Agbesanwa, Dana Khalil, and Moses Tovias
Mentored by Jose Contreras-Vidal
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Your Brain on Art: Neurodynamics of Art Appreciation

Ishmam Alam and Diana Canales
Mentored by Nancy Young
History
Sharing Stories from 1977: The National Women’s Conference

Natalie Allen, Leonardo Rabago, and Lizbet Valdez
Mentored by Megan Robertson
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
High-Throughput Tuning of Methacrylic-Acid-Based Hydrogels with Calcium and Chitosan as Secondary Ionic Cross-Linkers

Briana Azad, Brandt Bechtel, Tiffany Bui, and Tiffani Than
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
The Effects of Science Mentorship on Student Confidence

Lucinda Ba, Mariyah Khan, Nmesomachukwu Ukachi-Nwata, and Olivia Tran
Mentored by Cindy Paz
Honors College
CHW- Community Partnered Health Fairs to Increase Healthcare Access for Residents of 77031 Zip Code

Ayesha Baloch, Shane Forman, and Hira Qazi
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
Is Mentee Academic Self-Confidence Level a Valid Measure of an Online Tutoring Programs’ Effectiveness at KIPP Sunnyside High School?

Rachel Banh, Rea Rose Estrada, and Annie Huynh
Mentored by Tian Chen
Mechanical Engineering
Synthesizing Liquid Crystal Elastomers

Abraham Baqdounes, Elizabeth Richardson, Jerardo Sanchez, and Jonathan Ventura
Mentored by Yaping Wang and Nate Wiggins
Industrial Engineering
Reducing Firs-Case Surgery Delays

Miriam Bautista and Juletsi Zuniiga-Juarez
Mentored by Norah Gharala
History
The Global Connections Created by the Galleon Trade and Roman Catholicism

Surya Bhat, Zahra Bhattacharya, and Bryan Armbruster
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
Assessing Changes of a Third Ward Food Pantry Exiting the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Retrospective Study

Gustavo Chavez, Jose Lara, and Patrick Redmond
Mentored by Mahdi Safa
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Artificial Gecko Skin: Harnessing the Power of Vander Valls Force in Shear Systems

Siboney Cruz, Racquel Dorsey, Chidinma Elechi, Brian Felder, Haidia Khan, and Jordan Pemberton
Mentored by Laura Lee
College of Education
Bridging the Gap College of Education Summer Bridge Program

Anthony Dang, Thieu Le, Tom Le, and Jalen Jordan
Mentored by David Mayerich
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Visualizing Microscopic Tissues and Vessels Through Unreal Engine 5
Vyshnavi Davuluri, David Hartman, and Tony Trabulsi
Mentored by Andrew Kapral
Data and Society, Honors College
PEERS: Evaluation of an Undergraduate-Led Near-Peer Community Health Mentorship Program

Rowan Dempsey and Haadi Hasan
Mentored by Peggy Lindner
Information and Logistics Technology
SYRIOS

Kristin Dinh and Ronald Thomas
Mentored by Rosenda Murillo
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences
Gender Disparities in the Association between Food Insecurity and Psychological Distress among US Adults

Kristin Dinh, Neha Joshi, Ngoc-Trang Adrienne Nguyen, and Veena Vinod
Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program
Honors College
Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Aspire Program for Improving Student SAT Scores Before, During, and After COVID-19

Tracy Do and Marcel Gugala
Mentored by Stacey Gorniak
Health and Human Performance
Does Bounceless Provide an Effective Alternative for Sport-Bras for Women Who have a Larger Than “C” Cup Size

Alicia Dykema, Joshlyn Mendez, and Aliasghar Sharriff
Mentored by Edgar Bering
Physics
Auroral Spectroscopy

Katherine Galland and Kelly Montano
Mentored by Debbie Harwell and Todd Romero
History
Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey

Emma Garcia and Sehrish Gull
Mentored by William Frankino
Biology and Biochemistry
Pattern and Relative Rate of Size and Shape Evolution

Alejandra Gomez and Matthew Tao
Mentored by Melody Li
Modern and Classical Languages
OER Textbook: Be a Tech Advanced Cultural Learner

Justin Green, Gerald Merino, Mohammad Moaddab and Sarah Semmel
Mentored by J. Leigh Leasure
Psychology
Neuroprotective Effects of Exercise on Binge Alcohol-Induced Brain Damage

Oscar Jones and Sadek Syed
Mentored by Jose Contreras-Vidal
Electrical and Computer Engineering
How Nature Improves Your Health: A Systematic Review

Neja Joshi and Samiha Zaman
Mentored by Andrew Kapral
Data and Society, Honors College
The Effect of STEM-Focused High School Education on Texas Student Outcomes

Evelyn Martinez, Joel Osegueda, Rianna Skaria, Anna Wilson
Mentored by Brigitte Dauwaulder
Biology and Biochemistry
The Role of the USP Receptor in the BBB for Drosophila Male Courtship

Matthieu Matthieu, Minh Nguyen, and Celine Saidy
Mentored by Edgar Bering
Physics
Gaseous Compounds: Measuring the Composition of Trace Gasses in Earth’s Atmosphere

Jose Medina, Emily Navarro, and Jesus Zendejas
Mentored by Jose Contreras-Vidal
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Your Brain on Art

Amina Meliani and Zayda Umana
Mentored by Melika Shirmohammadi
Human Development and Consumer Sciences
Career and Higher Education Experiences of Refugees in the United States: Challenges, Enablers, and Strategies

Daniel Prejean and Nikolai Sardo
Mentored by Edgar Bering
Physics
Detecting Radio Distortion is the Ionosphere by use of a High Power High Frequency Transmitter
“Undergraduate research has opened a lot of doors for me. It has helped me understand where I want to go in life, and I have had a wonderful time growing through these research programs. I am looking forward to continuing my research, wherever that may take me.”

James Valentine
Mechanical Engineering
SURF and PURS Recipient

“Undergraduate research has taught me to think critically and responsibly about the world around me. The impact that research has on various communities is something to take into account while doing these projects. These research experiences have only compelled me to pursue more research opportunities that benefit and support marginalized communities.”

Jayda Branch
Psychology
HERE and PURS Recipient

“My research experiences at UH and support from OURMA completely changed the trajectory of my goals. Before coming to UH, I had never even considered grad school or a research career. Doing meaningful, hands-on research as an undergrad sparked my interest in pursuing a Ph.D. and studying neglected tropical diseases as a parasitologist.”

Gabrielle Kostecki
Mathematical Biology
Amgen Scholar and SURF, PURS, BURS Recipient

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“Undergraduate research has given me confidence in my work that I didn’t have before. I didn’t think I had a place in academia outside of earning my degree, but research at this stage has taught me how to ask questions and contribute to a conversation, no matter how obscure the research topic seems at first.”

Owen Lartson
English
PURS Recipient and Mellon Research Scholar