



Igniting Innovation in Georgia

ARCS® FOUNDATION ATLANTA SCHOLAR YEARBOOK

CULTIVATING SCIENTISTS
IN GEORGIA SINCE 1992

2025



***Igniting
Innovation
in Georgia***



**Igniting
Innovation
in Georgia**

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.

"ARCS® Foundation Stands Strong With Science"

Scholar Awards Celebration

November 12, 2025

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

ARCS Foundation, Inc. Atlanta

P.O. Box 52124

Atlanta, GA 30355

Instagram: [@arcsfoundationatlanta](https://www.instagram.com/arcsfoundationatlanta)

Facebook: [@ARCSFoundationAtlantaChapter](https://www.facebook.com/ARCSFoundationAtlantaChapter)

LinkedIn: [ARCS Foundation, Inc.](https://www.linkedin.com/company/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 \$142,000,000. 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 33-year history, we have provided over \$8 million for more than 1,200 individual scholar awards. The 2025 ARCS Atlanta scholar awards total \$459,500 and will go to 53 scholars at Emory University, 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.

Frances Swensson
President, ARCS Foundation, Inc. Atlanta

THANK YOU TO OUR 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.



John and Mary Franklin Foundation

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, including contributions from ARCS Foundation, Inc. Atlanta Membership.

DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN CUMULATIVE GIFTS OF \$800,000 OR MORE

Joachim Herz Stiftung

DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN CUMULATIVE GIFTS OF \$200,000 OR MORE

The Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation
Northside Hospital

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

BlackRock	Georgia-Pacific Foundation
Joseph G. and Inez Crawford	The Graves Foundation, Inc.
Burtchaell Foundation, Inc.	Betsy* and Harald* Hansen
Peg and Keith Cooley	Roche
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
The Imlay Foundation	Printpack, Inc. and Gay and Erskine
Sally and Warren* Jobe	Love Foundation
Ann and Larry* Klamon	David, Helen and Marian
Pat and Nolan Leake	Woodward Fund
Deborah and William Liss	The Zeist Foundation

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

The Erroll and Elaine Davis Charitable	Libby and Gary Jones
Giving Foundation	Sherry and John Lundeen
Genuine Parts Company	Patty and Doug Reid Family
Sally and Jim Hinkle	Foundation

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

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

**Deceased*

2025 SCHOLAR AWARD DONORS

GALILEO CIRCLE Full Scholar Award Donors

ARCS® Foundation Atlanta Membership	Janis and Barry Henry
Sara Jean and Fred Burke	Joachim Herz Stiftung
Joseph G. and Inez Crawford	Sally and Jim Hinkle
Burtchaell Foundation, Inc.	Ann and Larry* Klamon
Carolynn Cooper and Pratap Mukharji	Gina Lim
Elaine and Erroll Davis	Linda Kay and John McGowan
Sylvia and Bruce Dick	Northside Hospital
Mary Dodson	HA (Gus) Peed
Marcia and John Donnell	Leslie and Skip Petter
Sarah Eby-Ebersole	Regina Olchowski and Ed Potter
John and Mary Franklin Foundation	Roche Diagnostics Corporation
Genuine Parts Company	Anne Sterchi*
Georgia-Pacific Foundation	Ann Taylor
Hilda D. Glenn Fund	Lee and Dick Van Leuvan
The Graves Foundation	Cathy Wahlen
	David, Helen and Marian
	Woodward Fund
	Christa and William Wright

EINSTEIN CIRCLE Shared Scholar Award Donors

Cyndae Arrendale	Deborah and Bill Liss
Mollie Winston Barrow	Sherry and John Lundeen
Barbara Bazzel	Susan McGonigle
Nancy Chambers	Mary Jo Peed
Martha Lee Doyle	Patty and Doug Reid Family
Anne Deeley Easterly	Foundation
Cecile Jones	Tricia Rosenbaum
Margaret Joslin	Janie Skinner
Pat and Nolan Leake	Frances and Kurt Swensson

