UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IS...

...for everyone!
- URD presenters work with mentors from over 15 different UH colleges, schools, and centers!
- 45% of participants in OURMA programs are Pell Grant-eligible.
- A quarter of OURMA student researchers identify as first-generation students.

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

...funded!
- Scholarships range from $500 to $6,000.
- In the last academic year, students received over $11,000 in OURMA travel fellowships to present their research at national conferences.
- OURMA awarded over $557K in student scholarships last year!

...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
- UH Energy
- University Career Services
Thursday, April 11, 2024
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion
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

Stuart A. Long, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research and the Honors College
Moores Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
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.
We are so pleased to welcome you to our 19th annual Undergraduate Research Day!

Today’s event is an opportunity for undergraduates from all colleges and disciplines across the University of Houston to display and present their research to the campus community. The 2024 presenters include students from programs such as the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), Provost’s Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS), Mellon Research Scholars, Energy Scholars, 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 research posters offer an invitation to discuss big ideas and complex problems. Undergraduate Research Day (URD) also offers the opportunity for undergraduate researchers to connect with other students, faculty, staff, and professionals in industry and gain feedback on their research. We hope you will ask questions and provide input about their research.

Our presenters have collaborated with mentors across the University. This year’s URD will feature presentations on a wide variety of topics. From public policy to mathematics, mechanical engineering to pharmacology, and English to psychology, we are fortunate at the University of Houston to have such dedicated faculty willing to share their time and expertise. Presenters at this year’s URD have projects that range from researching the optimal locations for solar PV panels on the lunar surface, mapping 1970s arson events in Montrose and the impact on Houston’s gay bars, using eye-tracking technology to study language processing of African American English to aid in the treatment of language disorders, better understanding the molecular dynamics of fibrinogen and its interactions in blood clotting, and expanding accessibility to Hispanic American theatre. Undergraduate researchers are contributing in meaningful ways to ongoing research at the University of Houston, supporting its goal to become a top 50 public research university.

Funding these research endeavors would not have been possible without the continued support of the Office of the Provost, the Division of Research, and many other campus partners who ensure that significant mentored research experiences are made available to UH undergraduates. In the last year, OURMA supported over 285 faculty-mentored student research projects and awarded over $555K in student scholarships. We were excited to learn this year that funding for the Mellon Research Scholars program will continue through 2026 with a third $500K grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support research and graduate school preparation in the humanities. Additionally, with increased funding and in collaboration with UH Energy, we can support a larger cohort of Energy Scholars for the 2024 calendar year. Stay tuned for their projects in April 2025!

The dedicated staff in OURMA were bolstered by the addition of Kalena Holeman, an English major, who joined the OURMA office as a student worker this year. A prior PURS and FrameWorks participant and 2023 Mellon Research Scholar, Kalena has provided students with exceptional peer mentorship and thoughtful insights. She has a published article in the fourth issue of FrameWorks: A Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Interdisciplinary Humanities, for which she received the FrameWorks Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, and will continue her study of the Classics this summer at Harvard University. You can find Kalena presenting her Mellon Scholars research on the journey motif and Dantean receptions in Black women’s literature at this year’s URD.

UH students are also well-positioned as fellowships candidates. In the last year, our students have been named recipients of the Phi Beta Kappa Key into Public Service Scholarship, DAAD RISE, Sumners Scholarship, Critical Language Scholarship, Barry Goldwater Scholarship, and NSF-GRFP. In addition to eight more Fulbright awardees, UH was recognized for the third year in a row as a Fulbright HSI Leader. Prestigious fellowships are not the only way UH students are gaining national recognition. Last year, a record 100 UH students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa - the most prestigious and oldest honor society in the country. They join the likes of 17 U.S. Presidents and 42 Supreme Court Justices who were also recognized for their achievements in the classroom as undergraduates. In the lab and the library, in Houston and across the globe, our Coogs dare to dream big, and their successes demonstrate why UH is a Carnegie-designated Tier One research university.

We are excited to celebrate the research of UH undergraduates, and they are eager to share their projects with you. Thank you for joining us for this year’s celebration of undergraduate research at the University of Houston.
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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](http://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](http://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](http://uh.edu/purs)

**The Mellon Research Scholars Program** is a year-long program that supports a cohort of students who are highly motivated to conduct research and attend graduate school in the humanities. Each participant receives a total of $5,000 to participate in developmental academic and mentorship activities throughout the year and to conduct a full-time summer research project. [uh.edu/mellonscholars](http://uh.edu/mellonscholars)

**The Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH) Program** is a collaborative effort supported by the Cougar Initiative to Engage and OURMA. Awarding a $1,500 scholarship, REACH provides a year-long introductory research experience for students in humanities disciplines by connecting students to existing projects at the University of Houston. [uh.edu/reach](http://uh.edu/reach)

**The Energy Scholars Program** provides undergraduate students the opportunity to work on a year-long research project related to energy under the direction of a UH faculty mentor. Participants receive a $6,000 scholarship, and students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. [uh.edu/energy-scholars](http://uh.edu/energy-scholars)

**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](http://uh.edu/seniorhonorsthesis).

Need more info? Email: [undergrad-research@uh.edu](mailto: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 2022-2023 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**
Leslie Aguillon, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Mexico (Recipient)

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**
Shashank Adhikari, DAAD RISE PRO Scholarship (Recipient)
Oluwadurotim Agbesanwa, BCM SMART Program (Recipient)
Nikki Hammond, Phi Kappa Phi Fellowships (Recipient)
Aashna Momin, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)
Wajahat Mohiuddin, Critical Language Scholarship, Arabic (Recipient)
Yuan Zi, DAAD RISE PRO Scholarship (Recipient)

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Briana Azad, Phi Beta Kappa Key Into Public Service Scholarship (Recipient); MD Anderson PCCSM Program (Recipient)
Laura Bere, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Belgium (Alternate)
Helin Erdal, Critical Language Scholarship, Azerbaijani (Alternate)
Axit Garcia, Critical Language Scholarship Spark, Mandarin (Recipient)
Alyssa Green, Sumners Scholarship (Recipient)
David Paul Hilton, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Uzbekistan (Recipient)
Wasiq Javed, One Lawyer Can Change the World Scholarship (Recipient)
Naveera Majid, Fulbright Manchester Metropolitan University Award in Creative Writing, United Kingdom (Alternate)
Sondos Moursy, Marshall-Motley Scholarship (Recipient); Rhodes Scholarship (Finalist)
Elizabeth Perkovich, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mention)

**HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**
Saron Regassa, Sumners Scholarship (Recipient)
Sophia Sierra Quintero, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Mexico (Recipient)
Nella Sakić, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Recipient)
Bianca Soriano, BCM SMART Program (Recipient)
Logan Tantibanchachai, Sumners Scholarship (Recipient)
Nmeso Ukachi-Nwata, Sumners Scholarship (Recipient)
Peijun Zhao, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Taiwan (Recipient)
Mielad Ziaee, MD Anderson PCCSM Program (Recipient); Kennedy Krieger Institute MCHC/RISE-Up Program (Recipient); Fulbright UK Summer Institutes (Alternate)

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS**
Rhoda Abuga, BCM SMART Program (Recipient)
Momena Ahmed, BCM SMART Program (Recipient)
Bryan Armbruster, BCM SMART Program (Recipient)
Paul Daniel, MD Anderson PCCSM Program (Recipient)
Gabrielle Kostecki, Goldwater Scholarship (Recipient)
Rosemarie Le, EPFL Excellence Research Internship Program (Recipient)
Thai Nguyen, Critical Language Scholarship, Russian (Alternate)
Kala Pham, MD Anderson PCCSM Program (Recipient)
Lei Si, DAAD RISE PRO Scholarship (Recipient)
Damon Spencer, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Recipient)
Alyson Vu, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Germany (Recipient)
Tracy Vu, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant, Taiwan (Recipient)
Noor Zughaibi, MD Anderson PCCSM Program (Recipient)
OUTSTANDING FELLOWSHIP MENTOR AWARD

The Undergraduate Scholars and Major Awards Celebration was held on April 24, 2023 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 Donna Stokes, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Physics.

DONNA STOKES

Dr. Donna Stokes was recognized for her dedication to supporting STEM students in their pursuit of undergraduate research and national and major awards and fellowships. Her dedication to mentoring comes from her own experiences as an underrepresented student majoring in physics as she recalls the importance of having supporting mentors and allies throughout her academic career. She states, “I realized there are so many students who need support and guidance to achieve their goals and that I could be a person that could have an impact on them by serving as a role model/mentor.”

Recognizing Student Potential: As a physics professor, mentoring undergraduate and graduate students as well as postdoctoral associates in and outside the classroom is an expected part of her role. But what she has realized is that serving as a mentor is embedded in the person she is and continues to become. Serving as the undergraduate academic advisor for the Department of Physics and as the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs and Student Success for the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, has allowed her to mentor STEM majors, especially Physics majors, for awards such as the Barry Goldwater Fellowship, PURS and SURF awards and National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellowships.

Collaboration is Key: Through strong collaborations with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards, NSM faculty, and students, Dr. Stokes’ mentoring support had led to great success for STEM students in terms of major award and recognition. She worked alongside faculty in the Physics Department to identify students who were passionate about physics and particularly research in physics early in their academic career. She assisted students on their journey to find research projects and faculty advisors who would be supportive and provide an opportunity for the student to grow and gain exposure to cutting edge meaningful research. Through mentoring and advising, she provided a foundation of support for their academic and research journey that allowed them to excel.

Student Success: Since 2006, University of Houston has had 12 Goldwater scholars. Of these, 10 out of the 12 were NSM majors and, of the 10 NSM majors, seven were physics majors. Her guidance and support to these outstanding students on writing a great application, exhibiting strong interviewing skills, and completing tier one research projects allowed them to realize their own potential to become great scholars and scientists. Through her mentoring experiences, Dr. Stokes continues to learn and share through mentoring and sharing information on best practices in application preparation which may lead to a greater impact on the student success in garnering fellowships, research opportunities, and successful applications to graduate, medical or professional programs.

Congratulations to Dr. Stokes on her award!
Consider applying for one of these opportunities.

**BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP**
For sophomores and juniors who demonstrate academic excellence and intend to pursue research careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. This competitive scholarship covers eligible expenses for undergraduate tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to a maximum of $7,500 annually.
Campus Deadline: Nov. 1, 2024

**HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP**
For college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers as change agents in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education, or elsewhere in public service. Each Truman Scholar receives up to $30,000 for graduate study.
Campus Deadline: Nov. 1, 2024

**MORRIS K. UDALL & STEWART L. UDALL SCHOLARSHIP**
For sophomore and junior level students committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy or tribal health care. Awards of up to $7,000 and access to the Udall Alumni Network.
Campus Deadline: Feb. 3, 2025

**CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP**
Language immersion program for undergraduates from all academic disciplines. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, this summer program allows students to study one of 13 critical languages abroad, including Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Russian.
National Deadline: Mid-Nov. 2024

**NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**
For graduating seniors who intend to pursue a research-based master’s or doctoral degree in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, or STEM education. The award includes a $37,000 living stipend and $16,000 cost-of-education allowance.
National Deadline: Mid-Oct. 2024

**FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM**
For graduating seniors, current graduate students, and alumni. Students may apply to teach English, enroll in a graduate degree program, or conduct research for one year in more than 140 countries. Recipients are awarded a living stipend, travel accommodations, and basic health insurance.
Campus Deadline: Aug. 30, 2024

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 Dr. Ben Rayder (btrayder@uh.edu).
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.
The Houston Early Research Experience (HERE) is a two-week seminar series that introduces freshmen and sophomores to the fundamentals of conducting research. Under the guidance of UH faculty mentors, students explore various research methodologies and learn how to craft a research proposal. Students receive a $1,000 scholarship and two points toward the Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement transcript designation for participating in HERE.

