



# Igniting Innovation in Georgia

## ARCS® FOUNDATION ATLANTA SCHOLAR YEARBOOK

CULTIVATING SCIENTISTS  
IN GEORGIA SINCE 1992

# 2024



# Igniting Innovation in Georgia

## **ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.**

*"Funding STEM Scholars who will change the world"*

### **Scholar Awards Celebration**

November 13, 2024

Piedmont Driving Club

A collective story, in pictures and videos, of an organization run by altruistic, dedicated women supporting the next generation of America's most brilliant scientists with the help of visionary donors – and the unique connection that exists between all of us.

---

### **ARCS® FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT**

---

ARCS Foundation advances science and technology in the United States by providing financial awards to academically outstanding U.S. citizens studying to complete degrees in science, engineering and medical research.

**[www.atlanta.arcsfoundation.org](http://www.atlanta.arcsfoundation.org)**

ARCS Foundation Atlanta

P.O. Box 52124

Atlanta, GA 30355

Instagram: @arcsfoundationatlanta

Facebook: @ARCSFoundationAtlantaChapter

Twitter: @ARCS\_Atlanta

LinkedIn: ARCS Foundation, Inc.

*ARCS® and its logo are registered with  
the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.*

# ARCS® FOUNDATION ATLANTA CHAPTER

---

ARCS® Foundation advances science and technology in the United States by providing financial awards to academically outstanding U.S. citizens studying to complete degrees in science, engineering, and medical research. Since its founding in 1958, ARCS Foundation has provided over 21,000 scholar awards totaling over \$136,000,000. We have approximately 1,200 members in 15 chapters across the United States.

ARCS Foundation's principles and practices have remained consistent since our founding in 1958:

- 100% of award contributions go directly to fund scholars.
- Recipient schools are qualified through rigorous eligibility requirements.
- Schools select scholars based on academic achievement without regard for race, creed, or gender.
- Scholars are U.S. citizens and students of high achievement in the basic sciences.
- ARCS Foundation scholar award funds are raised and distributed locally.
- ARCS Foundation is an all-women volunteer organization.

ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter was founded in 1992. The vision of ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter is to fund STEM scholars who will change the world. Our support of each scholar is an expression of our belief that each scholar holds the promise of a better future. ARCS Foundation scholar awards are unrestricted, and these funds enable our scholars to conduct research that has the potential to solve the challenges of today. This is the opportunity that ARCS Foundation offers to our donors, the opportunity to change the world.

During our 32-year history, we have provided over \$7.5 million for more than 1,100 individual scholar awards. The 2024 ARCS Foundation scholar awards total \$397,500 and will go to 53 scholars at Emory, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College, and the University of Georgia. These scholars are among our country's best and brightest in the fields of science, engineering and medical research.

The funding of our scholars is made possible by the generosity of our donors and volunteers. We are deeply grateful for your support of over 30 years.


Carolynn Cooper  
*President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter*



# ARCS® Foundation Atlanta Thanks our Presenting Sponsor



Roche Diagnostics is the world's largest biotech company and the global leader of in-vitro diagnostics. The company pursues scientific excellence to discover and develop medicines and diagnostics for improving and saving the lives of people around the world. Roche Diagnostics is proud to support ARCS® Foundation's mission to advance science.





# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-2024 SUPPORTERS

---

Special thanks to our MONARCS® partners.

David, Helen and Marian Woodward Fund



**NORTHSIDE  
HOSPITAL**

The Wilbur and Hilda  
GLENN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Joseph G. and Inez Crawford Burtchaell Foundation, Inc.



The Graves Foundation, Inc.

---

We are pleased to recognize the following donors who have contributed to the Atlanta Chapter of ARCS® Foundation throughout our history.

---

**DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN CUMULATIVE GIFTS OF \$500,000 OR MORE**

---

ARCS Foundation Atlanta, Inc. Membership  
Joachim Herz Stiftung

---

**DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN CUMULATIVE GIFTS OF \$250,000 OR MORE**

---

The Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation

---

**DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN CUMULATIVE GIFTS OF \$100,000 OR MORE**

---

BlackRock	The Graves Foundation, Inc.
Joseph G. and Inez Crawford	Betsy* and Harald* Hansen
Burtchaell Foundation, Inc.	J. H. Holdings
Peg and Keith Cooley	Northside Hospital
Sylvia and Bruce Dick	The Sartain Lanier Family
Marcia and John Donnell	Foundation, Inc.
Patsy and Jere Drummond	Siemens
John and Mary Franklin Foundation	UPS Foundation
Hilda D. Glenn Fund	

---

**DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN CUMULATIVE GIFTS OF \$70,000 OR MORE**

---

Madeline* and Howell Adams, Jr.	Leslie and Skip Petter
Sara Jean and Fred Burke	Regina Olchowski and Ed Potter
Georgia-Pacific Foundation	Printpack, Inc. and Gay and Erskine
The Imlay Foundation	Love Foundation
Sally and Warren* Jobe	Roche
Ann and Larry* Klamon	The Zeist Foundation

---

**DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN CUMULATIVE GIFTS OF \$50,000 OR MORE**

---

The Erroll and Elaine Davis Charitable	Deborah and William Liss
Giving Foundation	Sherry and John Lundeen
Genuine Parts Company	Patty and Doug Reid Family
Sally and Jim Hinkle	Foundation
Libby and Gary Jones	David, Helen and Marian Woodward
Pat and Nolan Leake	Fund

---

**DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN CUMULATIVE GIFTS OF \$25,000 OR MORE**

---

Kathy and Dennis Berry	Petra Herz
Jenny and Dick Cannon	Cecile Jones
Nancy Chambers	Kaiser Permanente
Carolynn Cooper and Pratap Mukharji	Sarah Kennedy
Ada Lee and Pete* Correll	King & Spalding
Susie and Bill Deyo	Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
Martha Lee Doyle	Linda Kay and John McGowan
Anne Deeley Easterly	Carol and Bob Meier
Franklin Foundation	Teed Poe
Marie Foster	Nancy Robitaille
Marty and John Gillin	Frances and Kurt Swensson
Joan Goodhew	Cathy Wahlen

*\*Deceased*

# 2024 SCHOLAR AWARD DONORS

---

## **GALILEO CIRCLE \$7,500 and above**

---

ARCS® Foundation Atlanta Membership	Joachim Herz Stiftung
Sara Jean and Fred Burke	Ann and Larry* Klamon
Joseph G. and Inez Crawford	Linda Kay and John McGowan
Burtchaell Foundation, Inc.	Northside Hospital
Carolynn Cooper and Pratap Mukharji	HA (Gus) Peed
Sylvia and Bruce Dick	Regina Olchowski and Ed Potter
Mary Dodson	Leslie and Skip Petter
Marcia and John Donnell	Roche Diagnostics Corporation
Hilda D. Glenn Fund	Cathy Wahlen
Sally and Jim Hinkle	David, Helen and Marian Woodward Fund

---

## **EINSTEIN CIRCLE \$5,000 - \$7,499**

---

Mollie Winston Barrow	Georgia-Pacific Foundation
Elaine and Erroll Davis	The Graves Foundation, Inc.
Genuine Parts Company	Gina Lim