CENTURY CIRCLE \$1,000 - \$3,000

Anonymous Donor	Elizabeth Finnerty
Angela Allen	Kristen and Duncan Gibbs
Yetty Arp	Anne and Rick Gieryn
Lisa and Joe* Bankoff	Laura Gruber
Kelley Berman	Angelle Hamilton
Sally Boice	Caroline Hardin
Anne Boyd	Scott Herren
Susan Boyd	Meg Heyer
Donna Burchfield	Eileen Higgins
Rachel Burke	Betsy Kazazian
Meredith Carpenter	Kelli Keb
Jamie Deeter	Liz Lauer
Jane Dolinger	Maureen Lobb
Ree Edwards	Sally McDaniel
Molly and Mike Eskew	

2025 SCHOLAR AWARD DONORS

CENTURY CIRCLE \$1,000 - \$3,000

Caroline Moise	Teed M. Poe
Pace Parsons	Sallie Topfl
Nivedita Persaud	Margaret Turk
Barbara Bing Pliner	

FRIENDS OF ARCS® ATLANTA FOUNDATION \$100 - \$900

Anonymous Donor	Jesse McDaniel
Jane Bernot	Bradley Phillips
Jill Bray	Beth Wainwright
Bonnie Ferri	Yeadley Williams
Brad Jensen	Ellen Adair Wyche

ARCS® SCHOLAR ALUMNI DONORS

Dr. Rachelle 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. Eric DeJesus	Dr. Sharon Sullivan
Dr. Stacey Dixon	Dr. Alejandro Toriello
Dr. Brian Fralix	Dr. Patrick Yaner
Dr. Katherine Gass	

**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. The 30th Anniversary Endowment Campaign, begun in 2022, sought to bring our Endowment to over \$1 million. In December of 2024, the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation approved another extraordinary gift which allowed the ARCS Atlanta Endowment to surpass the 30th Anniversary Endowment Campaign goal of \$1 million. To see the members and friends who contributed to this campaign, please visit our 30th Anniversary Endowment Campaign webpage under the Support Us tab on the ARCS Atlanta website.

Endowment Campaign Donations July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

\$25,000 +	\$5,000 - \$24,999
Anonymous Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation	Mary Ann Elliott
\$2,500 - \$4,999	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Joseph G. and Inez Crawford Burtchaell Foundation Sherry and John Lundeen	Jamie Deeter Jane Dolinger Sarah Eby-Ebersole Pat Leake Sally McDaniel Mary O'Connor
\$500 - \$999	\$100 - \$499
Lyn Asbill Donna Burchfield Meredith Carpenter Nancy Chambers Carolynn Cooper Laura Gruber Angelle Hamilton Barbara Marxer Tricia Rosenbaum David Ross and Kelli Carroll Frances Swensson John Wieland	Ronnie Martin Nivedita Persaud Macie Thompson

ARCS® ATLANTA CHAPTER ENDOWMENT DONORS

GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OF

Sara Jean and Fred Burke
Carolynn Cooper
Brittany Crews
Mary O'Connor
Mary Jo Peed

GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Joe Bankoff
Sue Glenn Staton

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, Chancellor
Georgia Institute of Technology, Angel Cabrera, President
Morehouse College, F. Dubois Bowman, President
University of Georgia, Jere W. Morehead, President
Henderson Shapiro Peck

**Deceased*



EMORY UNIVERSITY

GREGORY L. FENVES, CHANCELLOR

“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
Chancellor, Emory University



Sarina Abrishamcar **Northside Hospital Award**

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

Sarina is a Ph.D. Candidate in Epidemiology and a NIEHS Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA F31 Predoctoral Fellow. She is interested in how prenatal environmental and psychosocial exposures affect child health outcomes through genetic/epigenetic mechanisms. She received her B.S. in Pharmacology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2022, she received her M.P.H. in Epidemiology with a certificate in Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology from Emory University, during which she was inducted into the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. To date, she has published three first-author peer-reviewed publications, co-authored ten peer-reviewed publications, and presented her research at eight 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
Second 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 design 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 a Dr. Adawia Alousi STEM Scholar.



Elise Bezold

Roche Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Chemistry

Second 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 fourth-year Ph.D. Candidate and Women in Natural Sciences Fellow in Professor William Wuest's lab at Emory University. Her current research focuses on the development of novel disinfectants to combat antimicrobial resistance. Her research resulted in three first-author publications, six additional publications, and being named an NSF-GRFP Honorable Mention. Outside of the laboratory, she enjoys playing the violin and exploring local farmers markets.



