



# 2022 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, The Honors College, & M.D. Anderson Library  
 Thursday, April 14, 2022 [www.uh.edu/urday](http://www.uh.edu/urday)



# CONNECT

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

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

Follow **@UHOORMA** on Instagram and Facebook.



# APPLY

## Senior Honors Thesis

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

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

## Fulbright

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

Email Ben Rayder at **[btrayder@uh.edu](mailto:btrayder@uh.edu)** for more information.

## REACH

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

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

# 2022 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

**Thursday, April 14, 2022**

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

**3:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Welcome and Remarks to Presenters**

*Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion*

**Paula Myrick Short, Ph.D.**

Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Houston System  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston

**Amr Elnashai, FEng**

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

**Stuart A. Long, Ph.D.**

John and Rebecca Moores Professor, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research and the Honors College, University of Houston

**Rikki Bettinger, Ph.D.**

Associate Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards,  
University of Houston

**4 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Viewing of Student Posters**

*Location: Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, M.D. Anderson Library, and the Honors College*

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

# WELCOME

## Welcome to Undergraduate Research Day...

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

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

Like many others around the campus community, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards used the pandemic as an opportunity to reset and retol. Many of our staple programs continued to thrive as students returned to the lab, the archives, and other research settings. Fifty students defended their senior honors theses, 48 undergrads learned more about the fundamentals of research through HERE, and over 130 faculty-mentored research projects were funded through the SURF and PURS programs. Thanks to the generous support of Provost Paula Myrick Short, twice as many students will be awarded PURS stipends for the 2021-2022 academic year. We also introduced new programs to meet critical needs. With the support of a CITE grant, two cohorts of students have now participated in Action Research in Communities. This year-long program allows students to combine research with service learning in the local community to better understand and address some of Houston's most important issues. This past year also marked the start of Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities. REACH provides an introductory research experience for students in humanities disciplines by connecting a dozen students to existing undergraduate research projects at the University of Houston, including "SYRIOS," "Black. Migration. Houston.," and "Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage" projects, to name but a few. We hope that REACH will create more pathways for students looking to pursue research in the humanities, support the tremendous work of our UH faculty and staff, and provide a recruiting pipeline for the Mellon Research Scholars program.

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

The pandemic did not impede UH's emergence as a fellowships powerhouse. Quite the contrary, last year, UH registered more fellowship recipients, finalists, and alternates than ever before (69). In addition, UH students were named a Gates Cambridge Scholar and a Knight-Hennessy Scholar for the first time in UH history. For the second time in three years, two undergraduates received the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship for excellence in STEM. UH also posted its most ever Critical Language Scholarship recipients when nine students were

selected to study Russian, Arabic, Urdu, and Mandarin. Most notably, with the supportive leadership of Provost Short, 10 Coogs were named Fulbright recipients, thus establishing the University of Houston as a Top Producing Fulbright Institution for the second time in three years. Only one other Texas research university achieved the same honor. The success of Fulbright and CLS is further evidence of the University of Houston's commitment to global education and its role as an international institution.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Stuart Long



Ben Rayder



Rikki Bettinger



Victoria Jupp



Nimra Zubair



Citlali Chavana



Carl Suerte



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April 14, 2022

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Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion

M.D. Anderson Library

The Honors College

#### The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

The Honors College

University of Houston

M.D. Anderson Library

4333 University Drive, Room 212W

Houston, TX 77204-2001

(713) 743-6433

[UndergraduateResearch.uh.edu](mailto:UndergraduateResearch.uh.edu)

[undergrad-research@uh.edu](mailto:undergrad-research@uh.edu)

@UHOURLMA

*Booklet created by*

**Julia Brown,**

Communications Coordinator,

The Honors College

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# OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND MAJOR AWARDS



## OUR MA PROGRAMS

**THE HOUSTON EARLY RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (HERE)** is a two-week research program in May intended to orient rising sophomore and junior undergraduates to the fundamentals of conducting research. HERE awards \$1,000 scholarships to students with at least a 3.5 GPA. [uh.edu/here](http://uh.edu/here)

**THE SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (SURF)** is a full-time, ten-week summer research program for students and provides a \$4,000 scholarship to conduct research under the mentorship of a UH faculty member. Students from all disciplines with at least a 3.0 GPA are encouraged to apply. [uh.edu/surf](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)

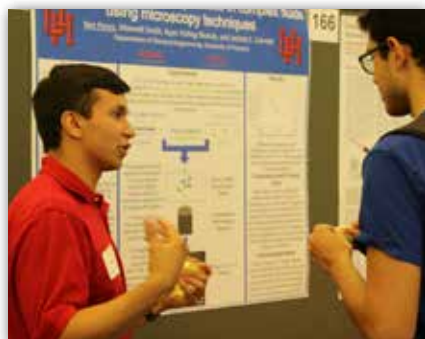
**THE MELLON RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM** is for upper level students from historically marginalized backgrounds interested in conducting research and attending graduate studies in the humanities. Mellon Scholars participate in a faculty-led seminar series to learn more about research opportunities in the humanities, receive \$1,100 to participate in a two-week camp on applying to

graduate school, earn \$3,900 to conduct a full-time summer research project under the mentorship of a University of Houston faculty mentor, and conclude the program by either completing an independent study or Senior Honors Thesis during their senior year. [uh.edu/mellonscholars](http://uh.edu/mellonscholars)

**THE SENIOR HONORS THESIS** is a capstone program for a student's undergraduate career in research. Open to all UH students, participants enroll in 3399 and 4399, a total of six hours of coursework, which is typically applied toward their major degree requirements during their senior year. For more information, visit the thesis website at [uh.edu/seniorhonorsthesis](http://uh.edu/seniorhonorsthesis).

**THE RESEARCH FOR ASPIRING COOGS IN THE HUMANITIES (REACH) PROGRAM** at the University of Houston is a collaborative effort supported by the Cougar Initiative to Engage and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards. REACH provides a year-long introductory research experience for students in humanities disciplines by connecting a dozen students to existing research projects at the University of Houston. Students from humanities disciplines are encouraged to apply. [uh.edu/reach](http://uh.edu/reach)

Need more info? Email:  
[undergrad-research@uh.edu](mailto:undergrad-research@uh.edu)





# THE HONORS COLLEGE

## THE HONORS COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY

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

## HONORS CURRICULUM

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



## THE HONORS COLLEGE COMMUNITY

### Special Classes and Course Selection

We draw on the talents of the brightest faculty members within the University to provide a wide range of special courses with limited enrollment. Honors courses encourage student participation, interaction, and discussion.

### Membership in a Community

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

### Talented Classmates

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

Apply Now at [www.TheHonorsCollege.com/apply](http://www.TheHonorsCollege.com/apply)

Contact Information:  
The Honors College  
Office for Student Recruitment  
(713) 743-1766  
[honorsadmissions@uh.edu](mailto:honorsadmissions@uh.edu)

# SUPPORTERS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



"Undergraduate research yields innumerable benefits to our students, our institution, and our region. Those students who work alongside peers and mentors on projects, posters, and papers are better prepared for the road ahead, whether that leads to graduate school or the workforce. I take immense pride in knowing that events such as UH's Undergraduate Research Day are supporting successful outcomes for our Cougars."

**PAULA MYRICK SHORT**

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



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

**AMR ELNASHAI**

Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer,  
University of Houston

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

- Office of the Provost
- Division of Research
- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- Cullen College of Engineering
- Cougar Initiative to Engage
- The Honors College
- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- The Writing Center
- UH Libraries
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH) and Honors in Community Health (HICH)



# SUPPORTERS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



“Undergraduate Research Day is the premier event for our students to present their work to the campus community and distinguished guests. It’s an exciting day for everyone involved and an opportunity for the presenters to improve their communication skills, network, and be recognized for their accomplishments.”

**STUART A. LONG**

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research and the Honors College

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

**ATHENA JACKSON**

Dean of University Libraries



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

**DONNA STOKES**

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

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

**DANIEL P. O’CONNOR**

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences



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

**MICHAEL PELLETIER**

Founding Executive Director, Institute for Global Engagement

# NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Consider applying for one of these opportunities.

## BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

For sophomores and juniors who demonstrate academic excellence and intend to pursue research careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. This competitive scholarship covers eligible expenses for undergraduate tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to a maximum of \$7,500 annually.