---

## **MADAME CURIE CIRCLE \$2,500 - \$4,999**

---

Cynthia Arrendale	Margaret Joslin
Lisa and Joe* Bankoff	Liz Lauer
Barbara Bazzel	Pat and Nolan Leake
Sally Boice	Deborah and Bill Liss
Nancy Chambers	Sherry and John Lundeen
Martha Lee Doyle	Susan McGonigle
Anne Deeley Easterly	Mary Jo Peed
Molly and Mike Eskew	Patty and Doug Reid Family Foundation
Monica Frazier	Jamie Skinner
Angelle Hamilton	Frances and Kurt Swensson
Caroline Hardin	Ann Taylor
Cecile Jones	

---

## **CENTURY CIRCLE \$1,000 - \$2,499**

---

Yetty Arp	Meg Heyer
Evelyn Judd Asbill	Eileen Higgins
Kelley Berman	Betsy Kazazian
Donna Burchfield	Maureen Lobb
Anne Boyd	Betts Love
Susan Boyd	Sally McDaniel
Rachel Burke	Caroline Moise
Jamie Deeter	Pace Parsons
Sarah Ebersole	Laura Pease
Kristen and Duncan Gibbs	Nivedita Persaud
Anne and Rick Gieryn	Valerie Peterson
Marty and John Gillin	Barbara Bing Pliner
Joanne Gross	Teed M. Poe
Laura Gruber	Rebecca Riley
William Hayes III	Tricia Rosenbaum

## 2024 SCHOLAR AWARD DONORS

---

### CENTURY CIRCLE \$1,000 - \$2,499

---

Deede Stephenson	Suzy Wasserman
Suzanne Sullivan	Mary Watson
Liz Troy	Shelley Woods Whiting
Margaret and William* Turk	

---

### FRIENDS OF ARCS® ATLANTA FOUNDATION \$100 - \$999

---

Anonymous Donor	Katrina Johansson
Jane Bernot	Kelli Keb
Don Bieger	Debby Kelly
Catherine Cage	Robin King
Dr. Stacey Dixon	Missy McClatchey
Ree Edwards	Anne Sterchi*
Betty Feezor	Pat Tuft
Laura Hardman	Yardley Williams
Janis Henry	

---

### ARCS® SCHOLAR ALUMNI DONORS

---

Dr. Rachele Arnold	Dr. Deborah Kilpatrick
Dr. Rachel Burke	Dr. Kristopher Kozak
Dr. Lowell Combs	Mr. Kenneth Lyons
Dr. Michael Davis	Mr. Andrew Peterson
Dr. Staci Davis	Dr. Nikki Sawyer
Dr. Stacey Dixon	Dr. Sharon Sullivan
Dr. Brian Fralix	Dr. Alejandro Toriello
Dr. Katherine Gass	Dr. Patrick Yaner

*\*Deceased*

# ARCS® ATLANTA CHAPTER ENDOWMENT DONORS

---

## ARCS® ATLANTA ENDOWMENT HISTORY

---

Thank you to Lou and Tom Glenn and the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation for the initial contributions that established our ARCS Atlanta Chapter Endowment. In another extraordinary gift, the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation approved a grant in 2024 which will allow the ARCS Atlanta Endowment to surpass \$1 million.

---

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

---

2022 marked the 30th Anniversary of the ARCS Atlanta Chapter. Thank you to Mary O'Connor, our Atlanta Chapter Founding President and Honorary Chair of the 30th Anniversary Endowment Campaign which will reach its goal of \$1 million in 2024.

### 30th Anniversary Endowment Campaign Donations July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024

---

#### \$25,000 +

---

Marcia and John Donnell  
Klamon Family Foundation  
Mary O'Connor

#### \$10,000 - \$24,999

---

Lisa Bankoff  
Sara Jean Burke  
Joan Goodhew  
Sally Hinkle  
Pat Leake  
Sherry Lundeen  
Patty and Doug Reid

---

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

---

Carolynn Cooper  
Joseph G. and Inez Crawford  
Burtchaell Foundation, Inc.

#### \$2,500 - \$4,999

---

Nancy Chambers  
Sally McDaniel  
Leslie and Skip Petter  
Liz and Mike Troy

---

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499

---

Kelley Berman  
Jeanne Berry  
Mary Dodson  
Jane Dolinger  
Teed Poe

#### UPTO - \$999

---

Donna Burchfield  
Joyce and Richard Carnovale  
Anne Easterly  
Angelle Hamilton  
Ronnie Martin  
Caron Ogg  
Sharon Quaintance  
Donna Spivey  
Margaret Turk  
Cathy Wahlen  
Suzy Wasserman  
Kay Weiss  
Janie Wilson

# ARCS® ATLANTA CHAPTER ENDOWMENT DONORS

---

## GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OF

---

Brittany Crews

---

## GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF

---

Joe Bankoff  
Bill Graves  
Frannie and Bill Graves  
Ed Michaels

---

## IN APPRECIATION

---

Thank you to the following whose time and talents contributed to the success of our annual Scholar Awards Celebration:

Emory University, Gregory Fenves, President  
Georgia Institute of Technology, Angel Cabrera, President  
Morehouse College, David A. Thomas, President  
University of Georgia, Jere W. Morehead, President  
Henderson Shapiro Peck

*\*Deceased*



# EMORY UNIVERSITY

GREGORY L. FENVES, PRESIDENT

“Emory has some of the most talented STEM doctoral students in the nation. They are learning and teaching on our campus, while making extraordinary contributions as researchers and rising leaders in their fields. My sincerest thanks to the ARCS® Foundation for investing in STEM scholars who will go on to shape the future.”

---

Gregory L. Fenves  
*President, Emory University*



### **Sarina Abrishamcar** **Northside Hospital Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Sarina is a doctoral student in Epidemiology with an interest in how prenatal environmental and psychosocial exposures affect child health outcomes through genomic mechanisms. She received her B.S. in Pharmacology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2022, she received her MPH in Epidemiology with a certificate in Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology from Emory University, during which she worked as a research assistant at the CDC's Office of Public Health Genomics and was inducted into The Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. To date, she has published two first-author peer-reviewed publications, co-authored nine peer-reviewed publications, and presented her research at six conferences. Sarina is a classically trained pianist and sings in the Emory University Choir in her spare time.



### **Reem Al-Ahmad** **Doyle/Easterly Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Chemistry*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Reem is a third-year Ph.D. candidate in Chemistry at Emory University, mentored by Professor Mingji Dai. Her research involves the total synthesis of natural products and the design of novel, non-addictive compounds to advance drug development for neuropathic pain. She earned her B.S. in Biomolecular Science with a Business minor from the University of Michigan in 2021, where she focused on designing and evaluating therapeutics for cancer and neurodegenerative disorders. Following graduation, Reem joined Dow's Personal Care R&D team, contributing to four internal patents. As a graduate student, she has co-authored a JACS paper and is a co-inventor on a related patent. She is a T32 NIH (BDCI) Fellow, NSF Honorable Mention recipient, and Dr. Adawia Alousi STEM Scholar.





### **Elise Bezold** **Roche Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Chemistry*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Elise Bezold graduated summa cum laude from Northern Kentucky University with a B.S. in Chemistry in 2022. Her undergraduate research focused on synthesizing small molecules with antimicrobial activity with a characteristic 1,2,3-triazole moiety. Elise is a third year Ph.D. Candidate and a Women in Natural Sciences fellow in Professor William Wuest's lab at Emory University. Her current research is about the intersection of synthetic organic chemistry and microbiology where she investigates bacterial virulence processes. Her research resulted in one first-author publication, three additional publications, and being named an NSF-GRFP Honorable Mention. Outside of the laboratory, she enjoys playing the violin and exploring local farmers markets.