HERE 2023
May 15-26, 2023

Forty-eight students representing seven UH colleges participated in the 2023 HERE program. Students investigated and proposed solutions to challenges regarding food culture, security, and sustainability in Houston.

HERE Faculty Mentors:
Christian Chang  Abdul Khan
Marc Hanke  Marsha Kowal
Kelly Hopkins  Marina Trninic
Olivia Johnson  Lesli Vollrath

HERE 2024
May 13-24, 2024

The 2024 theme for HERE will be “Space City Houston”. Applications for the HERE program are accepted through early March each year. For more information on future HERE programming, contact Livia Garza at lgarzag@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 2023-2024, 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 building one's personal brand, clarifying goals through the Jesuit spiritual exercise, financial literacy, making your pitch, and, applied learning through research and fellowships. 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 Houston Scholars, please contact Dr. Ben Rayder at btrayder@uh.edu in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards.

**Houston Scholars Participants:**

Perrin Calzada  
Reece Collins  
Paul Daniel  
Jayden Gunsolley  
Gabriela Hamdieh  
Kaden Helmka  
Rosemarie Le  
David Nguyen  
Duong Nguyen  
Haley Romine  
Soraya Sato  
Justin Schnitzer  
Nathan Stiehl  
Melody Tran  
Divya Valipe  
Nathan Varghese  
Rebecca Wagley  
Eshal Warsi
The Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities (REACH) Program at the University of Houston is a collaborative effort supported by the Cougar Initiative to Engage and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards. REACH provides a $1,500 scholarship and a year-long introductory research experience for students in humanities disciplines by connecting a dozen students to existing research projects at the University of Houston. From projects in collaboration with UH Libraries Special Collections, to the digital humanities, to individual faculty research projects in humanities disciplines, the REACH program provides an entry-point to hands-on scholarly inquiry. Learn more at uh.edu/reach.

2023-2024 PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Art, Advocacy, and Justice in the Archives
Mentor
Vince Lee
Student Participant
Ryan Banda

Dancing and Embodying the Chinese Diasporic Experience
Mentor
Melody Yunzi Li
Student Participants
Kaytee Compton

Harrisburg and Milby: Intertwining Histories
Mentor
Debbie Harwell
Student Participant
Olivia Goodley

Mapping Multicultural Houston
Mentor
Melody Yunzi Li
Student Participant
Monica Jimenez

Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage Program
Mentors
Lorena Gauthereau
Gabriela Baeza Ventura
Carolina Villarroya
Student Participants
Valeria Gonzalez
Rebecca Mejia
Kelsey Middleton

Triumph and Tragedy in the Bayou City’s Civil Rights Era
Mentor
Irene Guenther
Student Participant
Fayha Iqbal

Sharing Stories from 1977
Mentors
Sandra Davidson
Nancy Young
Leandra Zarnow
Student Participants
Matt Clark
Toluwalope Fabiyi
Mary Seume
Emme Tomasello

SYRIOS
Mentor
Peggy Lindner
Elizabeth Rodwell
Student Participants
Iris Alkathieri
Emily Nguyen

The Year 1771
Mentor
David Mazella
Student Participant
Niamh Clarke
Julianna Hamilton
In the Fall of 2022, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards introduced a new research initiative, The Honors Faculty Research Assistantship designed to support Honors College faculty who are pursuing research. Since Honors College faculty are primarily teaching faculty, the research assistantship program provides important support for those who additionally seek to continue researching in their discipline.

Students who participate in the Honors Faculty Research Assistantship program gain experience in research while supporting Honors College faculty members in their respective research work and are paid a monthly stipend. Research assistants may assist in collecting and entering data, coding surveys, organizing notes and files, or other tasks as assigned by their faculty mentor. The research assistants are supported through the Lerner Family Fund.

To be considered for an Honors Faculty Research Assistant position, students must be recommended by a faculty member from the Honors College. For more information, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards at undergrad-research@uh.edu.

**HONORS FACULTY RESEARCH ASSISTANTS**

**2022 – 2023 Assistants**

- **Vyshnavi Davuluri**
  Mentored by Marc Hanke
  Biology, Honors

- **Jerry Hill**
  Mentored by David Rainbow
  Russian History, Honors

- **Zainab Jafri**
  Mentored by John Lunstroth
  Medicine and Society, Honors

- **Laila Rahman**
  Mentored by Donaji Stelzig
  Community Health Worker Initiative, Honors

**2023 – 2024 Assistants**

- **Hector Doratt**
  Mentored by Richard Garner
  English, Honors

- **Michael Iacampo**
  Mentored by Ann Cheek
  Biology, Honors

- **Danish Jamal**
  Mentored by Alexandra Landon
  Engineering, Honors

- **Alivia Mayfield**
  Mentored by Dustin Gish
  Political Science, Honors

- **Wendy Novoa**
  Mentored by Carol Cooper
  Political Science, Honors

- **Zoe Peterson**
  Mentored by Michelle Belco
  Political Science, Honors

- **Malini Prasad**
  Mentored by Irene Guenther
  History, Honors

- **Bryce Sheffield**
  Mentored by Richard Garner
  English, Honors

- **Annfaye Sternberg**
  Mentored by Abigail Modaff
  History, Honors
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, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards at [undergrad-research@uh.edu](mailto:undergrad-research@uh.edu).

### FALL 2023 PURS RECIPIENTS

**Sama Abdelaziz**  
Mentored by Muayyad Al-Ubaidi  
Biomedical Engineering

**Mawada Al Faisal**  
Mentored by Keri Myrick  
Global Engagement and Research, Honors

**Fabiha Alam**  
Mentored by Monique Mills  
Communications Sciences and Disorders

**Funmi Babajide**  
Mentored by Tasneem Bawa-Khalfe  
Biology and Biochemistry

**Grayson Darwin**  
Mentored by Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill  
Sociology

**Joaquin Davila**  
Mentored by José Angel Hernández  
History

**Maria Grazia Di Fabio**  
Mentored by Cynthia Yoon  
Health and Human Performance

**Igor Egin**  
Mentored by Radek Paluszynski  
Economics

**Luis Gonzalez Nunez**  
Mentored by Nikolaos Malamataris  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

**Rubayet Hridi**  
Mentored by Tony Liao  
Information and Logistics Technology

**Xin Qi Huang**  
Mentored by Willa Friedman  
Economics

**Ibrahim Islam**  
Mentored by Melika Shirmohammadi  
Human Development and Consumer Sciences

**Aasiyah Kassam**  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

**Michelle Le**  
Mentored by Craig Johnston  
Health and Human Performance

**Sergio LeFebvre**  
Mentored by Jeffrey Church  
Political Science

**Mahita Marri**  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

**Loren McKinley**  
Mentored by Adam Thrasher  
Health and Human Performance

**Cristina Medrano**  
Mentored by Jeremy Miciak  
Psychology
Christopher Mobley
Mentored by Mingjian Wen
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Tran Nguyen
Mentored by Qin Feng
Biology and Biochemistry

Miracle Ofomaja
Mentored by Mehmet Orman
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Lillian Pennington
Mentored by Erin Kelleher
Biology and Biochemistry

Hang Pham
Mentored by Martin Nunz
Biology and Biochemistry

Cindy Rivas Alfaro
Mentored by Gabriela Baiza
Ventura
Hispanic Studies

Haley Romine
Mentored by Chandra Mohan
Biomedical Engineering

Larissa Schwindack
Mentored by Behrooz Fereowsi
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Sarah Semmel
Mentored by J. Leigh Leasure
Psychology

Bismah Shaikh
Mentored by Yoonjung Park
Human Health and Performance

Usosa Too-Chiobi
Mentored by Patrick Cirino
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Melody Tran
Mentored by Marc Hanke
Biology, Honors

Nicole Trujillo
Mentored by Tanika Raychaudhuri
Political Science

Sydney Tunches
Mentored by Monique Mills
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Ramya Valipe
Mentored by Ioannis Konstantinidis
Computer Science

Eshal Warsi
Mentored by Tanika Raychaudhuri
Political Science

Bradley Cline
Mentored by Tian Chen
Mechanical Engineering

Kaitlyn Wells
Mentored by Cynthia Yoon
Health and Human Performance
SPRING 2024 PURS RECIPIENTS

Nine Abad  
Mentored by Rob Glass  
Speech and Debate, Honors

Nabira Adnan  
Mentored by Denise Reyes  
Psychology

Iesu Agapito  
Mentored by Vedhus Haskere  
Civil Engineering

Layla Alaba  
Mentored by Tracey Ledoux  
Health and Human Performance

Hebah Amjad  
Mentored by Michelle Belco  
Political Science, Honors

Gerardo Angulo  
Mentored by Jennifer Clark  
Political Science

Falak Asad  
Mentored by Tony Frankino  
Biology and Biochemistry

Joseph Boudreaux  
Mentored by Julia Babcock  
Psychology

Farah Break  
Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering

Bobby Brown  
Mentored by Mingjian Wen  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Kierra Burkhart  
Mentored by William Truitt  
Architecture

Eric Cabrera  
Mentored by Vedhus Haskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Sofia Cantu  
Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering

Hy Cao  
Mentored by Mehmet Sen  
Biology and Biochemistry

Payton Chen  
Mentored by Rebecca Zufall  
Biology and Biochemistry

Sokountavy Chhay  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

Cheery Chukwukelu  
Mentored by Jerrod Henderson  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Allana Darrow  
Mentored by Thomas Teets  
Chemistry

Linh Dau  
Mentored by Cumaraswamy  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Christian Doxakis  
Mentored by Adam Thresher  
Health and Human Performance

Ileana Dragoi  
Mentored by Michael Zvolensky  
Psychology

America Duarte  
Mentored by Karolos Grigoriadis  
Mechanical Engineering

Mikas Dunn  
Mentored by Lars Grabow  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Gabriel Espindola Kahn  
Mentored by Jeffrey Rimer  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Luiz Fernandez  
Mentored by Tai-Yen Chen  
Chemistry