**Campus Deadline: Nov 4, 2022**

## HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP

For college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers as change agents in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education, or elsewhere in public service. Each Truman Scholar receives up to \$30,000 for graduate study.

**Campus Deadline: Nov 4, 2022**

## MORRIS K. UDALL & STEWART L. UDALL SCHOLARSHIP

For sophomore and junior level students committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy or tribal health care. Awards of up to \$7,000 and access to the Udall Alumni Network.

**Campus Deadline: Feb 6, 2023**

## CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

Language immersion program for undergraduates from all academic disciplines. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, this summer program allows students to study one of 15 critical languages abroad, including Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Russian.

**National Deadline: Mid-Nov 2022**

## NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

For graduating seniors who intend to pursue a research-based master's or doctoral degree in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, or STEM education. The award includes a \$34,000 living stipend and \$12,000 cost-of-education allowance.

**National Deadline: Mid-Oct 2022**

## FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM

For graduating seniors, current graduate students, and alumni. Students may apply to teach English, enroll in a graduate degree program, or conduct research for one year in more than 140 countries. Recipients are awarded a living stipend, travel accommodations, and basic health insurance.

**Campus Deadline: Sept 2, 2022**



Application for these awards requires a strong academic, leadership, and service record. In some instances, you must be nominated to apply. For more information, visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards or contact Ben Rayder ([btrayder@uh.edu](mailto:btrayder@uh.edu)).



# FULBRIGHT GRANTS FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS OR STUDY/RESEARCH ABROAD



**Layla Kratovic**  
Fulbright Study/Research Grantee  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Chelsea Sanchez**  
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant  
South Korea

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.



**Crystal Tran**  
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant  
Taiwan



**Johnny Zapata**  
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant  
Turkey

**2022 CAMPUS DEADLINE:**

**September 2, 2022**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Benjamin Rayder**

Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

[btrayder@uh.edu](mailto:btrayder@uh.edu)

[www.us.fulbrightonline.org](http://www.us.fulbrightonline.org)



# 2021 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS & MAJOR AWARDS

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards congratulates the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Scholars and Major Award recipients, finalists, and alternates:

## C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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

Hamad Khan, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

Kainat Aziz, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Zaina Boriek, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Jasmin Brooks, Ford Fellowship (Recipient)

Queen Epomba, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

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

David Paul Hilton, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Tia Hufstetler, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Fatou Jallow, Princeton in Africa (Recipient)

Fatou Jallow, Princeton in Asia (Recipient)

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

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

Phillip Kieval, Gates Cambridge Scholarship (Recipient)

Andre Mikhail, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

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

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

Danielle Niangar, Marshall Scholarship (Finalist)

Tagalsir Osama, BCM SMART (Recipient)

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

Saaj Patel, TAPIF (Recipient)

Kareem Soussan, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

Taylor Thomas, JET Program (Alternate)

Nimra Zubair, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

## KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Jaelynn Walls, Knight-Hennessy Scholars (Recipient)

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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

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

## CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kathryn Aing, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Karen Beck, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Alex Bradshaw, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Josiah Cherian, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Wesley Combs, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Recipient)

Shravani Deo, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Kevin Fleming, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

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

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

Nikki Hammond, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

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

Fariz Nazir, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Nhung Nguyen, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

Jocelyn Ramos, Hispanic Scholarship Fund (Recipient)

Javi Solano, Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship (Recipient)

## COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

Muhammad Akram, DAAD RISE PRO Scholarship (Recipient)

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

Trang Do, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Alexander Garcia, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Smiti Gandhi, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

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

Omar Harb, Critical Language Scholarship (Recipient)

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

Amenda Khoei, MD Anderson Partnership for Careers in

Cancer Science (Recipient)

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

Olivia Lee, US Teaching Assistantship in Austria (Recipient)

Piya Malhan, BCM SMART (Recipient)

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

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

Gabrielle Olinger, Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship (Recipient)

Areeba Navroz, BCM SMART (Recipient)

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

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

Pierce Popson, DAAD RISE Scholarship (Recipient)

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

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

Carl Suerte, JET Program (Alternate)

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

Daniel Wadhawan, BCM SMART (Recipient)

Christopher Wong, Fulbright Fogarty Grant, Ethiopia (Alternate)

Peijun Zhao, BCM SMART (Recipient)



# OUTSTANDING FELLOWSHIP MENTOR AWARD

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



## **SALLY CONNOLLY**

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

### ***Dedication and Excellence***

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

### ***Opportunity Creation***

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

### ***Success as Associate Dean***

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

Congratulations to Dr. Connolly on her award!

# UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES

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

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

Email UH Libraries to:

- Map out your research approach
- Develop search strategies
- Use library resources

Contact [libteach@uh.edu](mailto:libteach@uh.edu) to get started today.

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

**ATHENA JACKSON**  
Dean of University Libraries



*Thank you to UH Libraries for supporting Undergraduate Research at the University of Houston.*



# THE WRITING CENTER



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

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

*Thank you to the Writing Center for supporting Undergraduate Research at the University of Houston.*

## WRITING CENTER SERVICES



### STUDENT SERVICES

The Writing Center offers one-on-one consultations in which our trained Writing Consultants assist students with various types of writing appointment base only.



### FACULTY SERVICES

The Writing Center supports UH faculty in instituting effective writing practice, instructions, and evaluation through consultation, design and training services.



### ONLINE WRITING SERVICES

Students also have the option to meet online with our trained consultants to discuss their writing from any location through our Online Writing Services.

# (UGR@UH) WEBINAR SERIES



## FALL 2021 SCHEDULE

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2021**

**Getting Started in Research**

Rikki Bettinger

*Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards*

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**

**Ethics in Research: The IRB**

Nettie Martinez

*Division of Research*

**OCTOBER 29, 2021**

**Introduction to Digital Humanities for Undergraduate Researchers**

Kristina Neumann and Elizabeth Rodwell, *SYRIOS Project*

Taylor Davis Van-Atta and Claude Willan, *Digital Research Commons*

**NOVEMBER 12, 2021**

**Interviewing 101: Preparing for Fellowships and Graduate Opportunities**

Anthony B. Cashman, III

*College of the Holy Cross*

**NOVEMBER 19, 2021**

**Knowing Your Audience: Communicating Your STEM Research**

Rita Sirrieh

*The Honors College*

## SPRING 2022 SCHEDULE

**JANUARY 28, FEBRUARY 25, AND MARCH 25, 2022**

**Getting Started in Research**

Victoria Jupp

*Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards*

**FEBRUARY 11, 2022**

**Crafting a Research Proposal**

J. Leigh Leasure

*Psychology*

**APRIL 8, 2022**

**Research Opportunities with UH Learning Abroad**

Maggie Mahoney

*Learning Abroad*

Ben Rayder and Victoria Jupp

*Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards*

**APRIL 29, 2022**

**Communicating your Research: Social Networks and Conferences**

Rikki Bettinger and Victoria Jupp

*Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards*





# Senior Honors Thesis

The Senior Honors Thesis is a 2-semester, 6 credit hour capstone research experience under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students of all majors can participate—membership in the Honors College is not required. The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards collaborates with The Honors College and the College of the student's major to oversee the thesis process and approval.

Participants must have:

- a 3.25 cumulative GPA
- a 3.5 major GPA
- departmental approval
- Honors College approval

## Step 1:

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



## Step 3:

Ask a faculty member to serve as your thesis director.



## Step 5:

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



## Step 7:

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



## Step 9:

Continue your research and begin drafting initial chapters. Communicate regularly with your thesis director and your readers.



## Step 11:

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



## Step 13:

Finalize revisions and submit your thesis. Graduate with an Honors designation on your transcript!



## Step 2:

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



## Step 4:

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



## Step 6:

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



## Step 8:

The Office will assign an Honors Reader to your committee who will also review your prospectus.



## Step 10:

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



## Step 12:

Schedule your thesis defense and defend your thesis.