### **Anna Cole** **Glenn Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Cancer Biology*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Anna received her B.A. in Biological Sciences from Rice University. As an undergraduate, she researched the suppressive tumor microenvironment at Baylor College of Medicine for which she received the Distinction in Research Award at graduation. Anna is currently a Cancer Biology doctoral candidate and Laney Graduate School Fellow at Emory University in the Paulos Lab. Her work focuses on T and B cell cooperation in cancer immunotherapy. During her four years at Emory University, she has presented her research at both local and national conferences, published six peer-reviewed papers, and received a NIH training fellowship. She also works part time as a senior associate at Orange Grove Bio, a biotech investment and development company.



### **Lina Dimitrov** **McGowan Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Lina is an Epidemiology doctoral student at Emory University, focusing on the impact of environmental and psychosocial exposures on neuropsychiatric outcomes, and a CDC Fellow in the Child Development and Disability Branch. She previously studied Neuroscience, graduating with distinction with a B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University. In January 2020, Lina received an M.P.H. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Boston University, where she was an Activist Achievement Award scholar. She was inducted into the Delta Omega Honorary Society in recognition of graduating in the top 10% of her class and her dedication to public health. In her spare time, Lina enjoys taking dance classes, mentoring undergraduate students, and spending time outside with her dog.



### **Nasab Ghazal** **David, Helen and Marian Woodward Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Nasab is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Biochemistry, Cell, and Developmental Biology program at Emory University. She is interested in using mouse models to understand mitochondrial metabolism and cell death in cardiac disease. She has contributed to nine peer-reviewed publications and received the APS Select Award for distinction in scholarship in the *American Journal of Physiology-Cell Physiology* for her first-author article. In 2023, she received the Margaret and Thomas Lew First Year Award in Biomedical Sciences for outstanding academic performance as well as a position on the BCDB T32 training grant. Outside her scientific interests she likes hiking the trails of Atlanta with her husband and two kids.



## **Louis Hopkins** **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Immunology*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Louis is a Centennial Scholar and Immunology doctoral candidate at Emory University, focusing on *M.tuberculosis* immunosuppression. His interests in infectious disease and public health began during his undergraduate studies in microbiology at Cornell University and continued in graduate education at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Before Emory University, he was a research fellow at the FDA and a program coordinator in disease prevention for the Minority Health Consortium and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Disparity Solutions. Outside of science, Louis is a graduate student leader working as the intern for Laney Graduate School Dean's office and serving on the Division Student Advisory Council (DSAC).



## **Will McFadden** **Klamon Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

William is a Ph.D. candidate in the Biochemistry, Cell, and Developmental Biology (BCDB) program at Emory University. In 2024, William won the Best Paper award by a Young Scientist from the journal *Retrovirology*. Further, he is a dedicated member of the BCDB Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. William has published peer-reviewed software and over a dozen articles, including a recent first-authorship paper in *Cell Chemical Biology*. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2019 with a B.S. in Molecular Biology and a B.A. in Political Science. Additionally, William is a passionate advocate for comprehensive HIV healthcare and outreach. For his dissertation, William is investigating novel antiretroviral compounds with the potential for treating HIV-1 infection.



## **Vedhika Raghunathan** **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Vedhika is a Microbiology and Molecular Genetics doctoral student, Laney Graduate School Fellow, and a NIH Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award recipient at Emory University studying influenza A virus evolution. She received her B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Michigan in 2021, where she developed her research interests in public health and microbiology. Vedhika's first research experience focused on minority health. She also developed an interest in understanding pathogen-immune system interactions and worked at the University College Dublin and the University of Michigan. Vedhika continues this focus in her Ph.D., where her research aims to understand the evolution of influenza A virus within and between hosts. Vedhika has delivered seven research presentations and contributed to twelve peer-reviewed articles.



## **Sydney Shuff** **Petter Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Cancer Biology  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Sydney Shuff is a Cancer Biology Ph.D. student and T32 fellow at Emory University studying how metabolic reprogramming confers chemo-immunotherapy resistance in lung cancer. She began her research journey as a high school intern at Notre Dame, where she contributed research toward two publications. Sydney earned her B.S.N. from Emory University in 2019, where she served as president of the graduating class. Following graduation, she worked as a research assistant at the University of Colorado, investigating the role and therapeutic potential of targeting circadian rhythms and phospholipids in human diseases. During her time in Colorado, Sydney contributed to seven publications, including *Nature Cell Biology* and two as the first-author. In her free time, Sydney is a national-level triathlete.



### **Nuri Smith** **Donnell Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Genetics and Molecular Biology*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Nuri Smith is a first-generation Ph.D. candidate at Emory University, funded by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program. She earned a B.S. in Biology and Experimental Psychology from the University of South Carolina Upstate, where she co-authored three publications exploring the impact of folate on the epigenome. Her passion for research led her to Johns Hopkins' NIH-PREP program, where she utilized CRISPR/dCas9a to enhance gene expression in schizophrenia models, presenting her findings at the Society for Neuroscience and receiving the Trainee Professional Development Award. Currently, Nuri uses spinal cord organoid models of ALS to study motor neuron degeneration at Emory University.



### **John Talbott** **ARCS Atlanta Century Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Chemistry*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

John earned his B.S. in Chemistry with minors in Biology and Business Administration from Elizabethtown College, starting his research in organic chemistry designing novel nucleobases for selective RNA recognition. As a second-year Chemistry doctoral student at Emory University, John has shifted his research aims towards detecting biological metabolites that promote disease progression. John's work in the field of chemical biology to date has resulted in nine publications, including four first-author papers, and being named a Goldwater Scholar and an NSF GRFP honorable mention. Outside of the lab, John enjoys volunteering with local youth lacrosse organizations as well as pursuing an MBA at his alma mater.



## **Courtney Victor** **Klamon/Winston Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Environmental Health Sciences  
Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Courtney Victor is an Environmental Health Sciences doctoral student focused on understanding the impact of water quality on health among children in low-resource settings. After receiving a B.S. in Biology from the University of Alabama and an MPH in Global Environmental Health from Emory University, Courtney worked as a public health program associate at Emory University managing three studies on the impact of water quality on child health in Mozambique and Ecuador. She has delivered presentations at four national conferences and has published two first-author, peer-reviewed articles. Courtney was co-president of the EHS Student Organization and is a member of the DEI steering committee in her department at Emory University. Outside of school, Courtney is enjoying life as a new mom!



## **Kaylin White** **Gillin/Liss Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Epidemiology  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Kaylin White is a doctoral candidate of Epidemiology in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Her research focuses on social determinants and racial disparities in sleep and subsequent health outcomes where sleep is implicated. Motivated by her Black American heritage, she is passionate about conducting thoughtful research that could inform potential interventions that more effectively improve the health of minoritized populations that are disproportionately afflicted with adverse health outcomes. Kaylin holds a B.S. from Spelman College and an M.S. from the University of Michigan. She has published a first-author paper, co-authored a systematic review, drafted three first-author manuscripts that will result in upcoming publications, and presented findings from this work at the Society for Epidemiologic Research. Additionally, she has been awarded an ORISE Fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Outside of academia, she enjoys roller-skating and learning to play the bass guitar.