Lina Dimitrov

McGowan Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Epidemiology

Second Year ARCS Scholar

Lina is a doctoral candidate in Epidemiology at Emory University, where she is a current Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Scholar. Her research focuses on the impact of environmental and psychosocial exposures on neuropsychiatric outcomes. She previously studied Neuroscience, graduating 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 and 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 photography, taking dance classes, and spending time outside with her dog.



Nasab Ghazal

David, Helen and Marian Woodward Award

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

Nasab is a fourth-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. She also recently obtained a predoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association to continue her thesis work on cardiomyopathy. 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
Third Year ARCS Scholar*

Louis is an Immunology doctoral candidate and Centennial Scholar at Emory University studying tuberculosis (TB). His work at the Emory Vaccine Center uses multi-system and model approaches to interrogate novel immune suppression pathways in TB pathogenesis. After his undergraduate studies in Microbiology at Cornell University, he spent years acquiring a broad research background through training at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, NIH, and FDA prior to attending Emory University. Louis' work has resulted in co-authorship of multiple publications across different fields. He continues to expand his expertise beyond immunology as a trainee in the NIH-funded Infectious Disease Across Scales Training Program and elective work in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.



Riley Hughes **Sterchi Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Chemistry
First Year ARCS Scholar

Riley earned an Honors B.S. in Biochemistry from Providence College, where he completed four years of organic synthesis and biochemistry research as a Walsh Fellow, publishing twice. He also worked with Pfizer's Global Product Development team, gaining experience in clinical trial development. As an NRSA Fellow Chemistry Ph.D. candidate at Emory University, Riley continues to work at the interface of Chemistry and Biology, developing new chemical proteomics methodologies to monitor Alzheimer's disease progression and treatment effects. Outside the lab, Riley's interests include skiing—seven years as an instructor—and volunteering for the Maddie Potts Foundation.



Sara Kim **Klamon/Winston Barrow Award**

Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology
First Year ARCS Scholar

Sara is an Epidemiology doctoral student at Emory University, focused on improving vaccine effectiveness estimation and infectious disease forecasting using advanced machine learning and causal inference methods. She earned her B.A. in Economics from Emory University and M.P.H. from Yale University, where she was a Global Health Justice Fellow. Sara previously was an epidemiologist with the CDC's Influenza Division and deployed to the COVID-19 emergency response, during which she received the Special Act Award for Leveraging Influenza Research Networks for COVID-19 Evaluations and Center Director's Employee of the Month Award. Sara has co-authored 34 peer-reviewed publications, including seven first-author papers, and presented at four conferences.



Hadassah Mendez-Vazquez

Glenn Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Neuroscience

First Year ARCS Scholar

Hadassah Mendez-Vazquez is a Neuroscience Ph.D. candidate at Emory University, where she investigates how environmental toxicants cause mitochondrial dysfunction to drive the onset of neurodegeneration. Her passion for neuroscience research grew from her experiences as the daughter of a veteran affected by Agent Orange and as a caregiver for Alzheimer's patients. She earned her B.S. in Neuroscience and M.S. in Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University, where her research on genetic and environmental determinants of autism-related synaptic dysfunction, supported by NSF LSAMP, led to several awards and two co-first-author papers in Neuropharmacology and PNAS. At Emory University, she is an HHMI Gilliam Fellow, Centennial Scholar, and Co-Chair of NGP AXON, a student-led program focused on advancing equity in doctoral education.



Vedhika Raghunathan

Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Student, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Third Year ARCS Scholar

Vedhika is a Microbiology and Molecular Genetics doctoral student, Laney Graduate School Fellow, and NIH Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award recipient at Emory University studying influenza A virus evolution. She received her B.S. in Microbiology at 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-host interactions and worked at University College Dublin and 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 eight research presentations and contributed to twelve peer-reviewed articles.



Brandie Shackelford

Klamon Impact Award

Ph.D. Student, Environmental Health Sciences

First Year ARCS Scholar

Brandie Shackelford is a Ph.D. student in Environmental Health Sciences. She has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an MSPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before attending Emory University, Brandie taught high school science in Atlanta Public Schools for two years and worked for international organizations on water, sanitation, and hygiene programs for five years. Her most recent experience living in Malawi formed her current research interest: identifying the most effective and sustainable interventions to improve food security for women and children in low-income countries. Brandie has authored seven peer-reviewed publications and holds a patent.