Nathan Fuentes  
Mentored by Emily LaVoy  
Health and Human Performance

Sarah Gawlik  
Mentored by Casey Dué Hackney  
Modern and Classical Languages

Emily Graves  
Mentored by Adam Stuckert  
Biology and Biochemistry

Thomas Hannan  
Mentored by Gangbing Song  
Mechanical Engineering

Tisha Haukongo  
Mentored by Abdul Khan  
Biotechnology

Kaden Helmka  
Mentored by Shailendra Joshi  
Mechanical Engineering

Sydney Hetherington  
Mentored by Dustin Maneethai  
Global Hospitality Leadership

Dyma Hikmat  
Mentored by William Ott  
Mathematics

Noor Hmaidan  
Mentored by Monique Mills  
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Rachel Jones  
Mentored by Kei-Mu Yi  
Economics

Rahul Jose  
Mentored by Craig Johnston  
Health and Human Performance

Anisah Khan  
Mentored by Auritro Majumder  
English

Carter Klebuc  
Mentored by Aaron Becker  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Lydia Krieger  
Mentored by Sujata Sirsat  
Global Hospitality Leadership

Brenda Le  
Mentored by Richard Meisel  
Biology and Biochemistry

Anabella Leon  
Mentored by Liming Li  
Physics
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mentored By</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quang Lieu</td>
<td>Amin Alipour</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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<td>Larissa Liu</td>
<td>Adam Thrasher</td>
<td>Health and Human Performance</td>
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<td>Valeria Macedo</td>
<td>Ferenc Bunta</td>
<td>Communication Sciences and Disorders</td>
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<td>Nicholas Macias</td>
<td>Seoung Hoon Park</td>
<td>Health and Human Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jyothylakshmi Manoj</td>
<td>Dan Price</td>
<td>Data and Society, Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paria Mosaffa</td>
<td>Wa Xian</td>
<td>Biology and Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sadia Munawar</td>
<td>Hanako Yoshida</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tri Nguyen</td>
<td>Robert Comito</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>Emily Nguyen</td>
<td>Heather Caslin</td>
<td>Health and Human Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hasan Nooruddin</td>
<td>Erin Kelleher</td>
<td>Biology and Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Novoa</td>
<td>Matthew Franchek</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Litzy Ocamps</td>
<td>Kayce Solari Williams</td>
<td>Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences</td>
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<td>Amara Okoye</td>
<td>Richard Meisel</td>
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<td>Charles Ortiz</td>
<td>Tian Chen</td>
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<td>Evelyn Peralta</td>
<td>Elizabeth Coen</td>
<td>Theatre and Dance</td>
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<td>Paola Perdomo</td>
<td>Marzia Cescon</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<td>Alexa Perez</td>
<td>Daniel Engster</td>
<td>Public Affairs</td>
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<td>Giovani Rivera</td>
<td>Konrad Krakowiak</td>
<td>Civil and Environmental Engineering</td>
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<td>Adolfo Salazar</td>
<td>Yuheng Lin</td>
<td>Biotechnology</td>
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<td>John Salcedo</td>
<td>Gabriela Jaramillo</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>Shimonee Shah</td>
<td>Steven Pennings</td>
<td>Biology and Biochemistry</td>
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<td>Rosaleen Sweiti</td>
<td>Cynthia Yoon</td>
<td>Health and Human Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Tang</td>
<td>Melissa Markofski</td>
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<td>Xavier Thierry</td>
<td>Minjung Shin</td>
<td>Global Hospitality Leadership</td>
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<td>Anna Trabulsi</td>
<td>Cynthia Yoon</td>
<td>Health and Human Performance</td>
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<td>Tu Tran</td>
<td>Elena Grigorenko</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Van</td>
<td>Bin Guo</td>
<td>Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nataly Vasquez</td>
<td>Julio Cesar Lopez</td>
<td>Hispanic Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arisha Vishnani</td>
<td>Arlene Macdonald</td>
<td>Medicine and Society, Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elaine Vo</td>
<td>Vivien Coulson-Thomas</td>
<td>Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vivian Vuong</td>
<td>Tony Liao</td>
<td>Information Science Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Westveer</td>
<td>William Ott</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noah Yi</td>
<td>Sunny Yang</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
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PROVOST’S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

SPRING 2024 PURS RECIPIENTS (CONTINUED)
GEORGE “TREY” PHARIS FELLOWSHIP

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.

2023 FELLOWS

Salma Abbady  
Computer Science  
A Spatial Analysis of Brownfields in Harris County

Nawar Ahmed  
Psychology  
Examining Skill Underutilization Among Immigrants and Foreign Workers in the Healthcare Sector

Zeba Bhanji  
Human Nutrition and Foods  
Complex Health Needs: Understanding Multimorbidity in People with Intellectual Disabilities

Abigail Burns  
Health  
Examining the Impact of Hazardous Waste Sites on Stroke Hospitalizations in Harris County

Claire Gregory  
Economics  
Examining Exclusionary Discipline Trends in Texas Schools

Mariyah Kazim  
Health  
Examining Variations in Medication Non-Adherence Among Older Individuals with Chronic Conditions

Carlos Mendieta  
Health  
Tracing the Roots of Environmental Racism in Houston’s Fifth Ward

Salik Faisal  
Mathematics  
Resilience and Recovery: An Econometric Analysis of Hurricane Harvey’s Influence on Harris County Property Values

Johana Villanueva  
Management Information Systems  
In the Eye of the Storm: Understanding Clinician Burnout through RN Work Experiences, Staffing, and Hospital Admissions

Daniel Viray  
Computer Science, Mathematics  
Analyzing the Impact of Car Dependency on Obesity Prevalence and Other Health Measures in the Houston Area

Claire Gregory  
Economics  
Examining Exclusionary Discipline Trends in Texas Schools

Mariyah Kazim  
Health  
Examining Variations in Medication Non-Adherence Among Older Individuals with Chronic Conditions

Carlos Mendieta  
Health  
Tracing the Roots of Environmental Racism in Houston’s Fifth Ward

Salik Faisal  
Mathematics  
Resilience and Recovery: An Econometric Analysis of Hurricane Harvey’s Influence on Harris County Property Values

Johana Villanueva  
Management Information Systems  
In the Eye of the Storm: Understanding Clinician Burnout through RN Work Experiences, Staffing, and Hospital Admissions

Daniel Viray  
Computer Science, Mathematics  
Analyzing the Impact of Car Dependency on Obesity Prevalence and Other Health Measures in the Houston Area

Oreoluwa Adejuwon  
Public Health  
Analyzing a Decade of Police Violence Patterns: A Comparative Study of Four U.S. Police Agencies

Carolyn Ngo  
Biology  
Creating a Flood-Induced Pollutant Spread Risk Index for Houston, Texas

NOT PICTURED
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.

2023 PCCSM RESEARCHERS

Briana Azad  Paul Daniel  Kala Pham  Noor Zughaibi
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 best article published in each edition is awarded the FrameWorks Prize for Excellence in the Interdisciplinary Humanities. For Issue 4, Fall 2023 – The Constellation Edition, the prize was awarded to Kalena Holeman for her article, “Katabasis in the Black Diaspora: Dante’s Pilgrim in Ellison’s *Invisible Man* and Walcott’s *Omeros*. The Prize was adjudicated by the Dean of the Honors College, Dr. Heidi Appel and Dr. Sally Connolly, Associate Dean of Student and Faculty Success in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

**2023-2024 FRAMEWORKS FELLOWS**

In 2023-2024 the FrameWorks program challenged students to interpret the theme “Generation.” FrameWorks Fellows, who hail from a variety of majors, have adopted inventive and exciting humanities-based approaches to a diversity of research topics:

- **Usman Azim**
  Major: Biology
  Topic: Art Therapy and Healing

- **Maryam Mohy**
  Major: World Cultures and Literature – Middle Eastern Studies
  Topic: al-Dawla fil-Islam, Conservatism, and Mid-20th Century Egypt

- **Iyad Chowdhury**
  Major: Economics
  Topic: Satyajit Ray’s *Devi*, Cinematic Nationalism, and the Politics of Silence

- **Veronica Nwanna**
  Major: Journalism
  Topic: The Case for Reparations in Kashmere Gardens

- **Amna Siddiqui**
  Major: English Literature
  Topic: Revolutionary Violence in *Crime and Punishment* and *The White Tiger*

- **Ibrahim Islam**
  Major: World Cultures and Literature – Middle Eastern Studies
  Topic: Reclaiming Nusayba, the Female Warrior of the Prophet Muhammad

- **Alice Nguyen**
  Major: Sociology
  Topic: Saving Face (2004) and the Queer Second-Generation Immigrant Experience

- **Veronica Nwanna**
  Major: Sociology
  Topic: Saving Face (2004) and the Queer Second-Generation Immigrant Experience

- **Jenny Truong**
  Major: English Literature
  Topic: Donna Tartt’s *The Secret History* and Generational Wealth

- **Logan Tantibanchachai**
  Major: Philosophy
  Topic: Free Will and Creativity in Huxley’s *Brave New World*

- **Annafaye Sternberg**
  Major: Political Science
  Topic: The United States’ 1939 Rejection of the MS St. Louis.

- **Kalena Holeman**
  Major: World Cultures and Literature – Middle Eastern Studies
  Topic: Katabasis in the Black Diaspora: Dante’s Pilgrim in Ellison’s *Invisible Man* and Walcott’s *Omeros*.
FrameWorks 2024 Call for Applications
Deadline: June 15, 2024

“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)

Do you want to be a FrameWorks Fellow?
Applications for 2024-2025 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.

2024-2025 Theme: Our Houston
For more information, visit uh.edu/frameworks.
The Mellon Research Scholars Program at the University of Houston supports a cohort of students who are highly motivated to conduct research and attend graduate school in the humanities. Funded by a grant from the Mellon Foundation, the program aims to train future scholars with 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 Dr. 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!

2023 MELLON RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Nine Abad
Mentored by Guillermo De Los Reyes
Hispanic Studies, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Melanie Adhikary
Mentored by Amanda Ellis
English

Petra Amazonwu
Mentored by Caryn Tamber-Rosenau
Modern and Classical Languages

Lilly Chipman
Mentored by Sarah Ehlers
English

Megan Dagnall
Mentored by Debbie Harwell
History

Isaac DeBerry
Mentored by Daniel Davies
English

Katherine Galland
Mentored by Debbie Harwell
History

Michelle Garcia
Mentored by María González
English
MELLON RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

José Gutierrez
Mentored by James Schafer
History

Kalena Holeman
Mentored by Haylee Harrell
English

Kayla Huhn
Mentored by Lauren Zentz
English

Angela Jardina
Mentored by Iain Morrison
Philosophy, Honors College

Alicia Lartigue
Mentored by Alex Badas
Political Science

Christine Le
Mentored by Ivan Small
Comparative Cultural Studies

Genesis McGriggs
Mentored by Leslie Vollrath
English, Honors College

Maryam Mohy
Mentored by Hayan Charara
English, Honors College

Kelly Montano
Mentored by Marwa Ghazali
Comparative Cultural Studies

Elena Zelaya
Mentored by Audrey Miller
Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

NOT PICTURED

Veronica Carleton
Mentored by Rex Koontz
Art History

Logan Tantibanchachai
Mentored by Luis Oliveira
Philosophy
In 2023, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards launched the **Energy Scholars Program**. This initiative provides undergraduate students the opportunity to work on a year-long, energy-related research project under the direction of a UH faculty mentor. Participants receive a $6,000 scholarship to work on their project in the spring, summer, and fall. In the spring, students begin their faculty-mentored project part-time with an expectation of 6-7 hours per week. During the summer, students transition to a full-time research experience and participate in the SURF lecture series offered by OURMA. In the fall semester, research hours return to part-time with an expectation of 6-7 hours per week. Faculty mentors receive a $1,000 stipend for their participation. The program is open to students of all disciplines interested in working on a research project related to energy.