**Simone Wien**  
**Leslie Petter ARCS Light Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Simone is an Epidemiology Ph.D. student at Emory University with research interests in policy, substance use, and reproductive and perinatal health. She received her B.A. in Geography modified with Economics from Dartmouth College, where she was a Neukom Scholar. She went on to receive her MPH in Epidemiology from Emory University, where she was a Merit Scholar. Prior to her graduate studies, she worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supporting U.S.-bound migration health initiatives, which solidified her commitment to a career in addressing how broader social, political, and economic forces shape and maintain health inequities.



## ÁNGEL CABRERA, PRESIDENT

"ARCS® Foundation Atlanta has been generously and strategically investing in our nation's next generation of scientists and engineers for more than three decades. Thanks to their vision and dedication, thousands of America's most promising students have received the support they need to excel in school, pursue productive careers, launch companies, and develop new technologies.

Here at Georgia Tech, the foundation has awarded over \$2.4 million in graduate scholar awards. This investment has had a profound impact on our students, the Institute, and the broader community. I join this year's class of ARCS Atlanta Scholars in offering our sincere thanks for these transformative gifts."

---

Ángel Cabrera

*President, Georgia Institute of Technology*





## **Noam Altman-Kurosaki** **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biology*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Noam Altman-Kurosaki is a fifth-year doctoral candidate from New York City in the Department of Biology at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He received his B.A. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University in 2016, and an MSc in Marine Biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2019, where he was an East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellow. His current research aims to understand the processes that drive coral reef decline and recovery. In particular, he examines how local stressors affect the interactions between corals, algae, and herbivorous fish in Mo'orea, French Polynesia. Outside of his research, he enjoys taking long walks, watching movies, cooking, and practicing his Japanese.



## **Anjana Dissanayaka** **Northside Hospital Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biomedical Engineering*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Anjana is a fourth-year doctoral student in the joint Biomedical Engineering program at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. He graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. Through undergraduate research, he helped optimize lateral-flow immunoassays for zoonotic diseases, which led to his passion in developing low-cost diagnostics. His current research interest is in leveraging and applying microfluidic techniques to develop low-cost diagnostic devices. He is an NSF Fellow, has conducted four oral research presentations, and has co-authored five publications. He is also passionate about using social media (TikTok: @sciencers) in an effort to humanize scientists to the general public.



## **Alivia Eng**

### **David, Helen and Marian Woodward Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Alivia is working towards her Ph.D. in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology, focusing on Planetary Science and specifically the geologic history of Mars. Inspired by the beauty of her home state, Washington, Alivia received her B.S. and M.S. in Geology from Western Washington University. She has been a student collaborator on the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover since 2021 and acts as several Science Operations roles. In the lab, she conducts experiments to contextualize spacecraft data. When not marveling over space rocks, Alivia enjoys crafts, trying new restaurants, and the company of her two dogs.



## **Kierra Franklin**

### **Burke Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biomedical Engineering  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Kierra is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in the joint Biomedical Engineering program at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. She earned her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University, where she engineered gastric cancer models under Dr. Calvin Kuo. After graduation, she worked as a research assistant at Codexis Inc., developing an enzyme replacement therapy for classical homocystinuria, earning a publication, U.S. Patent and FDA orphan drug designation for rare pediatric diseases. Currently a Centennial Scholar and Finzi Fellow, she has published a review article and a book chapter and is working on a manuscript based on her research, which combines synthetic biology and epigenetics to study chromatin biology and disease pathology. Outside of research, Kierra enjoys calligraphy and watercolor painting.



## **Emmy Hughes**

### **Lim Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Emmy Hughes is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she studies the geologic history of the planet Mars. Her research focuses on how spectroscopy, field analogue studies, and in situ Martian data can be coupled to reconstruct ancient environments. She is a student collaborator on the Curiosity Rover Mission science team. She received her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University where she wrote a senior honors thesis on Mars-relevant brines; this work was published in *Icarus* in May 2023. She spent a year working as a research assistant for Louisiana State University before beginning her Ph.D. at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her first Ph.D. chapter, emerging out of her work at Louisiana State University and continued work at the Georgia Institute of Technology, was published in *JGR – Planets* in June 2024. She has presented her work at eleven national conferences and is a co-author of six peer-reviewed articles and two white papers.



## **Tawfik Hussein**

### **Boice/Reid Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biomedical Engineering  
Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Tawfik is a fourth-year Biomedical Engineering doctoral student in the joint program at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. He completed his B.S. and M.S., both in Biomedical Engineering, as well as a minor in Astrophysics from Texas A&M University. He began his career studying the mechanics of the heart, where he developed a new theoretical model for the myocardium. Using his model, he is currently computationally simulating the mechanical changes undergone in the heart of patients with heart failure, to help clinicians predict it in its early stages and optimize treatment for patients. He has delivered five presentations at national and international conferences and has one publication and three in preparation, all being first-author. In his free time, he enjoys hiking and writing poetry.



## **Marrissa Izykowicz** **Roche Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Chemical Biology*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Marrissa earned her B.S. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Salisbury University, where she was honored with the Barry Goldwater Scholarship. Now a third-year Ph.D. student in Chemical Biology at the Georgia Institute of Technology, she holds the President's Fellowship and is interested in research on biotherapeutic development, drug delivery, and cancer biology. Her current work focuses on designing and synthesizing nanohydrogels for targeted drug delivery in metastatic cancers. Marrissa's research has been published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, with a paper currently under review in *Nature Nanotechnology*. Outside of her academic pursuits, she enjoys sewing and competing in triathlons.



## **KC Jacobson** **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Bioengineering in ChBE*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

KC graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2020 with a B.S. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and a minor in Biomedical Engineering. Her undergraduate research explored how monomers available on prebiotic earth self-assemble and evolve into present-day proteins, which resulted in a co-first author publication. She returned to the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2021 to pursue a Ph.D. in Bioengineering with a President's Fellowship. Inspired by those around her with neurological disorders, KC wanted to apply her biochemistry experience to medical applications and disease models. Currently, as a Computational Neural-Engineering Training Program (CNTP) scholar, she is researching the neural mechanisms of impaired sensory processing in a human-relevant mouse model of autism spectrum disorder.



## Zachary Mobbille HA (Gus) Peed Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Quantitative Biosciences  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Zach obtained a B.S. in Physics from Illinois State University, where he studied single neurons and how they could be modeled mathematically and with electronic hardware. After this, he earned an M.S. in Biomathematics at Illinois State University, where he developed mathematical models of thermo reception by a neuron in the nematode *C. elegans*. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Quantitative Biosciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Zach's current focus is on how anatomical structure and precisely timed dynamics are interrelated in networks of biological neurons. He has given presentations on his work at conferences and workshops, including the Allen Institute's summer workshop on the dynamic brain in 2023.



## Heriberto Nieves Wahlen Award

*Ph.D. Student, Biomedical Engineering, Robotics  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Heriberto "Andy" Nieves is a Robotics doctoral student at the Georgia Institute of Technology, specializing in artificial intelligence for medical imaging. A recipient of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, he applies deep learning to automate the quality control and measurement processes for staging liver fibrosis with magnetic resonance elastography. He has received the Georgia Tech Goizueta Fellowship and the Georgia Tech UCEM Fellowship. He completed his B.S. in Biomedical Engineering in 2021 at Florida International University, graduating first in his class with a 4.0 GPA. He interned at Ethicon Endo-Surgery as a Robotics R&D engineer, and regularly mentors undergraduate researchers. He has published seven peer-reviewed articles and has presented at national and international conferences. Aside from research, Heriberto enjoys Latin dance, drawing, and playing video games.