Sydney Shuff

Petter Award

Ph.D. Student, Cancer Biology

Second 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
Second 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 began with two bachelor degrees 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. This research passion 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 **Sally McDaniel ARCS Light Award**

Ph.D. Student, Chemistry
Second 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 fourth-year Chemistry doctoral student at Emory University, John has shifted his research aims towards detecting biological metabolites that promote disease progression including Alzheimer's Disease. John's work in the field of chemical biology to date has resulted in 14 publications, including six 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.



Kaylin White

Liss/ARCS Atlanta Century Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Epidemiology

Second 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. Since beginning her Ph.D. journey, 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, reflecting her commitment to public health research. Outside of academia, she enjoys roller-skating and learning to play the bass guitar.



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 \$2.6 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



Srinidhi Bharadwaj **Herz Global Impact Award**

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

Srinidhi Bharadwaj is an M.D./Ph.D. student in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Srinidhi graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Columbia University in 2019 and joined the Emory University/Georgia Institute of Technology Medical Scientist Training Program in July 2020. She joined the Robles Lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering in August 2023 and currently works on a variety of biomedical and clinical imaging applications with quantitative oblique back-illumination microscopy (qOBM), a label-free phase imaging technique.



Lily Capeci **Sarah Eby-Ebersole Award**

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

Lily Capeci earned her B.S. in Biochemistry from Brandeis University, where she also interned with Sanofi's structure-based drug discovery team in Cambridge, MA. In 2024, she began her Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the Georgia Institute of Technology as a President's Fellow and an ARCS Scholar. Her research focuses on the *de novo* design and characterization of lipid-binding proteins for immune modulation and diagnostic applications. Beyond the lab, Lily is passionate about scientific outreach and helped develop an educational module on NMR spectroscopy that profiles the chemical composition of wine. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and training for marathons.



Alivia Eng

David, Helen and Marian Woodward Award

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

Alivia is a Ph.D. candidate at the Georgia Institute of Technology studying Planetary Science - specifically the geology of Mars. She received her B.S. and M.S. in Geology at Western Washington University where she began participating in science operations for NASA's Curiosity rover. Alivia is also involved in lab and field work to contextualize data from spacecraft. She received the Fellowship for Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science Technology (FINESST) in 2024. In her free time, Alivia enjoys arts & crafts, video games, and spending time with her two dogs.



Kierra Franklin

Burke Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biomedical Engineering
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Kierra is a Biomedical Engineering doctoral candidate in the joint program at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University, where she studies how epigenetics shapes disease. She earned her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University before working at Codexis Inc., where she developed a treatment for the rare genetic disorder homocystinuria. This work led to a publication, a U.S. patent, and FDA orphan drug and rare pediatric disease designations. Recognized as both a President's Fellow and Centennial Scholar, she has published a review article, book chapter and is preparing a manuscript on her doctoral research. Motivated by treatment challenges, Kierra plans to pursue a career in biotechnology developing therapeutics for complex diseases. Outside of work, she enjoys calligraphy and watercolor painting.



Marrissa Izykowicz

Roche Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Second Year ARCS Scholar

Marrissa is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she develops drug delivery systems designed to better target tumors across different cancer types. She has one manuscript submitted to *Nature* and another in preparation. Marrissa earned her B.S. in Biology from Salisbury University in 2022, where she was named a Barry Goldwater Scholar for her promise as a researcher. During her time there, she also discovered a passion for chemical education, published in *J. Chem Ed.* When she's not in the lab, you'll likely find her rock climbing, sewing, painting, or cycling.



Maya Levitan

Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Student, Biomedical Engineering

First Year ARCS Scholar

Maya is a Ph.D. student in Biomedical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. She is working in Susan Thomas' lab to develop a targeted drug delivery platform to treat lymphedema. After receiving a B.S. in Bioengineering from Rice University in 2022, she conducted research on biomaterials for pancreatic islet encapsulation at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway on a Fulbright grant. She began her doctoral studies in 2023 with a President's Fellowship from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She has co-authored six peer-reviewed publications.