For more information, contact:

**Rikki Bettinger, Ph.D.**  
Office of Undergraduate Research and  
Major Awards  
rrbettin@central.uh.edu

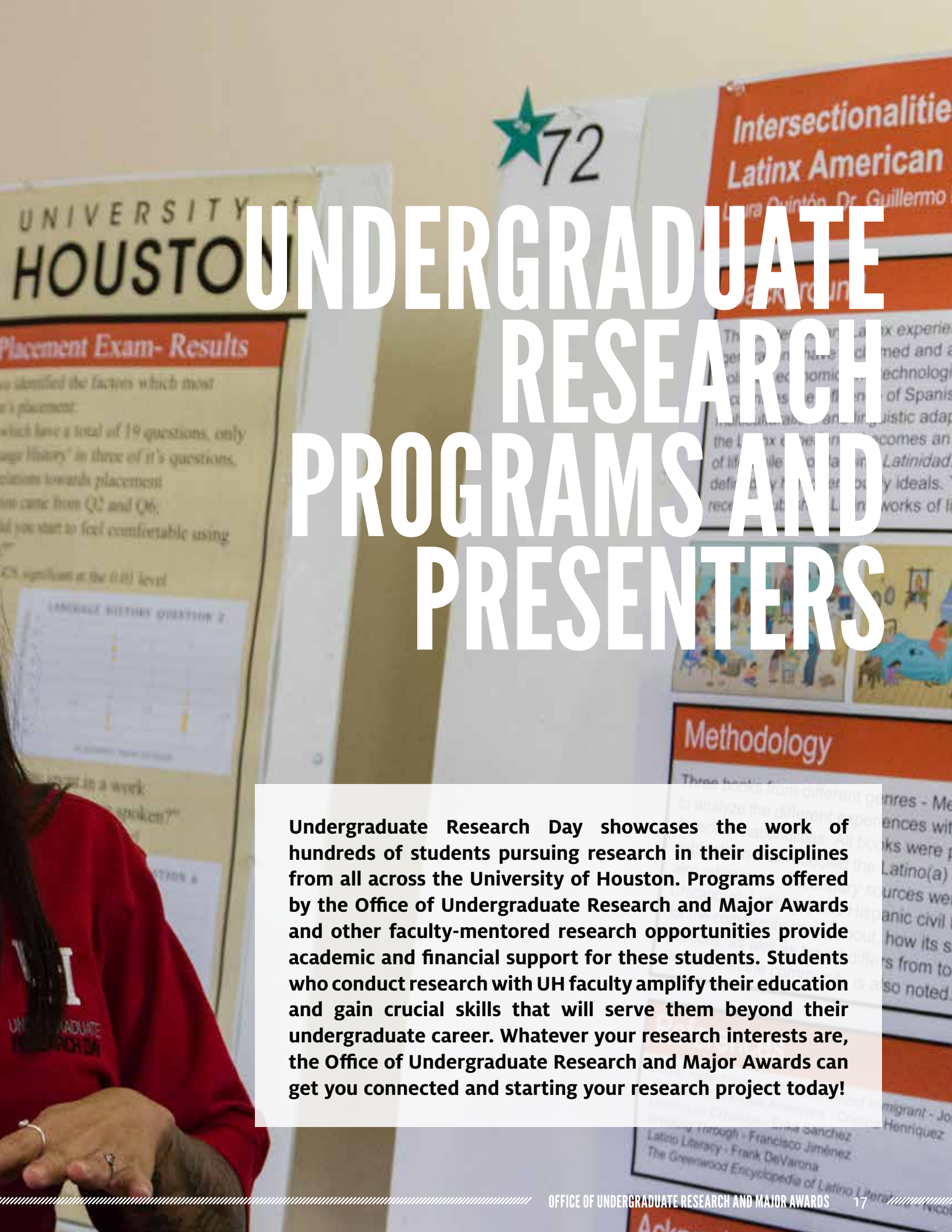


Language Acquisition for Spanish  
Heritage Students

Spanish Heritage Speakers at UH

BLP & UH





# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND PRESENTERS

Undergraduate Research Day showcases the work of hundreds of students pursuing research in their disciplines from all across the University of Houston. Programs offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards and other faculty-mentored research opportunities provide academic and financial support for these students. Students who conduct research with UH faculty amplify their education and gain crucial skills that will serve them beyond their undergraduate career. Whatever your research interests are, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards can get you connected and starting your research project today!

# HOUSTON EARLY RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The **Houston Early Research Experience (HERE)** program recognizes freshman and sophomore students who excel both inside and outside the classroom. This two-week seminar series engages students from all majors in various research methodologies through faculty-led small group discussions and research presentations. Students receive a \$1,000 scholarship for participating in HERE.

## HERE 2021

**August 2-13, 2021**

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

### HERE Faculty Mentors:

Charlie Becker	Monique Mills
Christiana Chang	Stacey Louie
Marc Hanke	Rita Sirrieh
Kelly Hopkins	Lesli Vollrath



## HERE 2022

**May 16-27, 2022**

The 2022 theme for HERE will be energy in Houston, and we look forward to welcoming our next cohort! Applications for the HERE program are accepted through early March each year. For more information on future HERE programming, contact Victoria Jupp at [vjupp@uh.edu](mailto:vjupp@uh.edu) or visit [uh.edu/here](http://uh.edu/here).



# RESEARCH FOR ASPIRING COOGS IN THE HUMANITIES

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

## 2021-2022 PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS



### **Black. Migration. Houston.**

#### Mentors

Rachel Quinn  
Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill

#### Student Participant

Thomas Avent



### **Black Power and Art in Houston**

#### Mentors

Duy Nguyen  
Cedric Tolliver

#### Student Participant

Eos Sison



### **Digital Research Commons: Data and Visualizations in English Literature**

#### Mentor

Claude Willan

#### Student Participant

Alexandra Gurule  
Cameron Mitchell



### **DJ Screw Sound Recordings**

#### Mentor

Julie Grob

#### Student Participant

Jenna Goodrich



### **Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Program**

#### Mentors

Lorena Gauthereau  
Linda Garcia Merchant  
Gabriela Baeza Ventura  
Carolina Villarroel

#### Student Participants

Alejandro Aguilar  
Carlos Campos, Jr.  
Carolina Lopez-Herrera



### **Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey**

#### Mentors

Debbie Harwell  
Todd Romero

#### Student Participants

Emmanuel Gonzalez  
Maia Mendoza



### **Sharing Stories from 1977**

#### Mentors

Nancy Young  
Leandra Zarnow  
Sandra Davidson

#### Student Participants

Jessica Rodriguez  
Maya Perez  
Naveed Ahmed  
Phu Le



### **SYRIOS**

#### Mentor

Kristina Neumann

#### Student Participants

Natalie Dean  
James Ian Thompson



### **Working with Primary Source Historical Archives**

#### Mentor

Christian Kelleher

#### Student Participant

Kennedy Williams

# ACTION RESEARCH IN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

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

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



**Audrey Huang**  
Exercise Science Major  
Mentored by Dan Price

**ARC Project:** Responsive Resourcing (RR) is a collaborative effort between University of Houston undergraduates and the UH Community Health Worker Initiative (UH CHWI) to support Houston's communities.

Student volunteers work directly with CHWs (community health workers) from geographic hubs of low socioeconomic status to search for and verify resources that support community members impacted by COVID-19 and other crises. RR was founded in April 2020 to address immediate barriers that hubs experienced during the pandemic and has since evolved in structure. It utilizes a strengths-based approach in which students and CHWs coordinate their unique skills and assets to find the best resources for individual community members. The program evaluation I am conducting on RR will be used to measure the effectiveness of the collaboration in finding and applying useful resources. I will also be identifying the aspects of the program that enhance resource matching efficiency and success..



**Kala Pham**  
Biology Major  
Mentored by Kimberly A. Pilkinton

**ARC Project:** This project assesses the perceived gap in gynecological health knowledge for adolescent girls, determines what medical resources are commonly used by adolescent girls, and identifies what type of

health education is most effective to help promote access to accurate information regarding adolescent gynecologic concerns based on our analysis. The research centers around data analysis of pilot classes for recently homeless adolescent girls to evaluate gaps in health literacy and effective modes of education. Through the results, I can create a health education initiative or platform that can successfully improve access to gynecological health information.