**John Pederson**  
**Joslin/Mary Jo Peed Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Chemistry*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

John earned his B.S. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he was awarded a President's Undergraduate Research Award for his work on multi-scale modeling of complex chemical systems. He has continued developing these methods to study reactions at solid/liquid interfaces as a Chemistry Ph.D. student and President's Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has published two first-author papers and has received an NSF GRFP Honorable Mention and a SETCA Best Poster Award for his research. John served as co-chair for the ComSciCon Atlanta 2024 science communication workshop. He performs demonstrations for the Atlanta Science Festival and advises the Vertically Integrated Projects Chemical Equity Team on performing simulations. Outside of science, John enjoys graphic design and reading.



**Theodore St. Francis**  
**ARCS Atlanta Century Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Aerospace Engineering*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Theo is a Ph.D. student in the Low Gravity Science & Technology Lab in the Georgia Institute of Technology's Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering. He received his B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, during which time he designed hardware for rocket structures and valves at Relativity Space, developed technology for Apple's Vision Pro, characterized moon-rover motors at Lunar Outpost, and designed, built, and fired a methane-oxygen rocket engine in the Mojave Desert. His current research focuses on electrolysis for both oxygen generation for astronauts and hydrogen production on Earth. He is funded by a NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts Grant and is an NSF Graduate Research Fellow. Theo enjoys open-water swimming, cooking vegan feasts, and speaking Portuguese.





## **Cassandra Shriver** **Chambers/Jones Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Quantitative Biosciences in Biological Sciences*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Cassandra (Cassie) Shriver earned a B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering, a minor in Biology, and a certificate in Marine Science Conservation and Leadership from Duke University in 2021. She is interested in comparative biomechanics with an emphasis on conservation applications. As a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in the Quantitative Biosciences program at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Cassie is pursuing research on mammalian climbing mechanics. Advised by Dr. Young-Hui Chang and Dr. David Hu, she is working to understand how scaling limitations and morphology affect climbing kinematics while collaborating with zoological institutions to advance conservation efforts for the study species. In her free time, Cassie enjoys rock climbing and playing card and board games.



## **Gianna Slusher** **Swensson/ARCS Atlanta Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Bioengineering in Mechanical Engineering*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Gianna is a Bioengineering Ph.D. student in the Mechanical Engineering Department at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from Cooper Union, where she dedicated herself to advancing health-related biomechanics technologies. Now in her doctoral studies, Gianna focuses on the nano-scale, developing innovative technologies to enhance the manufacturing and monitoring of cell-based therapeutics. Her work has led to two first-authored peer-reviewed publications, and she is the lead inventor on a U.S. patent. Gianna's research aims to bridge engineering and biology to improve healthcare outcomes and accessibility.



## **Naoki Yokoyama**

### **Dodson Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Robotics in Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Naoki is a Robotics Ph.D. candidate at the Georgia Institute of Technology, specializing in computer vision and machine learning for autonomous robots. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University, where he led award-winning robotics projects. His research focuses on developing intelligent robots that can assist the elderly and disabled in home environments. Naoki has published 12 papers at top robotics and computer vision conferences, including CVPR, ICRA, and IROS. He completed internships at leading AI labs, including Apple, Meta, and Amazon. Naoki aspires to become a leading researcher in assistive robotics to improve quality of life for those with limited mobility. In his free time, he enjoys playing volleyball and learning new languages.





# MOREHOUSE

COLLEGE

DAVID A. THOMAS, PRESIDENT

“ARCS® scholar awards have supported the scholarly efforts of over 140 high achieving science and mathematics majors at Morehouse for 30 years. It is an honor that each year one student will receive the prestigious *Glenn Leadership Award* at Morehouse, recognizing both outstanding scholarship and demonstrated leadership skills. Building future leaders of the country is an important goal of the college. Through its support for both undergraduate and graduate students who aspire to careers in science or mathematics, ARCS Foundation is making a major contribution to increasing the number of American citizens who pursue careers in STEM. And, for that we are truly grateful.”

---

David A. Thomas  
*President, Morehouse College*



### **Jimmy Capela** **Genuine Parts Award**

*Applied Physics Major*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Jimmy Capela is a rising junior majoring in Applied Physics and Nuclear Engineering at Morehouse College. From Detroit, Michigan, he is dedicated to enhancing efficiency through his interests in math and energy. After being introduced to research at Morehouse, Jimmy analyzed wavelength effects on termite behavior. This past summer, he focused on modeling nanocrystals in the Nuclear Science and Engineering department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Outside of academics, Jimmy enjoys exercising, discussing investments, volunteering, and engaging in lively conversations. His ultimate academic goal is to reduce inequality of outcome and opportunity through education, reflecting his commitment to giving back to the community.



### **Ayden Clark-Veal** **Georgia-Pacific Award**

*Biology Major*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Ayden Clark-Veal is pursuing a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Environmental Studies at Morehouse College. He has engaged in many research experiences studying epidemiology, plant genetics, and cancer biology while being a Robert E. McNair Scholar and a Viven Thomas Scholar. His career research interests include agroecology, phytochemistry, and plant genetics to understand ways to improve human interaction with the environment, specifically agriculture. In addition to his studies, Ayden loves gardening, skating, and volunteering with educational programs for high school students. Following graduation, Ayden plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in Biology and studying ways to optimize plants for food production, medicine, and sustainability.



### **Ramiah Curry**

#### **Graves Award**

*Computer Science Major  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Ramiah Curry, an undergraduate at Morehouse College majoring in computer science from Baltimore, Maryland, has shown a deep passion for computers ever since he was very young. Beginning his journey playing video games at the age of 10, he soon gained a passion for game making and an interest in coding his own games. Starting on small projects, and with a lot of help from his grandparents, more research and effort was put behind his computer science studies and allowed him to forge ahead in his career to serve the world as a software engineer. Making headway with his startup with an MVP currently in testing, he is working diligently to one day hopefully change the world.



### **Myles Gosha**

#### **Glenn Leadership Award**

*Biology Major  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Myles Gosha is pursuing a B.S. in Biology with minors in Psychology and Environmental Studies at Morehouse College, with an expected graduation in Spring 2025. His research interests include chemical ecology, natural product chemistry, and mycology. He began his research career investigating the intersection of water quality and socioeconomic status, which led to a broader interest in environmental issues. Myles conducted research at Johns Hopkins University, studying multimodal sensory integration in bats, and more recently worked at Emory University, performing fungal bioassays and metabolite extraction. A Goldwater Scholar and McNair Scholar, he has presented at national conferences, including the Leadership Alliance National Symposium, and is also a recipient of the Vivien Thomas Scholarship.