Zachary Mobbille **HA (Gus) Peed Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Quantitative Biosciences
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Zach obtained a B.S. in Physics from Illinois State University (ISU), during which 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 ISU where he developed mathematical models of thermoreception 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 and the Cognitive Computational Neuroscience meeting in 2024.



Heriberto Nieves **Wahlen Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Biomedical Engineering and Robotics
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Heriberto "Andy" Nieves is a Robotics doctoral candidate 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 GT Goizueta Fellowship, Atlanta ARCS Scholar Fellowship, and the GT 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 nine peer-reviewed articles and presented at national and international conferences. Aside from research, Heriberto enjoys Latin dance, drawing, and playing video games.



John Pederson

Mary Jo Peed/Joslin Award

*Ph.D. Student, Chemistry
Second 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, an ARCS Scholar, and a 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, and he also 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

John and Mary Franklin Foundation Award

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

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



Gianna Slusher

Swensson/Reid Award

*Ph.D. Student, Bioengineering in Mechanical Engineering
Second 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 the 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.



Maggie Straight

Lim Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Ocean Science and Engineering
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Maggie is a Ph.D. candidate in Ocean Science and Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. As a recipient of both the Georgia Tech President's Fellowship and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, she studies how bacteria can be beneficial to various host organisms such as marine microalgae in the open ocean and smooth cordgrass in coastal saltmarshes. In between receiving her B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Rochester and her graduate studies, she worked for a year at Bausch and Lomb as a quality control microbiologist. Outside of her research, Maggie enjoys traveling, beginner dance classes, and bringing her excitement for science to students and the community.



Nathan Taylor

Northside Hospital Award

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

Nathan is a doctoral student and a President's Fellow in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Georgia Institute of Technology. After graduating from Washington State University with a B.S. in Biochemistry, he conducted biological, multi-omic research at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory through a summer internship. He then accepted a year-long junior research position at the Georgia Tech Research Institute where he worked on multiple chemical sensing, sourcing, and attribution projects. He delivered presentations regularly to government sponsors during his time there. His current graduate research leverages spectroscopy to help answer spatial and mechanistic biology questions. Outside of research, he enjoys traveling, reading, and cooking with his wife.



Xavier Velez

Chambers/Jones Award

*Ph.D. Student, Electrical and Computer Engineering
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Xavier is an Electrical and Computer Engineering Ph.D. student and President's Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Florida. Under the support of the MARC GatorSTAR Fellowship, Xavier researched the effects of transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation on learning and memory in healthy older adults. In 2023, he was accepted to the Amgen Scholars Program, where he researched oxytocin nanosensing at the University of California, Berkeley, and subsequently presented his findings at a national conference. Currently, Xavier develops signal processing and machine learning solutions to better diagnose and understand neurodegenerative and psychiatric conditions.



Matthew Yen

Van Leuvan Award

Ph.D. Student, Mechanical Engineering

First Year ARCS Scholar

Matthew is a Ph.D. student in Mechanical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Renewable Bioproducts Institute Fellow. His research focuses on developing sustainable battery materials from natural polymers, with a concentration on abundant resources such as cellulose and lignin. He holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University and is committed to innovating the battery industry by advancing environmentally friendly materials. In addition to his materials research, Matthew's expertise also lies in applying machine learning to accelerate research on energy storage materials and analyze large fleets of electric vehicle battery data, bridging sustainability with data-driven innovation.



MOREHOUSE

COLLEGE

F. DUBOIS BOWMAN, PRESIDENT

"On behalf of Morehouse College, I want to thank the ARCS® Foundation for your extraordinary commitment to advancing STEM. Each year, you recognize eight of our top students with the honor of being named ARCS Scholars and provide them with amazing support to pursue their journeys at the College. Over the past decade, that has meant more than \$400,000 invested directly in Morehouse men pursuing excellence in science and mathematics.

What makes this partnership especially meaningful is that Morehouse is the only institution where ARCS Scholars are undergraduates. Many of our students have gone on to complete Ph.D.s and are now leading in labs, classrooms, and industries across the country.

We are grateful for your partnership in building a pipeline of talent to shape the future of STEM. Thank you for believing in Morehouse and the transformative potential of our students."