**David Rincon**  
Architecture Major  
Mentored by Donna Kacmar

**ARC Project:** This research project studies the communities around the Columbia Tap Hike and Bike Trail, which crosses through East Downtown and Third Ward. Using community feedback to propose improvements along the

trail, this project is intended to highlight some of the many benefits that urban infrastructure can provide. Currently, I am working with a group of people and nonprofits to create a pocket park along the trail, where we will be using my research to aid in its design and implementation.



**Neha Sunkara**  
Biology and Economics Majors  
Mentored by Michelle Belco

**ARC Project:** Food insecurity is briefly defined as experiencing the lack of or difficulty accessing affordable, nutritionally-dense foods. Providing food can be a stopgap measure, but ideally, food insecurity should be addressed

in conjunction with health disparities. The goal of this ARC project is to conduct case studies on Texas food distribution organizations and evaluate institutional program practices that address food insecurity and health disparities together. The first stage of the project identifies two to four food distribution organizations across five Texas counties and collects publicly available information regarding their individual programs. The second stage involves creating a repository system with parameters for each program and developing a coding scheme using similarities identified among the facilities' initiatives. Finally, a report will be produced that explains the coding scheme to identify key features of relevant programs and provide exemplars of each feature. This project will further evolve a more systematic relationship between food insecurity and health disparities within Texas food distribution organizations.





# PROVOST'S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

The **Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS)** program provides talented University of Houston students with the opportunity to participate in a semester long research project under the guidance of a UH faculty mentor. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. PURS recipients receive a \$1,000 scholarship to conduct a one-semester research project with their faculty mentors. For more information, contact Rikki Bettinger at [rbettinger@uh.edu](mailto:rbettinger@uh.edu).



## FALL 2021 PURS RECIPIENTS

### Anaga Ajoy

Mentored by Pranav Parikh  
Health and Human Performance

### Briana Azad

Mentored by Ann Cheek  
Biology and Biochemistry

### Miles Bednorz

Mentored by Debbie Harwell  
History

### Grace Conroy

Mentored by Debbie Harwell  
History

### Justin Dang

Mentored by Mehmet Orman  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

### Jared Davis

Mentored by Jerrod Henderson  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

### Ariana Delgado

Mentored by Nathan Canen  
Economics

### Susette Flores

Mentored by Elizabeth Gregory  
English and Women's,  
Gender & Sexuality Studies

### Angel Gamez

Mentored by Yi-Lung Mo  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

### Nabeeha Hasan

Mentored by Daniel Price  
Data Analytics in Student Hands,  
Honors

### Lily Huang

Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch  
Chemistry

### Oluwaseun Lagbenro

Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

### Benita Lalani

Mentored by Joyce Ogunrinde  
Health and Human Performance

### Zhihong (Andrea) Lin

Mentored by Sujata Sirsat  
Hotel and Restaurant Management

### Jennifer Lin

Mentored by Frank McKeon  
Biology and Biochemistry

### Cindy Luu

Mentored by Liming Li  
Physics

### Piya Malhan

Mentored by Bradley Smith  
Psychological, Health, & Learning  
Sciences

### Jayda Martinez

Mentored by Lorraine Reitzel  
Psychological, Health, & Learning  
Sciences

### Hemanshu Mirchandani

Mentored by Kiran Parthasarathy  
Accounting

### Sondos Moursy

Mentored by Christine  
LeVeaux-Haley  
Political Science, Honors

### Dorothy Mwakina

Mentored by Yingchun Zhang  
Biomedical Engineering

### Nhi Nguyen

Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering

### Brian Nguyen

Mentored by Debora Rodrigues  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

### Nimra Niazi-Galindo

Mentored by Joyce Ogunrinde  
Health and Human Performance

### Anushka Oak

Mentored by Benjamin Tamber-  
Rosenau  
Psychology

### Maria Eugenia Romero

Mentored by Islam Rizvanoghlu  
Economics

### Alexis Ruiz

Mentored by Meghana Trivedi  
Pharmacy Practice and Translational  
Research

### Alexandra (Sasha) Samperio

Mentored by Kei-Mu Yi  
Economics

### Nabeela Siddeeqe

Mentored by Ariel Ludwig  
Data Analytics in Student Hands,  
Honors

### Gundeep Singh

Mentored by Andreas Mang  
Mathematics

### Lujayna Taha

Mentored by Jose Contreras-Vidal  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

### Olivia Tran

Mentored by Gomika Udugamasooriya  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical  
Sciences

### Fernando Vasquez

Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

### Cenk Yigit

Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

# PROVOST'S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

## SPRING 2022 PURS RECIPIENTS

**Ishmam Alam**

Mentored by Rosenda Murillo  
Psychological, Health, & Learning  
Sciences

**Edward Armijo**

Mentored by Alamgir Karim  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

**Jacqueline Bahrami**

Mentored by Beau Alward  
Psychology

**Raghav Baskar**

Mentored by Jeffrey Rimer  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

**Brandt Bechtel**

Mentored by Dimitrios Kalliontzis  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Carlos Benitez**

Mentored by Tian Chen  
Mechanical Engineering

**Nicolas Betancourt**

Mentored by Rodolfo Ostilla Monico  
Mechanical Engineering

**Caleb Broodo**

Mentored by Gemunu Gunaratne  
Physics

**Amy Bui**

Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering

**Cole Carter**

Mentored by Minjung Shin  
Hotel and Restaurant Management

**Jacob Cruz**

Mentored by Ming Hu  
Pharmaceutics

**Jennifer Csicsery-Ronay**

Mentored by Ioannis Kakadiaris  
Computer Science

**Ariel Durham**

Mentored by Terry Hallmark  
Political Science, Honors

**Nusayba El-Ali**

Mentored by Mario Romero-Ortega  
Biomedical Engineering

**Jose Esparza Pinelo**

Mentored by Mehmet Sen  
Biology and Biochemistry

**Trevor Eustaquio**

Mentored by Dimitrios  
Hatzignatiou  
Petroleum Engineering

**Ashley Foxworthy**

Mentored by Lorraine Stock  
English

**Hedda Grelz**

Mentored by Kevin Bassler  
Physics

**Sophie Grubbs**

Mentored by Donna Kacmar  
Architecture

**Tatiana Haddad**

Mentored by Susan Rasmussen  
Comparative Cultural Studies

**Nhi Hoang**

Mentored by Lars Grabow  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

**Alaia Homawoo**

Mentored by Stacey Louie  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Anh Huynh**

Mentored by Jinghui Hou  
Decision and Information Sciences

**Benjamin Ilboudo**

Mentored by Zhao Bo  
Mechanical Engineering

**Waldemiro Junqueira**

Mentored by Jerrod Henderson  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

**Ted Kim**

Mentored by Peter Vekilov  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

**Chloe Levy**

Mentored by Caryn Tamber-  
Rosenau  
Modern and Classical Languages

**Alexander Mai**

Mentored by Richard Meisel  
Biology and Biochemistry

**Jing Ming Lim**

Mentored by Renita Horton  
Biomedical Engineering

**William Lipscomb**

Mentored by Marzia Cescon  
Mechanical Engineering

**Arya Loloee**

Mentored by Jakoah Brgoch  
Chemistry

**Lauren Lyles**

Mentored by Julie Dunsmore  
Psychological, Health, & Learning  
Sciences

**Ileagh MacIvers**

Mentored by Howard Pollack  
Musicology

**Andrew Martinez**

Mentored by Olafs Daugulis  
Chemistry

**Allen Mathew**

Mentored by Kamran Alba  
Engineering Technology

**Ziyad Mohiuddin**

Mentored by Charles Layne  
Kinesiology

**Maria Eduarda Mroczek**

Mentored by Benjamin Tamber-  
Rosenau  
Psychology

**Saad Nadeem**

Mentored by Cherine Hatem  
Human and Health Performance





# PROVOST'S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

## SPRING 2022 PURS RECIPIENTS (CONTINUED)

**Bao Thuan Nguyen**

*Mentored by Tshepo Masango Chéry  
History*

**Steven Nguyen**

*Mentored by Qin Feng  
Biology and Biochemistry*

**Tommy Nguyen**

*Mentored by Tian Chen  
Mechanical Engineering*

**Diane Nguyen**

*Mentored by Taewoo Lee  
Industrial Engineering*

**Radha Nune**

*Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering*

**Thi Phan**

*Mentored by Ali Kamrani  
Industrial Engineering*

**Aryana Pourmotamed**

*Mentored by Sheereen Majd  
Biomedical Engineering*

**Damien Price**

*Mentored by Claudia Ratti  
Physics*

**Shaiyan Rahman**

*Mentored by Nikolaos Malamataris  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering*

