

Kyra Bennett

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EDUCATION

University of Houston, Houston, TX

May 2026

Master of Science, Geology

GPA: 3.4

Relevant Courses: Petroleum Geochemistry, Machine Learning for Geologists, Isotope Geochemistry, Basin Analysis

University of Houston-Downtown, Houston, TX

May 2024

Bachelor of Science, Geoscience with concentration in Geochemistry

Minor: Chemistry

GPA: 3.2

Relevant Courses: Inorganic Geochemistry, Instrumental Methods of Analysis, Organic Chemistry, Geology of Ore Deposits

SKILLS

Field: Mapping and cross sectioning, sampling, Brunton style compass, mineral and rock identification

Laboratory: ICP-OES, AAS, GC, geochemical analysis, polarizing microscope

Software: Petrel, Python, StructureSolver, (MS) Excel, Teams, Outlook, PowerPoint

AWARDS AND HONORS

Houston Gem & Mineral Society Award (\$2,500)

August 2025

UH Graduate School Fund

Fall 2024 – Fall 2025

Scholars Academy Leadership Scholarship (\$1,000)

May 2024

Scholars Academy Scholarship (\$2,500 each year)

Aug. 2021 – May 2024

DOED MSEIP Grant - P120A230070 (\$700)

January 2024

INTERNSHIPS

FlameSeal LLC, Houston, TX

Laboratory Assistant

May 2025 – Aug. 2025

- Assisted in the development of a new fire-retardant formulation specifically designed for leather applications.
- Conducted laboratory testing and performance evaluations to assess product effectiveness.
- Identified and implemented improvements to enhance fire-retardant performance and durability.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Houston, Houston, TX

Aug. 2024 – Present

Graduate Thesis – Graduate Research Student

- Developing a chemometric machine learning framework for oil classification based on GC/MS-QQQ and elemental analysis data.
- Utilizing oil samples from 2,000+ UH-CPG catalog from various basins and formations around the world.

University of Houston-Downtown, Houston, TX

Aug. 2023 – May 2024

Paleogene Basalt-Rhyolite Complex in Paisley Hills, Oregon – Undergraduate Research Student

- Analyzed chemical and mineral compositions of rock samples from Paisley, Oregon, using ICP-OES and thin sections, to compare to surrounding lithologically similar units.
- Assisted in determining the Paisley Hills mafic flows are likely a remnant of early Cascades arc, though older in age.

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

University of Houston, Houston, TX

EAS Teaching Assistant – Physical Geology TA

Aug. 2025 - Present

- Assisting in developing and implementing lesson plans.
- Mentoring 22 students.
- Providing constructive, positive feedback to students in a timely manner.

University of Houston-Downtown, Houston, TX

Natural Science Tutor - Geoscience Tutor

Jan. 2024 – May 2024

- Assisted around 50 students total online and in-person in geosciences courses (Field Methods, Paleontology, Petrology) taught at UHD.
- Mentored 24 students in capstone class beside Dr. Sarah Heinlein.
- Collaborated with professors during lessons.

Scholars Academy - Peer Mentor

Aug. 2021 - May 2024

- Worked directly with Senior Peer Mentor and Scholars Academy staff to arrange events such as the Student Research Conference, Graduate School, and Internship Fair.
- Involved in leading and mentoring 46 students total through personal and professional obstacles and responsibilities.
- Coordinated between students and SA leadership on upcoming dates, service-learning projects, and events.

UHD Geology Club – Member

Nov. 2021 – May 2024

- Coordinated fundraisers on campus for geological field trips.
- Gathered information on geology-related seminars and conferences for other members.
- Communicated between other geological organizations and companies for job opportunities.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

IMAGE 25

Aug. 2025

UH Student Research Day 2025

May 2025

UH EAS Spring 2025 Structure and Tectonics Seminar

March 2025

31st Annual Milton B. Dobrin Lecture

Feb. 2025

HGS 26th Annual Robert E. Sheriff Lecture

Nov. 2024

Scholars Academy Annual Student Research Conference

April 2024

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)

March 2025 – Present

Houston Gem and Mineral Society (HGMS)

Nov. 2022 – Present

University of Houston-Downtown, Scholars Academy (SA)

Aug. 2021 – May 2024

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Humble Civic Center, Humble, TX

Nov. 2021 – Nov. 2024

Houston Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show

- Educated families and children about the basics of geology through interactive displays and games.
- Networked and cooperated with staff, vendors, and guests at the annual show.

Sheldon Lake State Park, Houston, TX

May 2023 – May 2024

Trail Maintenance

- Cleared trails of trash and branches to allow more accessibility to guests.
- Hosted physical geology workshops for families and children alongside state park staff.

Children's Museum Houston, Houston, TX

October 2022

American Chemistry Society, Fabulous Fibers

- Introduced young children to chemistry through various activities and displays.
- Created a pH indicator and explained the structural formulas of different fabrics with Play-Doh.

REFERENCES

Dr. Jagoš R. Radović – Research Associate Professor, Director of Center for Petroleum Geochemistry at the University of Houston
Contact: jradovic@central.uh.edu

Dr. Kenneth Johnson – Associate Professor & Geoscience Coordinator at the University of Houston-Downtown
Contact: 713-222-5375, johnsonk@uhd.edu

Dr. Sarah Heinlein – Assistant Professor at Angelo State University
Contact: snheinlein@live.com

Dr. Mary Jo Parker – Executive Director of Scholars Academy & Natural Science Faculty at the University of Houston-Downtown
Contact: 713-221-8471, parkerm@uhd.edu

Professor Mitsue Nakamura – Senior Lecturer at the University of Houston-Downtown
Contact: 713-221-8556, nakamuram@uhd.edu