For additional information about the Energy Scholars program, please contact Dr. Ben Rayder at btrayder@uh.edu in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards.

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards is grateful to the following sponsors whose support makes the Energy Scholars program possible:

- The Baker Hughes Foundation
- BP
- Phillips 66
- Shell
- Vistra Energy
Sadia Ashraf  
Mentored by Harish Krishnamoorthy  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Bobby Brown  
Mentored by Mingjian Wen  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Rami El-Haibe  
Mentored by Karolos Grigoriadis  
Mechanical Engineering

Tico Hannan  
Mentored by Gangbing Song  
Mechanical Engineering

Tessnim Mohammed  
Mentored by Ross Wienert  
Architecture

Giao Nguyen  
Mentored by Thomas Teets  
Chemistry

Glynn Serda  
Mentored by Michael Harold  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Parsa Tari  
Mentored by Haleh Ardebili  
Mechanical Engineering

“Sustainable architecture was always something I was interested in. This gave me the opportunity to dive deep into that while also looking at the world of design and structure.”  
Tessnim Mohammed

“I like having a support system in my field encouraging me and offering good advice.”  
Glynn Serda

“Academically, students will learn about a globally important topic that’s also central to Houston’s identity. They will also forge professional pathways that can benefit them beyond their time at the University of Houston.”  
Dr. Ben Rayder, Executive Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards
The 2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) launched in June with 60 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 to learn about topics such as research ethics and responsibility, how to seek out and apply to competitive fellowships, 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 2023 presenters for their participation in this year’s lecture series.

### 2023 SURF Brown Bag Lecture Series

**Week 1**

**Research Ethics and Responsibility**  
Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology  
Jeremy May  
Chemistry

**Week 2**

**Getting the Most Out of Your Mentorship & Alumni Panel**  
Monique Mills  
Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Lauren Lyles  
Alfonso Reyes  
OURMA Alumni

**Week 3**

**Data Management**  
Emma Fontenot  
UH Libraries

**Week 4**

**Applying for Fellowships and Major Awards**  
Ben Rayder  
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

**Week 5**

**Building an Effective Resume and CV as a Researcher**  
Priyanka Raut  
UH University Career Services

**Week 6**

**Independence Day Holiday**

**Week 7**

**Becoming an Inclusive Researcher**  
Carlier Pierre  
Center for Diversity and Inclusion

**Week 8**

**Wellness Session**  
Katie Dash  
UH Wellness

**Week 9**

**Developing a Poster Presentation**  
Rikki Bettinger  
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards  
Debbie Reyes  
Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

**Week 10**

**SURF Luncheon and Celebration**
2023 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Rund Abu-Ashour  
Mentored by William Ott  
Mathematics

Connor Affeld  
Mentored by Sergey Shekopylas  
Biomedical Engineering

Safwan Ahmad  
Mentored by Hien Nguyen  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Andrew Almasi  
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Jaafar AlShahristani  
Mentored by Ryan Kennedy  
Political Science

Afaf Asad  
Mentored by Tony Liao  
Information Science Technology

Jose Ayala  
Mentored by Olafs Daugulis  
Chemistry

Funmi Babajide  
Mentored by Tasneem Bawa-Khalfe  
Biology and Biochemistry

Zaina Boriek  
Mentored by Jaye Derrick  
Psychology

Alissa Boxleitner  
Mentored by Haylee Harrell  
English

Jayda Branch  
Mentored by Julia Babcock  
Psychology

An Bui  
Mentored by Erin Kelleher  
Biology and Biochemistry

Julio Cacho Bravo  
Mentored by Jeremy May  
Chemistry

Daisy Calderon  
Mentored by Cynthia Yoon  
Health and Human Performance

Hy Cao  
Mentored by Mehmet Sen  
Biology and Biochemistry

Albert Chen  
Mentored by Xun Jiang  
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Cynthia Cisneros  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

Ben del Toro  
Mentored by Andreas Mang  
Mathematics

Ngoc Dong  
Mentored by YingChun Zhang  
Biomedical Engineering

Christian Doxakis  
Mentored by Adam Thrasher  
Health and Human Performance

Deziree Hudson  
Mentored by Arne Lekven  
Biology and Biochemistry

Danny Le  
Mentored by Mehmet Sen  
Biology and Biochemistry

Larissa Liu  
Mentored by Adam Thrasher  
Health and Human Performance

Brayan Gutierrez  
Mentored by Andreas Mang  
Mathematics

Gabriela Hamdieh  
Mentored by Sarah Munawar  
Public Policy

Kaden Helmka  
Mentored by Shailendra Joshi  
Mechanical Engineering

Danielle Henry  
Mentored by Mehmet Sen  
Biology and Biochemistry

Sally Hoang  
Mentored by Loi Do  
Chemistry

Deziree Hudson  
Mentored by Arne Lekven  
Biology and Biochemistry

Danny Le  
Mentored by Mehmet Sen  
Biology and Biochemistry

Larissa Liu  
Mentored by Adam Thrasher  
Health and Human Performance
Nicholas Macias
Mentored by Seoung Hoon Park
Health and Human Performance

Candace Martinez
Mentored by Elena Grigorenko
Psychology

Alivia Mayfield
Mentored by José Angel Hernández
History

Abigail Mendoza
Mentored by Kerri Crawford
Biology and Biochemistry

Isha Merchant
Mentored by Bhavya Tiwari
Modern and Classical Languages

Doris Miranda
Mentored by Amber Thiessen
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Carolyn Nguyen
Mentored by William Ott
Mathematics

Theresa Nguyen
Mentored by Alexander Statsyuk
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Tran Nguyen
Mentored by Qin Feng
Biology and Biochemistry

Veronica Nwanna
Mentored by Christine LeVeaux-Haley
Political Science, Honors

Ryan Pereira
Mentored by Chandra Mohan
Biomedical Engineering

Ashlyn Pro
Mentored by Marc Hanke
Biology, Honors

Sarah Rizvi
Mentored by Luis Medina
Psychology

Haley Romine
Mentored by Chandra Mohan
Biomedical Engineering

Hammad Shaikh
Mentored by Loi Do
Chemistry

Syna Sharma
Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch
Chemistry and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
2024 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

Sydney Tunches
Mentored by Monique Mills
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Ramya Valipe
Mentored by Michelle Belco
Political Science, Honors

Han Van
Mentored by Bin Guo
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

David Vaughan
Mentored by Steven Craig
Economics

Angélica Vences
Mentored by Jesse Rainbow
Religious Studies, Honors

Elaine Vo
Mentored by Virginia Rangel
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

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Helen McKay
Mentored by Rakesh Verma
Computer Science

Jaer Nizam
Mentored by Hien Nguyen
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Ogechi Obiobasi
Mentored by Craig Johnston
Health and Human Performance

Shan Pappa
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere
Civil Engineering

Saron Regassa
Mentored by Sarah Munawar
Public Policy

Kelan Wu
Mentored by Hien Nguyen
Electrical and Computer Engineering
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 2023 Undergraduate Research Mentor Award recipients: Christopher J. Arellano and Meghana Trivedi.
Undergraduate Research at UH Libraries

UH Libraries supports student scholarship, preserving and making accessible rare, archival collections of distinction that align with the research priorities of the University.

One such collection, the **Moreno Family Houston Experience Collection**, gave Michelle Garcia new insights into her focus on the history of Chicana feminism and intersections within the 1970s Chicano and women’s movements. Garcia is part of the 2023 Mellon Scholars cohort at UH. Mellon Scholars conduct research in the humanities, finding and evaluating primary sources, such as historical or contemporary documents, in their respective fields of inquiry, culminating in a paper or project presentation.

“While exploring the Moreno Family Houston Experience Collection, I was able to discover information about the *Conferencia de Mujeres Por la Raza* that is not available to view online. The documents highlighted the unanticipated reach [the conference] had for Chicana feminists across the nation. The library offers many papers and journals that can help you figure out possible research interests and methods. Find work that is important to you as it will become a driving force when conducting your research.”

**MICHELLE GARCIA**  
Mentor: María C. González, English  
Poster Title: ‘La Chicana Dynasty:’ An Exploration of Intergenerational Chicana Feminist Activism

Contact libteach@uh.edu to:  
• Frame your research approach  
• Develop a search strategy  
• Discover library resources

Thank you to UH Libraries for supporting Undergraduate Research at the University of Houston.
# FALL 2023 SCHEDULE

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<td>Getting Started in Research</td>
<td>Debbie Reyes&lt;br&gt;Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards</td>
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<td><strong>September 29, 2023</strong></td>
<td>Applying to Life Sciences/STEM Ph.D. Programs</td>
<td>Richard Miesel&lt;br&gt;College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics</td>
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<td><strong>October 6, 2023</strong></td>
<td>Getting Started in Research</td>
<td>Livia Garza&lt;br&gt;Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards&lt;br&gt;Debbie Reyes&lt;br&gt;Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards</td>
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<td><strong>October 27, 2023</strong></td>
<td>Marketing Yourself as a Researcher</td>
<td>Rikki Bettinger&lt;br&gt;Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards&lt;br&gt;Carolina Hernandez&lt;br&gt;UH Libraries&lt;br&gt;Andrea Malone&lt;br&gt;UH Libraries&lt;br&gt;Priyanka Raut&lt;br&gt;University Career Services</td>
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<td><strong>November 13, 2023</strong></td>
<td>Interviewing 101</td>
<td>Anthony B. Cashman III&lt;br&gt;College of the Holy Cross</td>
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# SPRING 2024 SCHEDULE

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<td>Getting Started in Research</td>
<td>Livia Garza&lt;br&gt;Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards&lt;br&gt;Debbie Reyes&lt;br&gt;Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February 16, 2024</strong></td>
<td>Research Opportunities Abroad</td>
<td>Debbie Reyes&lt;br&gt;Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards&lt;br&gt;Carlos Romero&lt;br&gt;Office of Learning Abroad</td>
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<td><strong>February 23, 2024</strong></td>
<td>Drafting a Research Proposal</td>
<td>Laura Bland&lt;br&gt;Honors College&lt;br&gt;Nicolas Jacobsen&lt;br&gt;Honors College</td>
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<td><strong>April 19, 2024</strong></td>
<td>Fellowships and Major Awards</td>
<td>Ben Rayder&lt;br&gt;Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards</td>
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The undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis Program at the University of Houston is a two-semester, six-credit-hour capstone research experience completed under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students of all majors can participate, and 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. Students who successfully complete the Senior Honors Thesis program graduate with an Honors designation noted on the official transcript. Students also receive three points toward the Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement transcript designation. Students should speak with their academic advisor to determine if and how the thesis course hours might count toward their degree plan.