**Steven Ramirez**

*Mentored by Jonny Wu  
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences*

**Eshwar Ranganath**

*Mentored by Quenette Walton  
Graduate College of Social Work*

**Syed Rizvi**

*Mentored by Hien Van Nguyen  
Electrical and Computer Engineering*

**Andreina Ruiz**

*Mentored by Lorraine Stock  
English*

**Nathan Seto**

*Mentored by Robert Comito  
Chemistry*

**Anique Siddiqui**

*Mentored by Kerri Crawford  
Biology and Biochemistry*

**Dobri Stalev**

*Mentored by Dong Liu  
Mechanical Engineering*

**Manal Taroua**

*Mentored by Bo Zhao  
Mechanical Engineering*

**Jessica Thai**

*Mentored by Clayton Neighbors  
Psychology*

**Divya Thomas**

*Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology*

**Bao Han Tran**

*Mentored by Adam Fetterman  
Psychology*

**Tran Tran**

*Mentored by Tian Chen  
Mechanical Engineering*

**Ekta Upadhyay**

*Mentored by Sanghyuk Chung  
Biology and Biochemistry*

**Veera Venkata****Ramprajwal Vempatti**

*Mentored by Lars Grabow  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering*

**Elisabeth Walla**

*Mentored by Michael Zvolensky  
Psychology*

**Victoria Rose White**

*Mentored by Julie-Françoise Tolliver  
Modern and Classical Languages*

**Nayani Wickramaratne**

*Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering*

**Katherine Wong**

*Mentored by Vaughn Climenhaga  
Mathematics*

# 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 healthcare and the social determinants of health, including education, criminal justice, and the environment. Building on a model developed by the UH Community Health Worker Initiative, these projects are unified around a commitment to responsive engagement with community and show the many ways that new approaches to data science can avoid the pitfalls of top-down models for decision-making.



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

## 2021 FELLOWS



**Lucinda Ba**

*Biology and Psychology*  
Examining Whether Adults  
Diagnosed with Social Anxiety  
Disorder (SAD) Receive  
Evidence-Based Treatment



**Montinice Jordan**

*Comparative Cultural Studies*  
Decoding Workplace Health



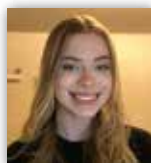
**Kala Pham**

*Biology*  
Identifying Perceptions and  
Intent Surrounding the HPV  
Vaccine in Texas



**Abby Chopra**

*Management Information Systems*  
Imposter Among Us: A  
Qualitative Analysis of Imposter  
Syndrome Posts on Reddit



**Margaret Kamholz**

*Mathematics*  
Investigating Treatment Barriers  
to those with Eating Disorders



**Ada Sison**

*Public Health*  
A Snapshot of Frailty in Humana  
Insurance Data



**Jacob Higdon**

*Computer Science*  
Mapping LGBTQ Interaction with  
Federal and State Prisons



**Randy Martinez**

*Computer Science*  
The Impact of Isolation on  
Mental Health: Lessons Learned  
from the COVID-19 Era



**Hannah Wolken**

*Computer Science*  
Mapping Advanced Coursework  
Access: The Role of School  
Attendance Boundaries and  
Income Segregation



**Aleen Jacob**

*Public Health*  
Observing Houston English  
Language Learners to Teacher  
Relationship Based on Language  
Proficiency in Elementary  
Schools



**Dwija Parikh**

*Computer Science and  
Mathematics*  
Decoding Administrative Data  
for Process of Care in Cancer  
Treatment



# PCCSM SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The **Partnership for Careers in Cancer Science and Medicine** summer program with national cancer researchers is hosted annually by The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Nominated for exemplifying compassion and an aptitude for research in the medical field, four Honors College students will collaborate and work alongside worldwide cancer experts for 10 weeks in summer 2022.

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

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

## 2022 PCCSM RESEARCHERS



**Kala Pham**



**Daniela Tovar**



**Varshini Vakulabharanam**

## 2022 RETURNING PCCSM RESEARCHERS



**Kristen Harris**



**Rael Memnon**



**Jordan Pemberton**

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

"I look forward to learning extensively about cancer research and studying under renowned experts in the field. With the knowledge and connections provided by this internship, I will develop a strong foundation for a career in medicine and public health." - **Kala Pham**

# HOUSTON SCHOLARS

Supported by the Office of the Provost and the Honors College, the **Houston Scholars** program is for high-achieving freshmen and sophomores to receive mentorship and scholarship funding to pursue research, internships, and other distinctive experiential learning opportunities. Through targeted programming, participants benefit from honing their academic and professional skills, developing connections with faculty, engaging in scholarly endeavors, and preparing to apply for nationally competitive scholarships and top graduate school programs.



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

For additional information about the Houston Scholars, please contact Ben Rayder at [btrayder@uh.edu](mailto:btrayder@uh.edu) in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards.





# HOUSTON SCHOLARS



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

## **Houston Scholars Participants:**

Kathryn Aing  
Briana Azad  
Zaina Boriek  
Helin Erdal  
Dima Ghazala  
Joaquin Gonzalez  
Alexandra Goodin

Mark Hanna  
Nabeeha Hasan  
Baycha Isik  
Neha Joshi  
Amber Jozwiak  
Kiran Khan  
Ehson Maleki

Or-El Meir  
Sondos Moursy  
Carlos Patterson  
Kala Pham  
Sarah Randall  
Jamie Rose  
Olivia Salinas

Sabah Shaikh  
Amritha Siby  
Jason Suerte  
DeBorah Thomas  
Ramya Valipe  
Mielad Ziaee





# FRAMEWORKS

**FrameWorks** is a year-long co-curricular program that provides curious, driven undergraduate students a supportive community of peers and faculty mentors as they conceive, research, write, present, and ultimately publish critical essays that draw on the interdisciplinary humanities. Each year, FrameWorks challenges students to broadly interpret an annual theme. Essays that meet editorial standards will be included in *FrameWorks: A Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Interdisciplinary Humanities*. The theme for 2020/2021 was “The Unknown.”

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



Anna Mayzenberg



Morgan Thomas

## 2021-2022 FELLOWS

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



### Akanksha Bhatia

Year: Junior  
Major: Industrial Design  
Research Topic: The Graphic Design of Ken Garland



### Angela Jardina

Year: Sophomore  
Major: English  
Research Topic: Moral Immunity in Francis Ford Coppola’s *The Godfather*



### Elizabeth Spencer

Year: Junior  
Major: Music (Cello)  
Research Topic: Shostakovich’s 13th Symphony



### Ada Cinar

Year: Sophomore  
Major: Biochem  
Research Topic: Cormac McCarthy’s *No Country for Old Men* in the Age of the Covid Pandemic



### Kiran Khan

Year: Sophomore  
Major: Political Science and Computer Science  
Topic: Reason and Belief in an Age of Misinformation



### Saamiya Syed

Year: Senior  
Major: Biotech  
Research Topic: Yellow Fever in 19th Century Literature



### Sarah Gawlik

Year: Sophomore  
Major: Psychology  
Research Topic: Sophocles’ *Oedipus Tyrannus* and the Plague of Athens



### Guadalupe Lombera

Year: Junior  
Major: Biology  
Research Topic: Paola Mendoza’s *Immigrants Are Essential Installations*



### Esraa Wasel

Year: Junior  
Major: Philosophy  
Research Topic: Morality and Misfortune in Euripides’ *Medea*



### Nabeeha Hasan

Year: Junior  
Major: Biomed  
Research Topic: Tobacco Advertising in the Civil Rights Era



### Hailey McAndrew

Year: Sophomore  
Major: Biotech  
Research Topic: Feminized Cancer in Anne Boyer’s *The Undying*

## FRAMEWORKS

### FrameWorks 2022 Call for Applications Deadline: June 30, 2022

"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 2022-2023 are now open.