F. DuBois Bowman
President, Morehouse College



Jayden Brown **Georgia-Pacific Award**

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

Jayden is a dedicated student at Morehouse College pursuing a B.S. in Applied Physics, with plans to further his studies in Computer Engineering. His research interests include hardware-software integration and embedded systems, demonstrated through projects such as a LIDAR sensor prototype, a Python-based 2D fighting game, and an Arduino-based Bluetooth speaker. Professionally, he has applied his technical skills as a SharePoint Intern and Data Manager Support Intern at Capital Square Living. His academic excellence has earned him a place on the Morehouse Dean's List for two consecutive years.



Julian Hutchins **Davis Award**

*Mathematics Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Julian is a senior Mathematics major at Morehouse College with research interests spanning the broad fields of Algebra and Topology. He has completed two summers of research creating mathematical models for chemical reaction networks and radio channel assignments respectively. He has presented his work extensively at mathematics conferences earning multiple awards. His research modeling radio channel assignments is currently being edited and reviewed for publication. Apart from research, Julian is also an avid drawer and gymgoer.



Jacob Jack

Bankoff/Hardin Award

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

Jacob Jack is pursuing two Bachelor of Science degrees in Applied Physics and Computer Engineering through the Dual Degree Engineering Program at Morehouse College. His professional interests include embedded systems, robotics, hardware design, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and cloud-connected devices. A committed leader in STEM, Jacob previously served as President of the AUC NSBE chapter and now supports the organization in an advisory role. He conducted research at the University of Michigan's Robotics Department, gaining hands-on experience in robotics, programming, and applied engineering, and at Stanford's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, where he mentored students through the CORE Science Institute. Most recently, Jacob interned at Southwire, enhancing the SurgeGuard product with ESP32-based BLE, Wi-Fi, and Firebase cloud integration.



Nicholas Pittman

Glenn Leadership Award

*Biology Major
Second 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, 3-D 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 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.



Justin St. Cloud **Genuine Parts Award**

Biology Major
First Year ARCS Scholar

Justin is a Biology major on the pre-medical track at Morehouse College pursuing a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Public Health. His research focuses on the molecular mechanisms underlying neurodevelopmental disorders, particularly autism spectrum disorder. At Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, he investigated how Shank3 knockout models influence cortical development and the onset of autism, which may result in a publication. Justin has presented his research in poster sessions and remains committed to academic excellence and community engagement. Outside of academics, he enjoys volunteering, fitness, and watching movies.



Ashton Szarnicki **Roche Award**

Chemistry Major
First Year ARCS Scholar

Ashton Szarnicki is a junior Chemistry major at Morehouse College and a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar. His research interests are in Chemistry, specifically in Organic Chemistry and Pharmaceuticals. He conducted research in cardiac tissue engineering at the Coulombe Lab at Brown University as part of the Leadership Alliance. In addition, he participated in the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute, where he studied health equity and developed skills in healthcare leadership. Ashton plans to pursue postgraduate study in medicine and business, aiming to focus on healthcare administration and innovation. Outside of academics, he enjoys watching baseball and playing chess.



Surrell Taylor

Graves Award

Applied Physics Major

First Year ARCS Scholar

Surrell is a junior at Morehouse College pursuing a B.S. in Applied Physics with a minor in Mathematics. He has developed strong research interests in semiconductors and their role in advancing modern technology. Inspired by his internship experiences at DuPont and Purdue University, where he collaborated with graduate students and created a semiconductor device, Surrell plans to pursue an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering with a focus on semiconductor production and development. His academic honors include multiple scholarships recognizing excellence in physics and mathematics. Outside of the classroom, Surrell enjoys music, mentoring fellow students, and engaging in community-focused activities that connect science with broader societal impact.