2022-2023 OUTSTANDING SENIOR HONORS THESIS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding work in the Senior Honors Thesis Program:

**Ashlíta Acuña-Mena**  
Liberal Studies  
Constraints, Resourcefulness, and Resilience in the Immigrant Latinx Community: Alternative Health Promotion Strategies for Type 2 Diabetes Self-Management  
Directed by Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill

**Triciajane Asuncion**  
Architecture  
About Time: Redressing the Runway  
Directed by Sheryl Tucker de Vazquez

**Tatiana Haddad**  
Anthropology  
“We Have to Survive”: An Ethnographic Field Study of Tourism and the Bedouins in Wadi Rum, Jordan  
Directed by Susan Rasmussen

**Andrew Medina**  
Architecture  
Blurring the Borderlands  
Directed by Dalia Munenzon Titelboim

**Alfonso Reyes**  
English, Creative Writing  
A Partial Sarcology: Short Stories on Identity  
Directed by Margot Backus

**Ritu Sampige**  
Honors Biomedical Sciences  
Exploring the Relationship Between Parent Mental Health and Parental Perceptions of Infant Vulnerability  
Directed by Leslie Frankel

**Veera Venkata Ramprajwal Vempatti**  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Rate Enhancement Effects of Methane Steam Reforming Over Dynamic Ruthenium Catalysts  
Directed by Lars Grabow

Dr. Stuart Long and Provost Diane Chase with Outstanding Thesis Award recipients Tatiana Haddad and Ritu Sampige  
Senior Honors Thesis students at the Honors College Medallion Ceremony, May 2023
Artificial Geckos Skin
Harnessing the Power of Van Der Waal's Forces...
2024 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**

**Nine Abad**  
Mentored by Guillermo De Los Reyes  
Hispanic Studies; Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies  
She is a Creature of the Night: Babaylans and Manananggals as Colonial Monstrosities of Queerness and Femininity and Diasporic Interpretations

**Salma Abbady**  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Engaged Data Science, Honors  
A Spatial Analysis of Brownfields in Harris County

**Rund Abu-Ashour**  
Mentored by William Ott  
Mathematics  
The Effects of Meal Patterns on Delay-Induced Uncertainty in The Glucose-Insulin System

**Oreoluwa Adejuwon**  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Engaged Data Science, Honors  
Analyzing a Decade of Police Violence Patterns: A Comparative Study of Four U.S. Police Agencies

**Melanie Adhikary**  
Mentored by Amanda Ellis  
English  
Exercising Agency in the Domestic Sphere: Imagining Womanhood and Sacrifice

**Nabira Adnan**  
Mentored by Denise Reyes  
Psychology  
Personality’s Influence: Predicting Responses to Professional Rejection

**Connor Affeld**  
Mentored by Sergey Shevkoplyas  
Biomedical Engineering  
Separating Red Blood Cells (RBC) Based on Morphology

**Iesu Agapito**  
Mentored by Vedhus Hskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  
3D LiDAR Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) for Autonomous Navigation

**Safwan Ahmad**  
Mentored by Hien Nguyen and Akash Awasthi  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
AI-Driven Co-Diagnosis: Optimizing Medical Decision-Making Through Eye Gaze Tracking

**Nawar Ahmed**  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Engaged Data Science, Honors  
Skill Underutilization Among Incoming US Immigrants and Foreign Workers in the Healthcare Sector

**Iris Alkatheri**  
Mentored by Elizabeth Rodwell and Peggy Lindner  
Information Science Technology  
UX Testing with College Students

**Andrew Almasi**  
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Enabling Semantic Annotations Within Photogrammetry

**Zied Almasri**  
Mentored by Yaping Wang  
Industrial Engineering  
Optimizing Houston Car Stereo: A Systemic Approach to Enhancing Efficiency and Customer Satisfaction

**Jaafar AlShahristani**  
Mentored by Ryan Kennedy  
Political Science  
Does Online Deliberation Improve Discussion

**Hebah Amjad**  
Mentored by Michelle Belco  
Political Science, Honors  
The Impact of Dehydration During Houston Summers & Analysis of Public Policy on Dehydration Surge

**Petra Amazonwu**  
Mentored by Caryn Tamber-Rosenau  
Modern and Classical Languages  
Black-Monsters, Christian Nationalism, & The Old Testament

**Theo Andre**  
Mentored by J. Leigh Leasure  
Psychology  
Exercise and Binge Alcohol Exposure: Effects on the Rat Hippocampal Transcriptome
2024 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY PRESENTERS

Afaf Asad
Mentored by Tony Liao
Information Science Technology
Caring for Virtual Reality Pets and Stress/Anxiety

Sadia Ashraf
Mentored by Yan Yao and Alae Eddine Lakraychi
Electrical and Computer Engineering; TX Ctr
Superconductivity
Elaboration of Organic Cathode Materials for Lithium Batteries

Sophia Asif
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida
Psychology
Influence of Caregiver Status on Joint Attention Between Children and Parents

Jose Ayala
Mentored by Olafs Daugulis
Chemistry
New Organometallic Sandwich Complexes

Briana Azad
Mentored by Lorraine Reitzel
Health Disparities, MD Anderson Cancer Center
Evaluating the Effects of a Tobacco-Free Workplace Program on Provider Beliefs about Guest/Client Tobacco Use and Self-Efficacy to Intervene at Texas Homeless-Serving Agencies during COVID-19

Funmi Babajide
Mentored by Tasneem Bawa-Khalfe
Biology and Biochemistry
Impact of SUMO-PTM on Breast Cancer Development

Ryan Banda
Mentored by Vince Lee
Special Collections, UH Libraries
Marvin’s Angels and Their Impact on Houstonian Culture

Sarah Belew
Mentored by Olivia Atherton
Psychology
University Student Support, Engagement, and Well-being

Julia Bennett
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida and Lichao Sun
Psychology
Influence of Infant Motor Ability on Parent-Child Joint Attention

Zeba Bhanji
Mentored by Andrew Kapral
Engaged Data Science, Honors
Complex Health Needs: Understanding Multimorbidity in People with Intellectual Disability (ID)

Zaina Boriek
Mentored by Jaye Derrick
Psychology
Investigating the Impact of Loneliness on Initial Motivations for Weight Loss and Health Behavior Intentions

Joseph Boudreaux
Mentored by Julia Babcock
Psychology
Lifting Emotions: A Moderation Analysis of Depression, Relationship Satisfaction, and Partner Dyadic Coping

Alissa Boxleitner
Mentored by Haylee Harrell
English
Fragments: Rethinking Violence and the Represented Body

Jayda Branch
Mentored by Julia Babcock
Psychology
The Role of Anxious Adult Attachment Style Between the Relationship of Emotional Jealousy and Psychological Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Farah Break
Mentored by Chandra Mohan
Biomedical Engineering
Effect of New Mushroom Treatment on Human MCF7 Breast Cancer Cells

Robert Brown
Mentored by Mingjain Wen
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Investigating the Thermodynamic Stability of Zeolite Polymorphs and the Rules That Determine the Aluminum Distributions and Settings

Brandon Burlison
Mentored by Jeff Feng
Industrial Design
Project Lewis

Abigail Burns
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Daniel Price
Data and Society, Honors
Examining the Impact of Hazardous Waste Sites on Stroke Hospitalizations in Harris County
Eric Cabrera  
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere and Joshua Genova  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Automated Structural Restoration using 3D Printing Technology

Julio Cacho Bravo  
Mentored by Jeremy May  
Chemistry  
Work Towards The Total Synthesis of Indolyl Glycol Natural Products Mucronatins A & B

Daisy Calderon  
Mentored by Cynthia Yoon  
Health and Human Performance  
Associations of COVID-19 Stress and Distress with Emotional Eating Among College Students: Findings from Research on Eating, Activity, and Community Health (REACH) Study

Alexander Cervantes  
Mentored by Chengzhi Cai  
Chemistry  
Effects of Protein and Amino Acids in Human Urine and Artificial Urine on E. coli Growth

Samuel Charbula  
Mentored by Jeff Feng  
Industrial Design  
Adaptable Device to Assist Children with Hand Spasticity

Albert Chen  
Mentored by Xun Jiang  
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
Relationship between COVID-19 and the Environment

Sokountavary Chhay  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology  
Characterizing Infants’ Gaze Position in Respect to Their Object Fixation During Parental Interactive Play Using Eye Tracking

Lilly Chipman  
Mentored by Sarah Ehlers  
English  
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Elizabeth Chirko  
Mentored by Julia Babcock  
Psychology  
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Cynthia Cisneros  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida and Lichao Sun  
Psychology  
Sustained Attention and EEG Oscillation accompanied by Parent Object Labeling in Bilingual and Monolingual Infants

Kaytee Compton  
Mentored by Melody Li  
Chinese Studies  
Classical Chinese Dance and Russian Ballet: A Fine Arts Alliance

Jordan Cruz  
Mentored by Ann Cheek  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Domestic Cat vs Wildlife

Megan Dagnall  
Mentored by Debbie Harwell  
History  
The History of Diversity at the University of Houston: 1961 - Present

Patrick Dang  
Mentored by Lola E. Adepoju  
Health Systems and Population Health Sciences  
Long ways to go: Attitudes, knowledge, and perception of AI in healthcare, in a racially diverse, lower-income population in Houston, New York and Los Angeles

Paul Daniel  
Mentored by Wa Xian and Frank McKeon  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Cloning and Targeting Cancer Stem Cells in Malignant Pleural Effusion

Paul Daniel  
Mentored by Katy Rezvani  
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Understanding Virally Induced NK Cell Memory: HLA's as a Potential Mechanism

Grayson Darwin  
Mentored by Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill  
Sociology  
University of Houston LGBTQ+ Population and Their Experiences

Linh Dau  
Mentored by Cumarswamy Vipulanandan  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Evaluating Seawater in the Cement Mixture using Vipulanandan Curing Model
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<td>Vidya Gopalakrishnan</td>
<td>Pediatrics, MD Anderson Cancer Center</td>
<td>Transcriptional repressor REST controls autophagy in Sonic Hedgehog medulloblastoma</td>
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<td>Maria Grazia Di Fabio</td>
<td>Daphne Hernandez</td>
<td>Health and Human Performance</td>
<td>Nutrition Assessment Training for Future Dietitians: Programmatic Results from HOUSTON Academy 2.0’s Cohort 1 and 2</td>
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<td>Cynthia Yoon</td>
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<td>Sex Differences in Associations of Childhood Emotional Neglect with Food Intake Among College Students</td>
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<td>Jeremy Miciak</td>
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<td>High-density Surface Electromyography to Advance Botox Injection For Facial Synkinesis</td>
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<td>Yu Liu</td>
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<td>H19X miRNA-322/503 Transgenic Mouse Lipid Analysis</td>
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<td>Lars Grabow</td>
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<td>Rami El-Haibe</td>
<td>Karolos Grigoriadis</td>
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<td>Engaged Data Science, Honors</td>
<td>Resilience and Recovery: An Econometric Analysis of Hurricane Harvey’s Influence on Harris County Property Values</td>
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<td>Richard Willson and Katerina Kourentzi</td>
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<td>Hedda Grelz</td>
<td>Tian Chen</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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Brayan Gutierrez  
Mentored by Andreas Mang  
Mathematics  
Stochastic Newton-MCMC for Bayesian Inference