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

"It opened a lot of doors for me, to do medical humanities research but also to take a step back and say, 'Wow, I really did do that.'"

**Leonard Wang (FrameWorks '21)**

#### 2022-2023 Theme: Constellation

Visit the website: [thehonorscollege.com/frameworks/apply](https://thehonorscollege.com/frameworks/apply)

"It translated into much better writing and much more cohesive thinking, for the rest of my life."

**Rebeca Hentges (FrameWorks '20)**



UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | THE HONORS COLLEGE



# MELLON RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The **Mellon Research Scholars** Program at the University of Houston seeks to contribute to the mission of creating a diverse academy in the humanities. Funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the program supports undergraduate students from backgrounds underrepresented in the academy and others with a demonstrated commitment to the goal of building a diverse academy. Mellon Research Scholars participate in an intensive two-week graduate school preparation program in May and a full-time, faculty-mentored summer research experience. The scholars also participate in faculty-led seminars and receive holistic mentorship throughout the year-long program. All students have the opportunity to develop research projects that appeal to their scholarly interests in their field of study.

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

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



**Ashlifa Acuña-Mena**

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



**Alejandro Aguilar**

Mentored by Maria Gonzalez  
English  
"A Rainbow of Razas": An Analysis of the Chicano Identity through Writings



**Carla Bullock**

Mentored by Johanna Luttrell  
Political Philosophy  
Cissexism and Trans Women's Denial of Subjectivity



**Citlali Chavana**

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



**Joshua Cornelius**

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



**Laura Delgado-Guzman**

Mentored by Mabel Cuesta  
Hispanic Studies  
New Feminist Wave in Latin America



**Ariel Durham**

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



**Queen Epomba**

Mentored by Melody Li  
Modern and Classical Languages  
Representation of Republican-Era Chinese Cities in State-Owned Adaptations Redefining Popular Culture in State-Controlled Media



# MELLON RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM



**Susette Flores**

Mentored by Lauren Brozovich  
English

Nature Grooms Man: An Ecofeminist  
Reading of Elizabeth Bishop's "The  
Moose"



**Allie Funk**

Mentored by Laurie Lambeth  
Creative Writing, Honors College

You Have a Boyfriend?:  
Representations of Disabled People  
and Intimacy in Film



**Tara Georgeson**

Mentored by Norah Gharala  
History

Conquering Tierra Firme: Labor  
Dependence and Conflict in Early  
Colonial Panama



**Diego Lopez**

Mentored by Carol Cooper  
Political Science, Honors College

Native American Rights in the New  
World: A Spanish Perspective



**Jack Morillo**

Mentored by Roberto Tejada  
English and Art History

Collaging Identity: Poetics to "Un-One"  
the Filipino



**Jimmy Nguyen**

Mentored by Brandon Lamson  
English, Honors College

Buddhism and Spiritual Technologies  
Amid the Pandemic



**Sydney Nutter**

Mentored by David Rainbow  
History, Honors College

What Do You Want? Comparing  
Psychological, Sociological, and  
Buddhist Theories on Happiness



**Andreina Ruiz**

Mentored by Amanda Baumle  
Sociology

Reception of Transgender Women in  
Online Lesbian Spaces



**Morgan Thomas**

Mentored by Debbie Harwell  
History

Creating the Spirit: Spirit of the  
Confederacy and the Robert E. Lee  
Chapter of the United Daughters of the  
Confederacy



**Daniela Trejo**

Mentored by Gabriela Baeza  
Ventura

Hispanic Studies  
Lifestyle of People of Mexican Heritage  
and Heart Disease



**Sandra Tzul**

Mentored by Debbie Harwell  
History

An Exchange Between Latinxs and  
Houston



**Victoria White**

Mentored by Julie F. Tolliver  
Modern and Classical Languages

Equity in Education: The Accessibility of  
Higher Education for Native American  
Students



# MELLON RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## 2021 MELLON SEMINAR SERIES

### SPRING & FALL 2021

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

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

## GRADUATE SCHOOL BOOTCAMP

**MAY 17, 2021**

### **Considering Graduate School and Selecting the “Right” Program**

Elizabeth Goodin-May and Mabel Cuesta, *Hispanic Studies*

**MAY 18, 2021**

### **Developing Competitive Application Materials/The Selection Committee Experience/The CV & Personal Statement**

Justin Coates, *Philosophy*

Richard Mizelle, *History*

Jennifer Wingard, *English*

Ben Rayder and Nimra Zubair, *OURMA*

**MAY 19, 2021**

### **Demystifying Research and the Senior Honors Thesis**

Brittni MacLeod & Rikki Bettinger, *OURMA*

### **Fundamentals and Ethics in Research**

Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill, *Sociology and Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies*

**MAY 20, 2021**

### **Developing Your Mentor Network and Conducting Undergraduate Research**

Amanda Ellis, *English*

Conducting Undergraduate Research, *Mellon Scholar Roundtable*

**MAY 21, 2021**

### **Components of a Strong Application Package**

Erika Jo Brown and Giuseppe Taurino

*English and Creative Writing*

**MAY 24, 2021**

### **Developing a Writing Practice**

Cedric Tolliver, *English*

Mark Sursavage, *Writing Center*

**MAY 25, 2021**

### **Strategies for Thriving in Graduate School**

Morgan McCain, *Counseling and Psychological Services*

The Graduate School Experience, *Graduate Student Roundtable*

**MAY 26, 2021**

### **Getting Your Research out There: Conference, Proposals, and the Elevator Pitch**

Richard Armstrong, *Modern and Classical Languages*

Max Rayneard, *Honors College*

### **Applying to Fellowships and Major Awards**

Ben Rayder, *OURMA*

**MAY 27, 2021**

### **Digital Humanities**

Lorena Gauthereau, *US Latino Digital Humanities*

**MAY 28, 2021**

### **Bootcamp Wrap-Up and Research Kick-Off**

# MELLON RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM



## Eligibility for 2023 Cohort:

- UH main student in the humanities with an expected graduation of Fall 2023 or Spring 2024
- Students highly motivated to conduct research and attend graduate school in the humanities
- Students from backgrounds underrepresented in the academy and others with a demonstrated commitment to the goal of building a diverse academy in the humanities

## Application Deadline:

**Mid-November 2022 (TBA)**

## 2022 Mellon Research Scholars

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

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



# 2021 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



The 2021 **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship** (SURF) program launched in June with 78 SURF Recipients. SURF students met the challenge of the continuing pandemic and provided remote research and communication plans to carry out their research in the event such flexibility was required. The students came together on Zoom each week for the virtual lecture series and learned

about data science and management, how to seek out and apply to competitive fellowships and graduate programs, and how to develop posters and present their work.

## 2021 SURF BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

### WEEK 1

#### **Responsible Conduct of Research**

Laura Gutierrez and Penny Maher  
*Division of Research*

Hanako Yoshida  
*Psychology*

Jeremy May  
*Chemistry*

### WEEK 2

#### **Getting the Most Out of Mentorship**

Norah Gharala  
*History and OURMA Alumni Panel*

### WEEK 3

#### **Expectations and Challenges in Research**

David Mayerich  
*Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Jakoah Brgoch  
*Chemistry*

Sarah Ehlers  
*English*

Luis Medina  
*Psychology*

### WEEK 4

#### **Managing Your Research Data**

Claudia Neuhauser  
*Division of Research*

Reid Boehm  
*University of Houston Libraries*

### WEEK 5

#### **July 4th Holiday**

### WEEK 6

#### **Applying for Fellowships and Major Awards**

Ben Rayder and Nimra Zubair  
*OURMA*

### WEEK 7

#### **Building an Effective Resume and CV as a Researcher**

Adalia Espinosa and Priyanka Raut  
*University Career Services*

### WEEK 8

#### **Applying to Graduate School**

Panel of Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students

### WEEK 9

#### **Developing an Effective Poster and Presentation Etiquette**

Stuart Long  
*OURMA*

### WEEK 10

#### **Celebration & SURF Alumni Panel**

#### **SPECIAL THANKS TO SURF AND OURMA ALUMNI FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION:**

Paulina Ezquerra  
Christina Gligorova  
Ersie Gentzis  
Vincent Laroche  
Anushka Oak  
Gabby Olinger  
Verónica Ordóñez  
Pierce Popson