## **Jacob Jack**

### **Hardin/Bankoff Award**

*Applied Physics and Computer Engineering Majors  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Jacob is pursuing a B.S. in Applied Physics and Computer Engineering at Morehouse College. His research interests lie in robotics, STEM education, and applied physics. As president of the AUC NSBE chapter, Jacob is committed to promoting leadership and community engagement in STEM fields. He has interned at Stanford University's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory and the University of Michigan's Ford Motor Company Robotics Building, where he gained valuable hands-on experience in robotics and engineering. Outside of academics, Jacob enjoys mentoring young students in STEM through NSBE Jr. and is an active participant in various community service initiatives. His future plans include pursuing advanced degrees in engineering and physics.



## **Chavier McDaniel**

### **Frazier/Whiting Award**

*Mathematics/Physics Major  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Chavier McDaniel is passionate about entrepreneurship and engineering. His goal is to develop technology that will propel society to greater heights. As an Atlanta native and a senior, double majoring in math and physics at Morehouse College, he is confident that his educational accomplishments will positively influence the engineering industry. He aims to play an active role in developing innovative products (such as autonomous aircraft) and use his professional success to create pathways for families to access reputable schools, preparing students for our competitive society. As a proud member of the National Society for Black Physicists, his strong work ethic and ability to prioritize his time have helped him overcome many challenges in mathematics and physics. Armed with knowledge in these interdisciplinary fields, he is ready to tackle any challenge he faces.



### **Nicholas Pittman**

#### **Davis Award**

*Biology Major  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Nicholas is a Biology major on the Pre-Dental track at Morehouse College, with a minor in Spanish. His research interests focus on Regenerative Engineering, 3D Printing, and Prosthesis. He has earned several honors, including the Ronald Brown Scholarship and a spot on the Dean's List for four consecutive semesters. He has also interned at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, gaining valuable experience in the medical and dental field. Beyond academics, Nicholas is a member of the Morehouse College Baseball team and enjoys biking and mentorship activities.



### **Paschal Uchehara**

#### **Taylor Award**

*Chemistry Major  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Pascal Uchehara is a senior Pre-Med Chemistry major at Morehouse College, dedicated to advancing cancer research through a multidisciplinary approach. His research interests lie in next-generation sequencing and bioinformatics, which he will explore as part of the Student Research Training Program at the Institute of Translational Genomic Medicine, Morehouse College School of Medicine. Under the mentorship of Dr. Juana Mendenhall, Pascal has gained expertise in 3D-bioprinting, cell culture, and FTIR spectroscopy, contributing to the development of bioinks for scaffolding applications in regenerative medicine. Additionally, his mentorship under Dr. Jamie Spangler has deepened his understanding of cancer immunotherapy, focusing on the selective biological activity of IL-2 immunocytokines and their effects on immune cell populations. Pascal's academic excellence is reflected in his consistent recognition on the Dean's List for Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, and Spring 2024, maintaining a 3.97 GPA. He aspires to pursue an MD/Ph.D., with a focus on translational cancer research.



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

JERE W. MOREHEAD, PRESIDENT

"The partnership between the University of Georgia and ARCS® Foundation Atlanta has lasted more than two decades. ARCS Atlanta has helped attract outstanding graduate students in the STEM and medical disciplines through their generous funding. ARCS Scholars are essential members of the University of Georgia's research enterprise and world-class learning environment."

---

Jere W. Morehead  
*President, University of Georgia*



## **Jordan Argrett** **Skinner/Arrendale Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Ecology*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Jordan Argrett is a Ph.D. candidate in the Odum School of Ecology studying the above and below ground interactions of parasitic plants, their hosts, and soil microbes. Jordan received his B.S. in Environmental Science from Emory University. He discovered his passion for research during the final months of his undergraduate career and served in technician positions at Utah State, Michigan State, and the Jones Center. Before beginning graduate school Jordan served as a lab technician for the Chung Lab at the University of Georgia. From this position he transitioned into a Ph.D. program co-advised by Dr. Anny Chung and Dr. Nina Wurzberger. In his free time Jordan is a potter, musician, and avid board game player.



## **Christian Brown** **ARCS Atlanta Century Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Ecology*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Christian is an Ecology Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology researching range dynamics of temperate tree species. He earned his B.S. in Biology from Appalachian State University in 2020 and his M.S. in Biology from James Madison University in 2022. Currently, his research focuses on using a combination of large-scale field experiments at Whitehall (GA) and Harvard (MA) research forests along with mathematical modeling to better understand species distribution shifts under ongoing climate change. Christian has published his research in international, peer-reviewed journals.





## **Christina Endara-Arnold** **David, Helen and Marian Woodward Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Neuroscience*

*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Christina obtained a B.S. in Biology from Lee University. During her undergraduate career, she worked as a medical assistant and used her native language, Spanish, to help break down language barriers for underserved Latino patients in Chattanooga, TN. Christina continues to be involved with outreach in her community by planning and leading bilingual STEM events. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate studying Neuroscience at the University of Georgia where her main research interests include regeneration, stem cell function, and neuropeptide signaling. Additionally, she was named a recipient of the selective Genetics NIH T32 training grant. Outside of science she enjoys spending time with her church community, leading worship on Sundays, and playing volleyball with friends.



## **Natalie Gonzalez** **Leake/Parsons/ARCS Atlanta Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Genetics*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Natalie is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Genetics at the University of Georgia. Her research delves into the genetic and evolutionary mechanisms behind reproductive isolation in closely related species of yellow monkeyflowers (*Mimulus*). Originally from the Los Angeles area, Natalie's fascination with plants began in her abuela's garden during her childhood. This early interest blossomed into a passion for plant genetics and the evolutionary processes that contribute to the rich diversity of plant life. She earned her B.S. degrees in Plant Science and Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. During her undergraduate education she participated in several NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduate summer internships. As a graduate student she has also been awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.



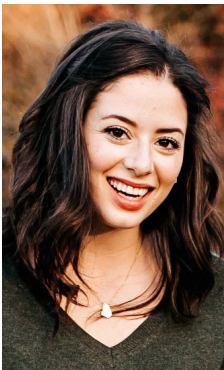


## **Reagan Haney** **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Reagan is a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BCMB) Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia where she is studying drug discovery and development. She obtained her B.S. in Animal and Veterinary Sciences from the University of Idaho. During her undergraduate studies, Reagan studied the effects of abscisic acid on *Anopheles* mosquito reproduction. Since joining the BCMB Ph.D. program in 2021, Reagan has received a T32 training grant from the Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases (CTEGD), served as vice president for the CTEDG GSA, co-authored three peer-reviewed articles, and was just awarded a NIH/NIAID Supplement to Promote Diversity. Reagan's current research focuses on discovering how a novel antimalarial works to kill the malaria parasite by elucidating the targets of this antimalarial. Her research will lead the efforts to develop a preclinical candidate based on this novel therapeutic, opening new doors for antimalarial drug discovery and development to help combat malaria.



## **Jennifer McCann** **Burtchaell Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Genetics  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Jenny is a Genetics Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia studying genetic sex determination in stickleback fish. Her research is interested in understanding how evolution of gene regulation can lead to novel gene function. Before beginning her doctoral program, Jenny spent ten years teaching high school and college science and earned her M.S. in Biology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. At the University of Georgia, Jenny is a doctoral fellow and NIH T32 Trainee. Outside of the lab, Jenny loves backpacking in the mountains, reading, and spending time with her husband and three kids.