Jose Gutierrez  
Mentored by James Schafer  
History  
Latin American Perspectives on Cuban Medical Diplomacy

Isabella Guzman  
Mentored by Anny Castilla-Earls and Ioulia Kovelman  
Communication Sciences and Disorders; Psychology, University of Michigan  
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Gabriela Hamdieh  
Mentored by Sarah Munawar  
Public Policy  
Building Latinx Community Support Frameworks

Tico Hannan  
Mentored by Gangbing Song and Yan Yao  
Mechanical Engineering  
State of Charge Estimation of Cylindrical Lithium-Ion Cells Based on Multiple Random Convolutional Kernel Transform and Low-Frequency Stress Wave

Kaden Helmka  
Mentored by Shailendra Joshi  
Mechanical Engineering  
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Danielle Henry  
Mentored by Mehmet Sen  
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Noor Hmaidan  
Mentored by Monique Mills  
Communication Sciences and Disorders  
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Sally Hoang  
Mentored by Loi Do  
Chemistry  
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Kalena Holeman  
Mentored by Haylee Harrell  
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Deziree Hudson  
Mentored by Arne Lekven  
Biology and Biochemistry  
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Kayla Huhn  
Mentored by Lauren Zentz  
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Fayha Iqbal  
Mentored by Irene Guenther  
History, Honors  
Triumph and Tragedy in the Bayou City’s Civil Rights Era: The Life and Legacy of Lynn Eusan

Niyooosa Izadbakhsh  
Mentored by Martin Nunez and Romina Dimarco  
Biology and Biochemistry  
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Majoy Jackson  
Mentored by Iain Morrison  
Philosophy, Honors  
Jhumpa Lahiri’s “The Interpreter of Maladies” as a Work of Existentialist Fiction

Funmilola Jesse  
Mentored by Alexandra Landon and Terry Hallmark  
Engineering, Honors; Political Science, Honors  
Revolutionizing the Road: Analyzing President Biden’s Ambitious EV Goal and Crafting Solutions to Possible Setbacks for a Sustainable Automobile Transition by 2030

Monica Jimenez  
Mentored by Melody Li and Guadalupe San Miguel  
Modern and Classical Languages  
Mapping Chinese Immigration History in Houston

Arman Karimaghaei  
Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch  
Chemistry and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
A New Approach to Thermally Robust Refractory Materials
Aasiyah Kassam  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology  
Examining the Relationship Between Joint Attention and Word Recall in Preschool Children

Mariyah Kazim  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Engaged Data Science, Honors  
Examining Variations in Medication Non-Adherence Among Older Individuals with Chronic Conditions

Mariyah Kazim  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Engaged Data Science, Honors  
Systematic Exploration: Mental Health, Recidivism, and Data Challenges in Criminal Justice

Anisah Khan  
Mentored by Auritto Majumder and David Mazella  
English  
The Great Indian Divide of 1947: Told by Two Generations

Carter Klebuc  
Mentored by Aaron Becker  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Robotic Manipulation of an Ultrasound Probe to Achieve 3D Navigation of a Magnetic Swimmer Robot

Gabrielle Kostecki  
Mentored by Colin Haile and Therese Kosten  
Psychology  
Anti-Fentanyl Vaccine Prevents Drug-Induced Reinstatement of Drug-Seeking Behavior in an Animal Model of Relapse

Alicia Lartigue  
Mentored by Alex Badas  
Political Science  
Gender Representation, Public Opinion, and Legitimacy in Decisions dealing with Women’s Policy in the Judiciary

Brenda Le  
Mentored by Richard Meisel  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Comparing Survival Between Sexes in House Flies

Christine Le  
Mentored by Ivan Small  
Anthropology  
Land of the Big PX: A Social History of South Vietnam’s Black Market Economy

Queenie Lu  
Mentored by Beau Alward  
Psychology  
Burtoni Box: Economical, High-Throughput Behavioral Assay Rig Observes Rapid Hormone Effects in Larval Astatotilapia burtoni

Ashley Lubben  
Mentored by Carla Sharp and Tess Gecha  
Psychology  
Impact of Emotional Dysregulation on Parent’s Reactions to Children’s Negative Emotions

Eric Luna  
Mentored by Jeffrey Rimer and Si Li  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Effects of pH and Modifiers on Urate Crystallization

Nicholas Macias  
Mentored by Seoung Hoon Park  
Health and Human Performance  
Mediolateral Perturbation Performed During Walking on Post-Stroke Participants

Mahita Marri  
Mentored by Hanako Yoshida and Elizabeth Perkovich  
Psychology  
Influence of Child Gender on Sustained Attention and Word Recall Performance of Typically Developing Preschoolers

Candace Martinez  
Mentored by Elena Grigorenko  
Psychology  
Exploring the Influence of Colors and Different Conditions of Stress during a Virtual Reality Go/NoGo Task

Alivia Mayfield  
Mentored by José Angel Hernández  
History  
Alexander the Great: A Historiography of Power

Genesis McGriggs  
Mentored by Lesli Vollrath  
English, Honors  
Intimacy as Social Relation & Craft: Exploring the House of Usher

Carlos Mendieta  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Daniel Price  
Data and Society, Honors  
Tracing the Roots of Environmental Racism in Houston’s Fifth Ward

Abigail Mendoza  
Mentored by Kerri Crawford  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Do Native & Nonnative Species Differ in their Relationship to AMF?

Isha Merchant  
Mentored by Bhavya Tiwari  
World Cultures and Literatures  
Swifties and the Ticketmaster Great War
Kelsey Middleton  
Mentored by Gabriela Baeza Ventura  
Arte Público Press  
An Ear To The Ground: Olga M. Rodriguez

Doris Miranda  
Mentored by Amber Thiessen  
Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Effectiveness of Key Wording and Visual Attention Allocation of People with Aphasia

Tessnim Mohammed  
Mentored by Ross Wienert  
Architecture  
Harmonizing History and Modernity

Maryam Mohy  
Mentored by Hayan Charara  
English and Creative Writing, Honors  
Contemporary Iraqi Art: In The Shadow of The Baghdadi Modern Art Group

Maryam Mohy  
Mentored by Hosam Aboul-Ela  
English  
Khalid Mohammed Khalid Between Secularism and Islamicism: The Evolution of the Islamic State within 20th Century Egypt

Kelly Montano  
Mentored by Marwa Ghazali  
Comparative Cultural Studies  
Latinx Community and Health

Paria Mosaffa  
Mentored by Wa Xian and Frank McKeon  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Cloning and Vulnerability of Intrinsically Resistant Subset of Ovarian Cancer Stem Cells

Jennifer Newitt  
Mentored by Maria Burns  
Information Science Technology  
Solving Data Overload and Pertinent Challenges in Data Analytics

Carolyn Ngo  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Eric Villegas  
Engaged Data Science, Honors; Environmental Protection Agency  
Creating a Flood-Induced Pollutant Spread Risk Index for Houston, Texas

Carolyn Nguyen  
Mentored by William Ott  
Mathematics  
Evader Detection in Hyperbolic Sensor Networks

Emily Nguyen  
Mentored by Elizabeth Rodwell and Peggy Lindner  
Information Science Technology  
Studying Urban Relationships and Identity Over Ancient Syria: User Experience

Giao Nguyen  
Mentored by Thomas Teets  
Chemistry  
Preparation of Three-Coordinate Heteroleptic Cu(I) Complexes using β-Diketiminate and Phosphine Ligands

Minh Khue Nguyen  
Mentored by Alexander Statsyuk  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Aryl Fluorides for Kinase Inhibition

Tran Nguyen  
Mentored by Qin Feng and Jacky Wu  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Identifying and Characterizing the Epitope of PSMA Monoclonal Antibody J591 for Prostate Cancer Immunotherapy

Jaer Nizam  
Mentored by Hien Nguyen  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Unlocking Insights: Harnessing Varjo Aero VR Headset Eye-Tracking for Data Collection and Medical Diagnoses

Hasan Nooruddin  
Mentored by Erin Kelleher  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Investigating Differential Expression Patterns of Bruno Isoforms in Fertile and Sterile D. melanogaster Strains

Veronica Nwanna  
Mentored by Christine LeVeaux-Haley  
Political Science, Honors  
Kashmere Gardens, Texas, and the Case for Reparations

Nora Obasi  
Mentored by Julie Dunsmore  
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences  
Exploring African American Family Legacy through Narratives about Grandparents

Ogechi Obiobasi  
Mentored by Craig Johnston  
Health and Human Performance  
Associations Between Subjective Stress Level and Eating Behaviors by Weight Status Among College Students: Findings From the Research on Eating, Activity and Community Health (REACH) Study
Ellis Odu
Mentored by Carl Allen
Pediatrics-Oncology, Baylor College of Medicine
Proteomic Assessment of Cerebrospinal Fluid Reveals Potential Biomarker for Neurodegenerative Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis

Patrick Redmond
Mentored by Sivash Zamiran and Mahdi Safa
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Seismic Hazard Investigation of LNG Export Facilities in the USA

Miracle Ofomaja
Mentored by Michael Nikolaou
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Revisiting the SIR Standard: Modeling the Spread of COVID-19 in Texas Using α-SIR Model

Giovanni Rivera
Mentored by Konrad Krakowiak and Sarah Hlaihel
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Streamlined Valorization of Coal Combustion Residue via Supercritical CO2: Mineralization to Produce Environmentally - Benign Construction Materials

Gabielli Ozuna
Mentored by Daniel Cherdack
Physics
Data Visualisation for Neutrino Interaction Physics

Sarah Rizvi
Mentored by Luis Medina and Andrea Ochoa Lopez
Psychology
The Role of Polypharmacy on Cognitive Performance

Shan Pappa
Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Autonomous Ground Vehicle and Control Systems for 3D Printing Robot

Josiah Rooker
Mentored by Siavash Zamiran
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Investigation of Soil-Pipe Interaction Under Longitudinal Loading

Lillian Pennington
Mentored by Erin Kelleher and Llewellyn Green
Biology and Biochemistry
Cracking the Drosophila Eggshell: Identifying Genes Essential for UVB Sensitivity

Miracle Ofomaja
Mentored by Michael Nikolaou
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Revisiting the SIR Standard: Modeling the Spread of COVID-19 in Texas Using α-SIR Model

Malini Prasad
Mentored by Irene Guenther
History, Honors
Fashion After World War II: a Look at Clothing and the Resilience of German Women During Allied Occupation

Glynn Serda
Mentored by Michael Harold
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Low Temperature Oxidative Dehydrogenation of Ethane

Ashlyn Pro
Mentored by Marc Hanke
Biology, Honors
Tracking Estuarine Sedimentation through Novel Concrete Oyster Units

Sarah Semmel
Mentored by J. Leigh Leasure
Psychology
Neuroprotective Effects of Exercise on Binge Alcohol-Induced Brain Damage

Dimanthi Perera
Mentored by Greg Morrison and José Onuchic
Physics; Physics and Astronomy, Rice University
Are Nuclear Bodies Responsible for Forming Chromatin Subcompartments?