# 2021 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



**Baichuan Chi**  
Mentored by Amaury Lendasse  
Information and Logistics  
Technology  
A Multi-ELM Model for Incomplete  
Data



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



**Raul Cruz Quintanilla**  
Mentored by Christopher Clarke  
**Economics**  
The Effects of Remittances on Population's Income Share



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



**Taadesha Denson**  
Mentored by Alexander Statsyuk  
**Chemistry**  
The Mechanism of Ubiquitin Ligase in Protein Degradation



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



**Akash Doshi**  
Mentored by Yi-Lung Mo  
**Civil and Environmental Engineering**  
Development of Wireless Smart Concrete Sensing Technology Using Carbon Nanofiber Aggregate



**Chenelle Etuk**  
Mentored by Ke-He Ruan  
**Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology**  
The Development of Single Polypeptide Chain Insulin



**Michael Halamicek**  
Mentored by Thomas Teets  
**Chemistry**  
Iridium-Coumarin Ratiometric Oxygen Sensors



**Audrey Gale Hall**  
Mentored by Caryn Tamber-Rosenau  
**Comparative Cultural Studies**  
Outing Tsara'at, the Torah's Queer Plague



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



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



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



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



**Midhat Jafry**  
Mentored by Lorraine Reitzel  
**Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences**  
Perceived Social Support Attenuates the Association between Stress and Health-related Quality of Life among Adults Experiencing Homelessness



**Daniel Johns**  
Mentored by Douglas Erwing  
**History, Honors College**  
Permanently Recording History to Mitigate Censorship and Data Rot



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





**Natalie Kubosh**  
Mentored by Yoon Koh  
Hotel and Restaurant Management  
The Community's Impact on  
Crowdfunding Success



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



**Hoang Nguyen**  
Mentored by Shailendra Joshi  
Mechanical Engineering  
Analysis of Ductile Damage with  
Sigmoidal Hardening



## Khoa Nguyen

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



## Ayse Ozkan

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



## Jacob Pakula

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



## Aadarshi Patel

Mentored by Nikolaos Malamataris  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering  
Drag Coefficient for Stokes Flow



## Kala Pham

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



## Thi Phan

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



## Braian Pita

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



## Jocelyn Ramos

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



## Maria Eugenia Romero

Mentored by Islam Rizvanoglu  
Economics  
Please California my Texas: Would  
Adopting the Low Carbon Fuel  
Standard Impact Texas' CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions?



## Nivriti Sabhnani

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



## Aniqua Salwa

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



## Lujayna Taha

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



## Daniela Tovar

Mentored by Jennifer Vardeman  
Communication  
Comparison of Pelvic Floor Disorder  
Communication Between Younger and  
Older Women in Rural Communities



## Zoe Vela

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



## Mallory Walters

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

**Casey Freeman**

Mentored by Lars Grabow  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
CO and NO Co-Oxidation in PdCu Catalysts

**Nikki Garza**

Mentored by Jaye Derrick  
Psychology  
Celebrity Crushes: The Role of Understanding Attitudes and Relationships

**Lantz Han**

Mentored by Agnes DeFranco  
Hotel and Restaurant Management  
The Moderating Effect of Food Service Experience on the Relationship of Gender Diversity of Crowdfunding Creator and Funding Success Lantz Han & Dr. DeFranco

**Salman Iqbal**

Mentored by Elizabeth Fletcher  
Decision and Information Sciences  
The Compressed Upstream Supply Chain of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

**Anastasia Martinez**

Mentored by Jacinta Conrad  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Dynamics of Viral Nanoparticles as Reporters in Lateral Flow Essays

**Ava Nelson**

Mentored by Jose Luis Contreras-Vidal  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Art Science AI: Neural Basis of Creativity

**Jack O'Connell**

Mentored by Richard Armstrong  
Modern and Classical Languages  
Political Violence in the Late Roman Republic

**Amrutha Padmasolala**

Mentored by Saira Rab  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences  
Dating During the Pandemic with an Emphasis on Dating Apps

**Arian Parsaie**

Mentored by Vivien Coulsoun-Thomas  
University Eye Institute  
An Analysis Characterizing the Composition of the Corneal Limbal Epithelial Stem Cell Niche (LSCN)

**Arshia Riaz**

Mentored by Charles Layne  
Health and Human Performance  
The Function of Methodology to Changing Gravitational Load During Treadmill Walking

**Alondra Torres**

Mentored by Josiah Rector  
History  
Houston's Urban Farming Scene Research Project





# 2022 POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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

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**Alejandro Aguilar**

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

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**Alexis Allamprese**

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

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**Zahir Amin**

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

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**Thomas Avent**

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

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**Briana Azad**

Mentored by Ann Cheek  
Biology and Biochemistry  
Mammal Biodiversity Across Houston's Bayous

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**Lucinda Ba**

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

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**Thomas Broekhuis**

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

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**Dylan Campbell**

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

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**Carlos Campos Jr**

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

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**Cole Carter**

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

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**Jennifer Csicsery-Ronay**

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

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**Jared Davis**

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

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**Natalie Dean**

Mentored by Kristina Neumann  
History  
Coinage of Zenobia, Rebel Queen of Palmyra

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**Caycel John Desales**

Mentored by Greg Morrison  
Physics  
Actin under stress: A Coarse Grained Approach

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**David Edquilang**

Mentored by Jeff Feng  
Industrial Design  
3D Printed Limb Prosthesis

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**Susette Flores**

Mentored by Elizabeth Gregory  
English  
Mastery of The Visual Tapestry

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**Smiti Gandhi**

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

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# 2022 POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Emma Garcia**

Mentored by Kara Manning  
Psychology

The Moderating Role of Fatigue Sensitivity in the Relation between Depression and Alcohol and Opioid Misuse among Adults with Chronic Low Back Pain

**Sophie Grubbs**

Mentored by Donna Kacmar  
Architecture

Timeline of Accommodation and Travel

**Tatiana Haddad**

Mentored by Susan Rasmussen  
Comparative Cultural Studies

Tourism in Wadi Rum, Jordan: An Anthropological Examination of the Bedouins' Contemporary Cultural Adaptation

**Nikki Hammond**

Mentored by Lars Grabow  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Using Predictive Modeling to Improve Catalyst Performance in Low Temperature Diesel Combustion

**Jacob Higdon**

Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Honors, Engaged Data Science

LGBTQ Overrepresentation, Experience, and Mental Health Outcomes in Federal and State Prisons by State

**Audrey Huang**

Mentored by Daniel Price  
Honors, Data and Society

The Evolution of the Collaborative Model in Resource Matching Between CHWs and Undergraduate Students

**Waldemiro Junqueira**

Mentored by Jerrod Henderson  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Exploring Undergraduate Engineering Experiences

**Margaret Kamholz**

Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Honors, Engaged Data Science

Investigating Treatment Barriers to Those with Eating Disorders

**Seun Lagbenro**

Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

Infant Attention to Mouth During Expressive and Still-Face Trials

**Brian Lee**

Mentored by Jeff Feng  
Industrial Design

The Humanization of Equipment for Occupational Therapy Patients

**Carolina Lopez-Herrera**

Mentored by Lorena Gauthereau  
Mexican American Studies

1917- 1918 Influenza Epidemic Project

**Alexander Mai**

Mentored by Richard Meisel  
Biology and Biochemistry

Assessing a Possible Regulatory Network of Obp56h in *Drosophila Melanogaster*

**Piya Malhan**

Mentored by Bradley Smith  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

Prosocial Outcomes of Mindfulness for College Students in Terms of Game Theory

**Jayda Martinez**

Mentored by Lorraine Reitzel  
Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

Guest Support for Outdoor Smoke-Free Policies within a Homeless Shelter

**Bryan Medina**

Mentored by Bradley McConnell  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

A Long-acting  $\beta$ arrestin "Biased" Agonist to Selectively Activate AT<sub>1</sub>R to Confer Cardioprotection During Heart Failure and COVID-19 Cardiovascular Complications

**Hana Mohamad**

Mentored by Johanna Bick  
Psychology

Neural correlates of Emotion Regulation In Syrian Refugee Children: An ERP Study

**Raul Caballero Montes**

Mentored by Meidi Gu  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Immunology