## **Jordan Parker** **McGonigle/Boyd Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Comparative Biomedical Sciences  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Jordan Parker received a Bachelors Degree in Equine Science from the University of Kentucky in 2020, and a Masters in Veterinary Science from the University of Kentucky in 2023. Her passion for horses and biomedical sciences led her to pursue a career in research. She was accepted into the dual D.V.M.-Ph.D. program at the University of Georgia in 2023. The University of Georgia Graduate School named Parker as a graduate fellow, and the College of Veterinary Medicine awarded her a matching assistantship. Parker works with Dr. John Peroni, whose lab focuses on regenerative medicine research. She designed her own Ph.D. project around exploring stem cell trafficking to sites of injury. She hopes to one day work in academia, educating the next generation of veterinary scientists.



## **Myddelton Parker** **Roche Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biomedical Engineering  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Myddelton (Myddie) Parker is a second-year Ph.D. student in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Georgia. Her translational research focuses on modifying current antibiotics to include nitric oxide, an endogenous gasotransmitter with antibacterial and antithrombotic properties, for broad-spectrum antimicrobial solutions. Myddie earned her B.S. in Biological Engineering from the University of Georgia in 2023 and is pursuing a Certificate in International Biomedical Regulatory Sciences from the University of Georgia's College of Pharmacy. Passionate about STEM education, Myddie tutors middle and high school students in math and science, aiming to inspire a love for STEM from an early age.



## Neil Patel

### Northside Hospital Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Neil completed his B.S. in Biology at the University of North Georgia researching a novel approach to detect a bacterial infection of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* in northern Georgia songbirds. Currently, he is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Georgia. Neil also received the Glycoscience Training Program NIH T32 training grant from the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center. He will serve as chair for the 2026 Proteoglycans Gordon Research Seminar to promote networking and scientific communication among young professionals in his field. His research is at the intersection of epigenetics, cancer biology, and glycobiology where he studies how specific complex carbohydrates are regulated in our bodies and how alterations in these sugars can potentially tune tumor growth and progression.



## Tuyetnhu Pham

### Lundeen/Bazzel Award

*Ph.D. Student, Plant Biology  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Nhu is a Plant Biology doctoral student at the University of Georgia. Her research focuses on the human fungal pathogen *Cryptococcus neoformans*, particularly in developing ways to combat the infection through vaccine development and targeted drug delivery. After receiving her B.S. in Biology at the University of North Georgia, she worked as a research technician for three years, concentrating on fungal secondary metabolites. During her time as a technician and a doctoral student, she has published four first-author papers. As a graduate student, she has collaborated with colleagues from various disciplines and universities resulting in eight co-author papers. Besides research, she enjoys promoting fungal biology to her local community by presenting her work and organizing fungal-related events.



## **Mariah Salcedo** **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Bioinformatics*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Mariah Salcedo is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Bioinformatics at the University of Georgia after several years of working in clinical research and graduating from the University of Maryland with a degree in Public Health with an emphasis on Epidemiology. Currently working with Dr. Spencer Fox, her research interest lies in disease modeling, with a focus on forecasting using both statistical approaches as well as deep learning techniques. In her free time Mariah enjoys cooking, model building, and hiking.



## **Damián Santiago-Sosa** **Olchowski/Potter Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Bioinformatics*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Damián is a Bioinformatics Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia, using deep learning models to uncover complex relationships between marine microbes' roles and the carbon flux. His passion for science began early, inspired by the National Geographic Channel. This led him to pursue and earn a B.S. in Microbiology with a minor in Computer Science from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, where he also researched bacterial biodiversity in diverse environments in Puerto Rico, like bioluminescent lagoons. As a former collegiate athlete and student leader, Damián remains active in CrossFit, swimming, and running. His future goal is to empower the next generation of Latin scientists and destigmatize the path to a career in science.



## **Colleen Sedney**

### **Hinkle Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Infectious Diseases  
Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Colleen is an Infectious Diseases doctoral student at the University of Georgia researching the host-pathogen interactions between infants and the bacteria responsible for whooping cough. Colleen received her B.A. in Biology from Wheaton College in Norton, MA where she conducted research on manganese-oxidizing bacterial communities in drinking water samples. At the University of Georgia, Colleen has developed a novel model to study the neonatal immune response to *Bordetella pertussis* and toxins produced by the bacterium. She has been awarded the University of Georgia Graduate Education Advancement Award and competed as a finalist at the institution's Three-Minute Thesis competition. Colleen has delivered two presentations at international meetings and has published four peer-reviewed articles.



## **Moira Taber**

### **Cooper/Mukharji Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Regenerative Bioscience  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Moira received her B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Georgia, during which time she served as an AmeriCorp Service member and UGA Cattleman's Association Club President helping to implement impactful opportunities in agricultural, professional, and STEM fields. She pursued post-graduate education as a Regenerative Bioscience doctoral student and Franklin Foundation Fellow at the University of Georgia. Her research investigates traumatic brain injury (TBI) recovery mechanisms in a porcine pre-clinical translational model. As TBI can result in lifelong disability and predisposition to additional neural diseases, she is motivated to help address the research gaps which have delayed FDA approved treatments and limited therapy options for TBI patients. Moira's research focuses on delineating the neural network recovery mechanisms and influence of sexually dimorphic neuroanatomy and development on cognitive, behavioral, and motor function outcomes following TBI.



## **Matthew Treaster**

### **Dick Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Genetics*

*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

---

Matthew is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Genetics at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. He is researching the process of genetic sex determination using threespine stickleback fish. Before beginning his Ph.D., Matthew earned a B.S. in Biology from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. At Presbyterian College, he researched metabolic genes in yeast and was the Assistant Concertmaster in his school's orchestra. At the University of Georgia, Matthew has earned an NIH T32 Fellowship and the Alton Graduate Fellowship from the Department of Genetics and an R.C. Lewontin Early Award from the Society for the Study of Evolution. When he is not in the lab, Matthew enjoys cooking and spending time with his wife and their three dogs.



# ARCS® FOUNDATION ATLANTA

## 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

---

<b>President</b>	Carolynn Cooper
<b>President Elect</b>	Frances Swensson*
<b>VP Administration</b>	Caroline Moise
<b>VP Communications</b>	Ronnie Martin*
<b>VP Education</b>	Maureen Lobb
<b>VP Finance/Treasurer</b>	Angelle Hamilton
<b>VP Finance/Treasurer Elect</b>	Eileen Higgins*
<b>VP Funds Development</b>	Lee Doyle*
<b>VP Funds Development Elect</b>	Maggie Joslin*
<b>VP Membership</b>	Patty Reid*
<b>VP/Co-VP University Relations</b>	Becky Riley and Mollie Winston
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Suzanne Sullivan*

---

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

---

<b>Assistant Treasurers</b>	Lyn Asbill and Mary Watson
<b>Directory Chair</b>	Jamie Deeter*
<b>Internal Communications Chair</b>	Pace Parsons
<b>Name Tags Chair</b>	Sherry Lundeen*
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Deede Stephenson
<b>Newsletter Publisher</b>	Niv Persaud*
<b>Public Relations Chair</b>	Joanne Chesler Gross
<b>2026 Retreat Co-Chairs</b>	Molly Eskew* and Debby Kelly*
<b>Scholar Alumni Chair</b>	Kristen Gibbs
<b>2024 Scholar Awards Celebration Chair</b>	Ann Taylor*
<b>Scholar Awards Celebration Chair Elect</b>	Janis Henry*
<b>Scholar Yearbook Chair</b>	Missy McClatchey
<b>Scholars Chair</b>	Meg Heyer* and Suzy Wasserman*
<b>Social Media/Public Webpage Chair</b>	Laura Gruber and Leslie Petter
<b>Speakers Chair</b>	Barbara Bazzel
<b>Speakers Chair Elect</b>	Kathryn Richard*
<b>Special Events Chair</b>	Tricia Rosenbaum*
<b>Special Events Chair Elect</b>	Cathey Millichap*
<b>Website Chair</b>	Mary Jo Peed
<b>Website Chair Elect</b>	Pat Leake*