Hang Phan
Mentored by Martin Nunez and Romina Dimarco
Biology and Biochemistry
Air Layering Pinus Taeda Suggest Possible Method for Isolating Sterile Roots on Older Trees

Dena Shahri
Mentored by Clayton Neighbors and Nicole Hall
Psychology
COVID-19 Stress Positively Associated With Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Severity in College Women: Results From Two Models
Hammad Shaikh  
Mentored by Loi Do  
Chemistry  
Synthesis of Iridium Small Molecule Intracellular Metal Catalysts (SIMCats) for Reductive Amination of Aldehydes

Syna Sharma  
Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch  
Chemistry and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Structural and Optical Properties of Ba2Sc2B4O11:Eu2+

Amna Siddiqui  
Mentored by Auritro Majumder  
English  
Diverging Parallels: Perceptions of Revolutionary Violence and Their Impact on Murder Novels

Maya Singh  
Mentored by Omolola Adepoju  
College of Medicine  
Bridging the Digital Divide in Healthcare: Access to Technology, Internet Usage, and Online Health Information-Seeking Behaviors (HISB) in a Racially Diverse, Lower-Income Population

Ali-Rayhaan Soonasra  
Mentored by Kirill Larin  
Biomedical Engineering  
Analyzing Vascular Changes in Systemic Sclerosis Utilizing Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography

Rosaleen Sweiti  
Mentored by Cynthia Yoon  
Health and Human Performance  
Associations of Changes in Perceptions of Wellbeing during COVID-19 with Disordered Eating Behaviors and Intuitive Eating Among College Students: Findings from Research on Eating, Activity, and Community Health Study

Logan Tantibanchachai  
Mentored by Luis Oliveria  
Philosophy  
Free Will in Rhetoric and Oration

Parsa Tari  
Mentored by Haleh Ardebeni  
Mechanical Engineering  
Characterization of FEC Solid Polymer Electrolyte

Ronald Thomas  
Mentored by Rosenda Murillo  
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences  
Gender Disparities in the Association between Food Insecurity and Psychological Distress in Latino Adults

Anna Maria Trabulsi  
Mentored by Cynthia Yoon  
Health and Human Performance  
Associations of Cyberbullied Male and Female College Students with Disordered Eating Behaviors

Dylan Tran  
Mentored by Daphne Hernandez  
Health and Human Performance  
Prevalence and Economic Hardship as Outcomes of Medical Debt among Food Pantry Clients in Atlanta and Houston

Melody Tran  
Mentored by Marc Hanke  
Biology, Honors  
Volunteer Water Quality Data of Galveston Bay is Comparable to Professional Data

Sydney Tunches  
Mentored by Monique Mills  
Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Language Processing in Parents and Children

Carter Ung  
Mentored by Shishir Shah  
Computer Science  
Assessing Pose Variation in Facial Recognition Algorithms

Wasay Usmani  
Mentored by Maria Burns  
Information Science Technology  
AI Applications in the Film Industry: Groundbreaking Legal and Utility Avenues

Ramya Valipe  
Mentored by Michelle Belco  
Political Science, Honors  
The Federal Government and Social Media Liability

Ramya Valipe  
Mentored by Ioannis Konstantinidis  
Computer Science  
Trump and the 2020 Election Tweet Sentiments and Virality

Han Van  
Mentored by Bin Guo and Sundus Amina  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Interleukin-15 Receptor Antagonist Suppresses Sepsis in Lipopolysaccharide Induced Sepsis Mouse Model

Damian Vasquez  
Mentored by Harish Krishnamoorthy  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Optimal Locations for Solar PV Panels on the Lunar Surface

David Vaughan  
Mentored by Steven Craig  
Economics  
Impediments to Adoption of AI-enabled Diagnostics in Medical Imaging
David Whaley
Mentored by Mahdi Safa
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Reduction of Carbon Emissions Generated by LNG Storage

Cole Woody
Mentored by Preethi Gunaratne
Biology and Biochemistry
MHCole: A Pipeline for Accurate Prediction of Peptide-HLA Binding Affinities

Sofia Young
Mentored by Beau Alward and Andrew Hoadly
Psychology; Biology and Biochemistry
CRISPR/Cas9 Gene Knockout of Somatostatin (sst1.1) in African cichlid Astatotilapia burtoni

Ameer Zaman
Mentored by Lorenzo Deveza
Orthopedics, Baylor College of Medicine
In Vitro Cartilage Regeneration

Anairany Zapata
Mentored by Daphne Hernandez
Health and Human Performance
Revisions to the Spanish-Language Food Security Survey Module: First Round of Cognitive Interviews

Elena Zelaya
Mentored by Audrey Miller
Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
“No Soldier Left Behind”: Gender Violence and Institutional Betrayal in the Case of Army Specialist Vanessa Guillén

Daniel Viray
Mentored by Andrew Kapral
Engaged Data Science, Honors
Analyzing the Impact of Car Dependency on Health Measures in the Houston Area

Arisha Vishnani
Mentored by Arlene Macdonald
Medicine and Society, Honors
Analyzing the Efficacy and Overall Impact of Pharmacological Treatments of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Within the Pediatric Population

Elaine Vo
Mentored by Virginia Rangel
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Investigation on How Geoscience Fieldwork Motivations and Benefits Compare in Relative Frequency

Tram Vo
Mentored by Maria Burns
Information Science Technology
Crisis Resilience & Management: A Case on Airbnb

Linh Vuong
Mentored by Vincent Tam
Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research
Development of Preclinical Models of Vancomycin Nephrotoxicity

Kaitlyn Wells
Mentored by Cynthia Yoon and Craig Johnston
Health and Human Performance
Associations Between College Student Living Situations and Eating Behaviors
GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Amina Abdal-Jamiil, Sarah Biagiotti, Khai Hua, Kaden Knecht, Huy Nguyen, and Solesha Shea
Mentored by Mequanint Moges and Alexander DuVall
Computer Engineering Technology; Network Communications
Markus AI Project Emerald

Aliyah Abidali, Miranda Galvan, and Litzy Ocampo
Mentored by Kayce Solari Williams
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences
Culturally-Tailored Approaches and Hispanic Women’s Participation in Health Research Studies in Texas: A Systematic Review of the Literature

Nikhila Achanta, Srivarshini Achanta, Carlos Mendieta, Anika Vadlamudi, and Ana Velazquez
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Daniel Price
Data and Society, Honors
Prescribing Justice: Houston’s Redlining Impact on Medical Access

Oluwadamilola Adenote, Mario Cerda, Michael Klushin, Eric Pham, Harrison Sao, and Anthony Ung
Mentored by Nathaniel Wiggins
Industrial Engineering
Facility Redesign Project: Repurposed Space

Eberechukwu Adikaibe, Abdulrahman Aljahmi, Paul Kunchandy, Sara Pareja, and Ruben Romo
Mentored by Nathaniel Wiggins
Industrial Engineering
Development of an Internal Audit System for API Compliance

Gail Aflalo, Dylan Magee, and Olivia Ong
Mentored by Jokubas Ziburkus
Biology and Biochemistry
Towards Multisensory Topography: Multisensory Maps of UH

Sachitha Aithal, Sigmund Haidacher, Preston Lee, and Marcella Smith
Mentored by Bradley Smith
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences
Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Math Confidence Through Cubing Project Under the Bonner Leaders Program

Oluwatobi Alagbe, Sandra Igboanugo, and Elizabeth Weaver
Mentored by Joyce Olushola Ogunrinde
Health and Human Performance

Stuart Alfaara, Benjamin George, Peter Kieu, and Tony Tran
Mentored by Mequanint Moges
Engineering Technology
Otto Sorting Bin

Tristan Alhadad, Zeel Engineer, Sergio Garcia, and Yuha Hosoki
Mentored by Edgar Bering and Andrew Renshaw
Physics
VLF Waves and High Energy Particles During an Annular Solar Eclipse

Kais Ali and Nathan Fuentes
Mentored by Emily LaVoy
Health and Human Performance
The Effects of 15 Minutes vs. 30 Minutes of Moderate Intensity Exercise on Lymphocytes, Monocytes and Granulocytes

Nadia Ali, Jordan Mann, and Danielle Sarmiento
Mentored by Laura Lee
Personal Early Educational Performance Support
Mind Over Matters: Race and Ethnic Disparities Among College Men

Zied Almasri, Ahmad Elhajj, Natalia Freire, Ulker Gure, and Zulma Mejia
Mentored by Nathaniel Wiggins
Industrial Engineering
K&G Process Improvement

Cecilia Alombere and William Nguyen
Mentored by Mahdi Safa
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Modelling of Liquefaction Around Marine Structures

Christopher Javier Arienza, Reem El Miari, Sharon Moonsammy, and Diane Nguyen
Mentored by Nathaniel Wiggins and Steven Baird
Industrial Engineering; Siemens Energy
Innovation in Siemens Energy Service Centers: Laser Scanning Technology

Falak Asad, Rea Rose Estrada, and Haley Romine
Mentored by Marc Hanke
Biology, Honors
A Proposal to Reducing Foodborne Illnesses from Grocery Store Produce

Yorliann Aviles, Elizabeth Beltran, Jasmine Dhaliwal, Abigail Pomeroy, and Rebecca Wagley
Mentored by Ashutosh Agrawal
Mechanical Engineering
Speculum Redesigned for Women’s Comfort: The Cerviscope
Ziad Aziz, Cassandra Palmerin, and Chelsea Palmerin
Mentored by Mahdi Safa
Civil and Environmental Engineering
AI-Driven Flood Forecasting and Response System

Lara Badran, Katelyn Cortez, Vivian Dang, Carolyn Ngo, and Fatima Shaikh
Mentored by Christina Miyawaki
Graduate College of Social Work
Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) Determines Visuospatial Skill Loss in Vietnamese Older Adults

Ayesha Baloch and Kristin Dinh
Mentored by Bradley Smith
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences
Analyzing SAT Scores: Efficacy of Out-of-Session Worksheets in Aspire’s SAT Program

Mimi Beregen, Alyssa Green, and Kristi Tran
Mentored by Bradley Smith and Janet Lawler
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences; Political Science, Honors
The Effects of Public Speaking Mentorship on Perceived Self-Confidence and Advocacy Skills

