

## John Alexis Guerra-Gomez



John Alexis Guerra-Gomez was born in Envigado and raised in Pereira, Colombia. He completed his undergraduate studies in Computer Science with honors at the Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira (UTP). For his thesis, in which John created the IRIS Project, a system that enables visually impaired people to see colors with their hands, he earned the highest grade (Laureado).

John received the Jorge Roa Martínez Scholarship at the UTP to complete his master's in Enseñanza de la Matemática (the Teaching of Mathematics). During his graduate studies, he worked as a mathematics professor. John also founded DUTO ([www.duto.org](http://www.duto.org)) with his colleagues who had collaborated on the IRIS Project. While continuing to develop IRIS, DUTO focuses on engineering with a social purpose. With DUTO, John and his colleagues have participated in and won several global competitions including: Ventures, Tic Americas (OAS), Global TiC, Bid Challenge Colombia, Agentes de Cambio (MTV - IDB), Global Young Social Entrepreneurs Competition, and Stockholm Challenge.

John's research now centers on human-computer interaction (HCI). He hopes that as a recipient of the Fulbright Science and Technology Award he will achieve his goal of employing science to developing new solutions for people in need. He is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the California Institute of Technology.