---

### APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT

---

<b>Assistant to the President</b>	Linda Kay McGowan*
<b>Nominating Chair</b>	Sara Jean Burke*
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Sally Hinkle*

---

### APPOINTED BY THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

---

<b>Endowment Fund Chair</b>	Angelle Hamilton
<b>Endowment Fund Committee</b>	Lisa Bankoff, Mary Dodson, Susan McGonigle, Kristin Whatley

*\*Indicates new to the position*

# ARCS® FOUNDATION

## ATLANTA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

---

### ACTIVE MEMBERS

---

Yetty L. Arp	Susan Hawkins	Leslie Z. Petter
Cyndae Arrendale	Janis H. Henry	Virginia P. Plummer
Lyn Asbill	Meg Heyer	Mary (Teed) Poe
Lisa H. Bankoff	Eileen Higgins	Patricia Reid
Mollie Winston Barrow	Susan J. Higley	Kathryn Richard
Sarah Batts	Sally N. Hinkle	Vicki J. Riedel
Barbara Bazzel	Cecile M. Jones	Rebecca Riley
Meredith W. Bell	Maggie Joslin	Tricia Rosenbaum
Kelley O'Neal Berman	Mary Justice	Janie Skinner
Jeanne L. Berry	Elizabeth Kazazian	Elizabeth M. Spiegel
Sally C. Boice	Kelli Keb	Patricia H. Stephenson
Anne M. Boyd	Debby Kelly	Carol Stockman
Susan M. Boyd	Anita K. Kern	Suzanne Sullivan
Lisa Brown	Cathy LaMon	Frances D. Swensson
Donna C. Burchfield	Liz Mori Lauer	Ann T. Taylor
Sara Jean Burke	Patricia S. Leake	Macie Thompson
Marie Carr	Barbara Levy	Elizabeth Troy
Nancy L. Chambers	Gina Lim	Pat Tuff
Carolynn Cooper	Deborah Liss	Margaret Turk
Ann Q. Curry	Maureen Lobb	Cathy Wahlen
Erin Dasher	Betts C. Love	Suzy Wasserman
Elaine C. Davis	Sherry B. Lundeen	Mary Watson
Jamie P. Deeter	Beaty Maffett	Shelley Woods Whiting
Mary Dodson	Beth S. Maguire	Nancy Parks Williams
Jane F. Dolinger	Rhonda J. Martin	Jane J. Wilson
Martha Lee Doyle	Barbara Marxer	Ellen Adair Wyche
Laura Draper	Missy McClatchey	
Anne D. Easterly	Sally S. McDaniel	
Margaret O. Eskew	Susan B. McGonigle	
Elizabeth E. Finnerty	Linda Kay McGowan	
Kristen M. Gibbs	Catherine Millichap	
Anne M. Gieryn	Caroline E. Moise	
Martha B. Gillin	Vikki Millender Morrow	
Kathryn H. Graves	Regina Olchowski	
Joanne C. Gross	Pace Parsons	
Laura Gruber	Laura Pease	
Angelle Hamilton	Mary Jo Peed	
Caroline P. Hardin	Niv Persaud	
Laura J. Hardman	Valerie H. Peterson	



# ARCS® FOUNDATION ATLANTA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

---

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

---

Kathy B. Ashe  
Lynn Cochran  
Sylvia L. Dick  
Marcia G. Donnell  
Patsy Drummond  
Marie Edwards  
Betty Feezor  
Louise R. Glenn  
Joan S. Goodhew

Trina L. Johns  
Robin L. King  
Ann E. Klamon  
Leslie D. McLeod  
Sharon S. Quaintance  
Phyllis E. Rodbell  
Kristen D. Whatley

---

## HONORARY MEMBERS

---

Mary B. O'Connor  
Beth Cabrera

---

## NEW MEMBERS

---

Erin Drury Boorn  
Dr. Meredith Carpenter  
Ashley Cornelison  
Barbara Bing Pliner  
Sallie Topfl

# SCHOLAR AWARDS CELEBRATION COMMITTEE 2024

---

<b>Chairman</b>	Ann Taylor	
<b>Chairman-Elect</b>	Janis Henry	
<b>VP Funds Development</b>	Lee Doyle	
<b>Funds Development Committee</b>	Sara Jean Burke Nancy Chambers Carolynn Cooper Jamie Deeter Mary Dodson Lee Doyle Caroline Hardin Janis Henry	Maggie Joslin Sherry Lundeen Kaleigh Malloy Sally McDaniel Leslie Petter Frances Swensson Cathy Wahlen Suzy Wasserman
<b>Public Relations Chair</b>	Joanne Chesler Gross	
<b>Scholars Chair</b>	Meg Heyer and Suzy Wasserman	
<b>Co-VP University Relations</b>	Becky Riley and Mollie Winston	
<b>Scholar Yearbook Chair</b>	Missy McClatchey	

## **ARCS® FOUNDATION, INC.**

### **ATLANTA CHAPTER PAST PRESIDENTS**

---

Mary O'Connor, 1992-1994  
*Founder, Atlanta Chapter*  
Patsy Drummond, 1994-1995  
Trudy Huger, 1995-1996  
Frannie Graves, 1996-1997\*  
Pat Leake, 1997-1998  
Betsy Hansen, 1998-1999\*  
Deborah Liss, 1999-2000  
Sally Hinkle, 2000-2002  
Janie Wilson, 2002-2004  
Teed M. Poe, 2004-2006  
Jan K. Bennett, 2006-2008  
Sherry Lundeen, 2008-2010  
Kay Weiss, 2010-2012  
Gracia Conn, 2012-2014  
Jane Dolinger, 2014-2016  
Sara Jean Burke, 2016-2018  
Susan McGonigle, 2018-2020  
Leslie Petter, 2020-2022  
Sara Jean Burke, 2022-2023  
Carolynn Cooper, 2023-2025

*\*Deceased*

---

### **ATLANTA CHAPTER MEMBERS SERVING ON ARCS® FOUNDATION NATIONAL BOARD OR COUNCIL OF ADVISORS 2024-2025**

---

Jane Dolinger	Parliamentarian
Sherry Lundeen	Endowment Committee, Council of Advisors
Sally McDaniel	Endowment Committee, Council of Advisors
Sara Jean Burke	Council of Advisors
Nancy Chambers	Council of Advisors
Susan McGonigle	Council of Advisors
Janie Wilson	Council of Advisors

---

### **ARCS® FOUNDATION, INC. CHAPTERS**

---

Atlanta	Orange County
Colorado	Oregon
Honolulu	Phoenix
Illinois	Pittsburgh
Los Angeles	San Diego
Metro Washington	Seattle
Minnesota	Utah
Northern California	



**Igniting  
Innovation  
in Georgia**