Manipulation of MAP3K Signaling to Improve CAR-T Cell Therapy

**Mohammadmehdi Mortazavi**

Mentored by Jeff Feng  
Industrial Design

Assisting Children with Hand and Wrist Spasticity with 3D Printing and Elastic Materials

## Jalal Mohsin

Mentored by Khashayar Hematpour  
EP Heart/UT Physicians

Post Left Ventricular Assist Device Implantation  
Ventricular Tachycardia

## Steven Nguyen

Mentored by Qin Feng  
Biology and Biochemistry

Identifying the Role of lncRNAs in CRPC

## Steven Nguyen

Mentored by Qin Feng  
Biology and Biochemistry

Identifying the Role of lncRNAs in CRPC

## Kim Nguyen

Mentored by Christina Miyawaki  
Graduate College of Social Work

Vietnamese Aging and Care Survey (VACS) Wave 2: Sociodemographic and Health Characteristics of Vietnamese Older Adults and Family Caregivers in Houston, Texas

## Nimra Niazi

Mentored by Joyce Ogunrinde  
Health and Human Performance

College Student-Athlete: The Effect of Athletic Identity on Student-Athlete Wellbeing

## Radha Nune

Mentored by Chandra Mohan  
Biomedical Engineering

ALCAM Deficiency Dampens Renal Inflammation in Lupus Nephritis

## Anushka Oak

Mentored by Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau  
Psychology

Searching for Gait Markers of Cognitive-Motor Dual-task Interference using Machine Learning

## Daniel Palacios

Mentored by Terry Hill  
NASA - Johnson Space Center

Taxonomical Modeling and Classification in Space Hardware Failure Reporting

## Dwija Parikh

Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Honors, Engaged Data Science

Decoding Administrative Data for Process of Care in Cancer Treatment

## Kala Pham

Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Honors, Engaged Data Science

Identifying Perceptions and Intent Surrounding the HPV Vaccine

## Kala Pham

Mentored by Kimberly Pilkinton  
Clinical Science, UH College of Medicine

Assessing and Expanding Gynecological Knowledge in Houston Communities

## Steven Ramirez

Mentored by Jonny Wu  
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Searching for Slabs within the Earth's Mantle through Tomographic Analysis of the Pacific Basin

## David Rincon

Mentored by Donna Kacmar  
Architecture

The Columbia Tap Trail - Measuring Heat Island Effect and Air Quality Discrepancies

## Alexis Ruiz

Mentored by Meghana Trivedi  
Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research

Effects of ADGRF1 Overexpression on Phospho- and Total HER2 Proteins by IHC in HER2+ Breast Tumors in Vivo

## Parsa Safa

Mentored by Mahdi Safa  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

The Role of HydroDiesel in Sustainable Development and Economic Growth

## Ritu Sampige

Mentored by Brenda Rhoden and Cintia de Paiva  
Honors, Leadership Studies; Ocular Surface Center, Baylor College of Medicine

Utilizing Conjoined Mice Models to Explore the Aging Lacrimal Gland

## Quratulain Shekoh

Mentored by Noorulain Shekoh  
Ophthalmology and Valley Retina Eye Institute

Association of Visual Acuity in MacTel 2

## Zachary Shilling

Mentored by Candice Alfano  
Psychology

Childhood Trauma Severity is Associated with Objective Sleep Disturbance but not Elevated Cortisol

## Gundeep Singh

Mentored by Andreas Mang  
Mathematics

Effective Numerical Schemes for Ill-Posed Inverse Problems

## Saamiya Syed

Mentored by Greg Morrison  
Physics

Self-assembly and Nonlinear Rheology of Crosslinked Semiflexible Polymer Networks



**Divya Thomas**

Mentored by Hanako Yoshida  
Psychology

Social Gaze Patterns During Play in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

**Ian Thompson**

Mentored by Kristina Neumann  
History

Religious Life in Ancient Damascus: A Study Through Coins

**Samuel Tran**

Mentored by Douglas Erwing  
Honors, History

The Effect of COVID-19 on Third Ward Food Distribution Attendance

**Olivia Tran**

Mentored by Gomika Udugamasooriya  
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Evaluating Cytotoxic Activity of KRAS-Targeted Peptoids

**Ekta Upadhyay**

Mentored by Sang-Hyuk Chung  
Biology and Biochemistry

ML265 Promotes PKM2 Tetramerization and Reduces Cell Proliferation in Cervical Cancer Cells

**Elisabeth Walla**

Mentored by Michael Zvolensky  
Psychology

The Role of Anxiety Sensitivity Among Latinx COVID-19 Survivors

**Nayani Wickramaratne**

Mentored by Vedhus Hoskere  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Intelligent Ariel Robots for Autonomous Wind Turbine Blade Maintenance

**Hannah Wolken**

Mentored by Andrew Kapral  
Honors, Engaged Data Science

Mapping Advanced Coursework: The Role of School Attendance Boundaries and Income Segregation



# 2022 GROUP PRESENTATIONS

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**Ishmam Alam, David Mullens, and Jagath Nambiar**

Mentored by Rosenda Murillo

Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

Perceived Workplace Safety is Not Associated with Hypertension among U.S. Adults

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**Arfa Ali, Jhanvi Bhatt, and Kristin Dinh**

Mentored by Rosenda Murillo

Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences

Food Insecurity is Associated with Moderate and Severe Psychological Distress in Latino Adults

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**Faith Amerson, Sarosha Momin, Ana Morales, Justine Samaroo, and Priya Thomas**

Mentored by Laura Lee

College of Education

UH CODE RED: Menstrual Hygiene Needs of Individuals on the University of Houston Campus

---

**Hufsa Arain, Caroline Sizemore, and Phuongthy Tran**

Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program

Honors College

Writing to Inspire Successful Education: Analyzing the Effects of Mentor Confidence on Mentee Performance

---

**Tiffany Bui, Hannah Reeves, and Michelle Tran**

Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program

Honors College

The Effects of Science Mentoring on Mentee Confidence

---

**Brandon Castaneda, Edwin Quintanilla, and Jillian Voehl**

Mentored by Mahdi Safa

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Plastic Bricks, The Future for Infrastructure

---

**Vyshnavi Davuluri, Zunayra Hemani, and Ronald Thomas**

Mentored by Marc Hanke

Honors, Biology and Biochemistry

The Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19

---

**Anayeli Euceda, Alyssa Green, Michelle Nguyen, Kala Pham, and Tracy Vu**

Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program

Honors College

Speak It Into Existence: Empowering Women Through Public Speaking

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**Shane Foreman, David Nguyen, Diya Patel, and Samiha Zaman**

Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program

Honors College

How has the COVID-19 Pandemic Affected Traditionally Disadvantaged Students Taking the ACT in a Low-income Houston High School?

---

**Esteban Gomez, Dynesse Lapizar, and****Josue Ramirez-Torres**

Mentored by Mahdi Safa

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Are Hempcrete Blocks a Reliable Replacement in the Construction Industry?

---

**Dynesse Lapizar and Jocelyn Zarazua**

Mentored by Mahdi Safa

Civil and Environmental Engineering

King Solomon's Temple a Cornerstone for Modern Construction

---

**Mark Mathews and Peijun Zhao**

Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program

Honors College

Evaluating SAT and College-based High School Mentorship Program Effectiveness from Fall 2019 to Fall 2021

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**Noor Shabaneh and Sophia Sierra Quintero**

Mentored by Bonner Leaders Program

Honors College

Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Math Mentoring Program on Underserved 7th-Grade Students in HISD

---

**Neha Sunkara and Samuel Tran**

Mentored by Michelle Belco

Honors, Political Science

Comprehending Institutional Program Practices of Texas Food Distribution Organizations

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"Participating in undergraduate research has been incredibly inspiring and has taught me numerous skills that I look forward to applying in future research endeavors. I have had a wonderful experience conducting in-field research thus far and am excited to see what's in store for the future!"

**Briana Azad**

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

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

**Kevin Fleming**

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



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

**Paul Vaughn**

*Economics Major  
SURF and HERE Recipient*



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

**Andreina Ruiz**

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





## University of Houston

The Honors College

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