Iana Bernas, Thien Ha, Niyoosha Izadbakhsh, and Carolyn Ngo
Mentored by Martin Nuñez
Biology and Biochemistry
Evaluating the Use of Mustard, Swiss Chard, and Pak Choi Seeds As Plant Bioassays for Phytotoxin Detection in Immature Compost

Samuel Borromeo, Jonathan Chan, and Cuong Duong
Mentored by Abdul Khan
Engineering Technology
Using Natural Microbiome Consortia to Improve Water and Nutrient Use Efficiency in Current Aeroponics Systems

Karson Bradley, Joshlyn Mendez, Evan Orlandi, and Christopher Porter
Mentored by Samia Afrin, Devina Fernandez, and Michael Ramirez
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Endress and Hauser Mobile PTU

Milena Brocchini, Elisa Cardenas, and William Massaras
Mentored by Douglas Erwing and Gail Buttorff
History, Honors; Public Affairs
Navigating the Road Ahead: Strategic Infrastructure Planning for Electric Vehicle Adoption in the Greater Houston Area

Milena Brocchini and Ritesh Ravi
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Daniel Price
Data and Society, Honors
Revising The Universal Soil Loss Equation to Predict the Theoretical Extent Enhanced Pocket Prairies Can Mitigate Toxin in Rainfall Runoff

Alex Cantu, Javier Carrasco, Gerardo Correa, and Alan Rodriguez Gamez
Mentored by Samia Afrin
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Hybrid Solar Desalination

Hy Cao and Danny Le
Mentored by Mehmet Sen
Biology and Biochemistry
Elucidating the Mysteries Behind Fibrinogen Interactions in Blood Clotting

Matt Clark, Toluwalope Fabiyi, Mary Seume, and Emme Tomasello
Mentored by Nancy Young and Leandra Zarnow
History
The Personal as Political: Learning About the 1977 National Women’s Conference Through Individual Stories

Niamh Clark and Julianna Hamilton
Mentored by David Mazella
English
Exploring Satire: Mode or Genre? Perspectives from Edinburgh, 1771

Yesenia Contreras, Amanuel Getaneh, Fatima Guzman, Or Sarah Kasongo, and Dulce Zamora
Mentored by Nathaniel Wiggins
Industrial Engineering
Enhancing Efficiency: Eaton Facility Relayout Initiative

Christian Cruz and Annacely Martinez
Mentored by Mahdi Safa
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Fortification of Seabed in Marine Structures

Paul Daniel and Ellis Odu
Mentored by Norma Olvera and Rhonda Scherer
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences; Sports and Fitness, UHD
Navigating Medical Weight Problem Diagnosis in Hispanic Adults: A Predictive Approach

Paul Daniel and Ellis Odu
Mentored by Norma Olvera and Rhonda Scherer
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences; Sports and Fitness, UHD
Perceptions and Idealizations of Body Size in Latina Mother-Daughter Dyads
Dennis Dikeman II, Celenia Garcia, Christian Marin, Mireille Murphy, José Andrés Penagos, and Arsalaan Siddiqi  
Mentored by Nathaniel Wiggins  
Industrial Engineering  
Job Listing Qualification Calculation Project

Anish Dokania, Siyu Gan, Macy Mosier, and Jason Ruszkowski  
Mentored by Edgar Bering and Andrew Renshaw  
Physics  
Impact of Solar Eclipses on Total Electron Content and HF Propagation

Christian Doxakis and Larissa Liu  
Mentored by Adam Thrasher  
Health and Human Performance  
Effect of Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation on Parkinson’s Symptoms

Cuong Duong, Angela Nguyen, Holly Nguyen, Kien Nguyen, Andy Tran, and Ha Truong  
Mentored by Christina Miyawaki  
Graduate College of Social Work  
The Effects of Gender, Age, and Education on Cognitive Health in Different Racial/Ethnic Groups of Older Adults

Yasmeen Elfeki, Ria Kolluru, and Nhat Nguyen  
Mentored by Seoung Park  
Health and Human Performance  
The Effects of Perturbation Paired with Spinal Stimulation on Dynamic Balance in Post-Stroke Patients

Emilio Espinosa, Julia Gorman, and Robin Newberry  
Mentored by Erin Kelleher and Lorissa Saiz  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Investigating the Causative Variants That Confer Fertility in Drosophila Melanogaster

Nathan Fraske, Angela Guzman, Remi Lokhandwala, Mohamed Meziou, and June Nguyen  
Mentored by Edgar Bering and Andrew Renshaw  
Physics  
Measuring Stratospheric Conductivity

Viviana Garcia, Savannah Le, Jennifer Newitt, and Kyrillos Saleh  
Mentored by Maria Burns  
Information Science Technology  
Solving the Issue of Membership Card Sharing: The Case of Costco

Arthur Hazard, Aaron Hinkle, Mustafa Khan, and Rajvi Megha  
Mentored by Douglas Erwing  
History, Honors  
Reducing GHGs at Port of Houston

Tan Hoang, Kailey Jirsa, Ehson Maleki, Ibraheem Maudood, and Jonathan Medina-Cornej  
Mentored by Bradley Smith  
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences  
Evaluating the Impact of the Food Insecurity Team

Sina Jafari, Hannah Kim, Alexander Mai, Jyothi Manoj, and Hira Marrium  
Mentored by Bradley Smith  
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences  
Studying the Efficacy of Writing to Inspire Successful Education Program

Abigail Jeyaraj and Kimeera Paladugu  
Mentored by Quinn Valier  
UH Population Health  
More at Play: A Scoping Review of the Relationship Between Recess and Disparities in Elementary-Aged School Children

Joyce Joy, Salwa Khan, Jyothylakshmi Manoj, and Loyed Siby  
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Daniel Price  
Data and Society, Honors  
Measuring Creosote Exposure Through Prevalence of Linked Diseases In Houston’s Fifth Ward and Surrounding Areas

Christopher Kelley, Marsay Mahaley, Dillon Smith, and Valeria Zayas Torres  
Mentored by Edgar Bering  
Physics  
The Effects of Total Solar Eclipses on Gaseous Compounds

Diemthuy Le, Kaitlyn Le, Nguyen Nguyen, Noelle Nguyen, Michelle Tran, and Tammy Tran  
Mentored by Christina Miyawaki  
Graduate College of Social Work  

Helen Melka, Vi Pham, Brandon Than, and Tiffani Than  
Mentored by Bradley Smith and Janet Lawler  
Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences; Political Science, Honors  
The Effects of Science Mentorship on Mentor and Mentee Confidence

Edgar Mora, Jesus Monroy, Eduardo Salazar, and Josh Sidhu  
Mentored by Mequanint Moges and Asif Julio Chilela  
Engineering Technology  
Machine Learning Enhanced 5G Testbed Slicing Network for Intelligent Traffic Optimization
Qudsia Najwa and Melika Salehi
Mentored by Erin Kelleher
Biology and Biochemistry
Which Isoform of the RNA Binding Protein Bruno Is Involved in P-Element Dysgenic Sterility?

Amarachukwu Okeke and Bianca Soriano
Mentored by Erin Kelleher and Shahrzad Hajiarbabi
Biology and Biochemistry
Mechanism of Natural Variation in Double Strand Break Repair

Vivienne Pham and Mielad Ziae
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and David Buck
Engaged Data Science, Honors; Community Health, College of Medicine
Community-Based Approach in Food Distribution and Communication Networks

Natalia Ponton and Munira Ziauddin
Mentored by Lorra Garey
Psychology
Assessing the Accessibility and Feasibility of a Mobile Intervention to Address Cannabis Use Disorder among Black Adults

Amsha Rehan, Thomas Ton, Elizabeth Tran, Elyse Tran, and Nursemin Ugur
Mentored by Andrew Kapral and Daniel Price
Data and Society, Honors
The Fifth Ward Cancer Cluster: Analyzing the Financial Burden of Cancer Care
Screening Attitudes, and Biochemical

Based Afghan Refugee Women

Asadi, Maryam Neshastehri, and Samina Salim

School of Pharmacy, University of Houston

METHODS

Study design / inclusion

was conducted through Multi Cultural

a Houston-based 501(c)(3) non-profit

assisting refugees

Variation versions of the MS, Afghan

HCC assessment mental health (ASC),

Migration Stress (RPMS), and Breast

the Relief's Questionnaire (RCSQ) distributed

via REDCap platform.

and a 25 Target gift card as

for participation

Detection and Lab Analysis

were de-identified.

cortisol, C-reactive protein, and

were examined using

kits (Salimetrics, USA)

Statistical analysis

involves means, standard

intervals calculated

coefficient between

and RCSQ responses

Fig 2: Markers of inflammation. IL-6 and C-Reactive protein

elevated. Statistically significant differences between high

(susceptible) and low (resilient) CRP.

Fig 3: ASC and RPMS scores. Data were analyzed using

Pearson correlation (SPSS, V27)

Overview of Correlation and Demographics Data

ASC scores correlated with time spent in US, perceived

discrimination, economic strain.

Over 40% without health insurance, had not finished

high school.

Over 70% and about 50% unfamiliar with mammograms

and clinical breast examination, respectively

RESULTS

High stress levels as determined through ASC and

RPMS in susceptible Afghan women correlated with high

levels of CRP, and high IL-6. Targeted interventions into

stress reduction and breast cancer awareness for Afghan

refugee women is warranted.

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importance of insurance coverage. Cancer

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The role of social support and social bonding

in the health of breast cancer survivors. 

Health Psychology, 29(5), 546-554.


The role of social support in the reduction,

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Cancer Control, 22(1), 64-76.


Cancer risk assessment in the context of cultural identities.


Screening breast cancer among women of 

Asian and African heritage: A systematic review.

“I didn’t think I had a place in academia, but undergraduate research has opened my eyes to the communities that exist between marginalized scholars in English Studies. My time as a researcher has taught me that I do have a voice, and can contribute to a growing conversation among diverse scholars.”

Kalena Holeman
English
FrameWorks, PURS, and Mellon Research Scholars Recipient

“I didn’t think I had a place in academia, but undergraduate research has granted me opportunities, experiences, and knowledge that have helped me build my story. My interest in the regenerative power of stem cells led me to MD Anderson. I am excited to see where research takes me as I pursue becoming a physician-scientist.”

Paul Daniel
Biology, Honors
PCCSM and HERE Recipient

“My time in the SURF program took my undergrad research excitement to a whole new level. Delving into the intricacies, pushing boundaries, and making fresh contributions – that’s what I’m all about. I’m eager to bring a spark of innovation to the world of statistical research.”

Brayan Gutierrez
Mathematics, Data Science
SURF Recipient

“My undergraduate research experiences have nurtured my curiosity and helped me develop valuable laboratory and critical thinking skills. Engaging in hands-on research with faculty mentorship has shaped my newfound career path in research. I am grateful for all I’ve learned and enthusiastically anticipate the paths my research will reveal.”

Miracle Ofomaja
Chemical Engineering
SURF, FrameWorks, and PURS Recipient

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