Imhotep Truitt

Wright Award

Biology Major

First Year ARCS Scholar

Imhotep is a junior Biology major on the pre-med track at Morehouse College. His research interests are in Neuroscience, specifically in clinical research. During the summer of 2025, he worked at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in a glioblastoma lab studying the effects of ferroptosis on tumor cells. He has also conducted research at Morehouse College for two years. He conducted research in molecular genetics during the spring of the 2024-2025 school year, and now is conducting animal studies research in neuroscience for the 2025-2026 school year. A publication will result from the genetics research completed in the 2024-2025 school year. In addition to his studies, Imhotep enjoys all types of music, cooking, and night drives.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

JERE W. MOREHEAD, PRESIDENT

"For the last 25 years, ARCS® Foundation Atlanta has played a pivotal role in supporting the education and development of the University of Georgia's most promising graduate students in the STEM and medical fields. Because of their generosity, more than 100 UGA students have received funding to create new knowledge, tackle society's most pressing challenges, and prepare for a lifetime of leadership in their respective disciplines. I am incredibly thankful for our ongoing partnership with the ARCS® Foundation, and I look forward to the next 25 years of transformational impact."

Jere W. Morehead
President, University of Georgia



Jordan Argrett **Arrendale/Skinner Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Ecology
Second 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 **Boyd/Henry Award**

Ph.D. Student, Ecology
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Christian is an Ecology Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia's 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

Second 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 research interests include regeneration, stem cell function, and neuropeptide signaling. Outside of science she enjoys spending time with family, leading worship on Sundays, and playing volleyball with friends.



Saumya Gade

Dodson Award

DVM/Ph.D. Student, Comparative Biomedical Sciences

First Year ARCS Scholar

Saumya is a D.V.M.-Ph.D. student and UGA Graduate School Doctoral Fellow pursuing her Ph.D. in the Comparative Biomedical Sciences program at the University of Georgia. Interested in comparative pathology and translational medicine, she studies Cushing's disease, an endocrine disorder, between canines and humans. She received her B.S.A.B in Applied Biotechnology and an Undergraduate Certificate in One Health at the University of Georgia and has worked with several research labs throughout her degrees. She has had experience working with vector-borne diseases, wildlife pathology, parasite ecology, murine models of bone disease, and stem cell and organoid research.



Natalie Gonzalez **Leake/ARCS Atlanta Century Award**

Ph.D. Student, Genetics
Third Year ARCS Scholar

Natalie is a fourth-year doctoral student in the department of Genetics at the University of Georgia. Her current research focuses on better understanding evolutionary and genetic mechanisms that cause the formation of new species. For her research she uses hybrids of several species of Yellow Monkeyflowers in the genus *Mimulus*. She obtained two B.S. degrees in Plant Sciences and in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Throughout her undergraduate education she participated in several NSF funded research internships. As a graduate student she was awarded an NIH training grant as well as an NSF graduate student research fellowship. When she can find spare time she enjoys baking, painting, and crafting.



Jennifer McCann **Burtchaell Award**

Ph.D. Student, Genetics
Second 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 genes that control the crucial process of sex determination are regulated. Before beginning her doctoral program, Jenny spent 10 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 UGA Doctoral Fellow and NIH T32 Trainee. Outside the lab, Jenny loves backpacking in the mountains, reading, and spending time with her husband and three kids.



Jordan Parker **McGonigle/Rosenbaum Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Jordan Parker received her bachelor's degree in Equine Science from the University of Kentucky in 2020 and her master's degree 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 UGA Graduate School named Parker as a graduate fellow, and the CVM 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
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Myddelton (Myddie) Parker is a third-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
Second 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 received the Glycoscience Training Program NIH T32 training grant at 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 intersects epigenetics, cancer biology, and glycoscience to investigate how specific complex carbohydrates are regulated in our bodies and how dysregulation of these sugars can alter melanoma tumor growth and progression.



Tuyetnhu Pham

Lundeen/Bazzel Award

*Ph.D. Student, Plant Biology
Second 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 understanding its physiology and genetic mechanisms of the fungus pathogenicity. 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-authored papers. Besides research, she enjoys promoting fungal biology to her local community by presenting her work and organizing fungal-related events.



Claire Reichardt

Taylor Award

Ph.D. Student, Microbiology

First Year ARCS Scholar

Claire is a Microbiology doctoral student at the University of Georgia focusing on fungal pathogens. Claire is interested in fungal genomics and its correlation to pathogenicity. She received her B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2023 where she maintained research positions in Microbiology and Plant Pathology departments for all four years. Claire was named an NIH T32 Trainee in the Genetics department at the University of Georgia in 2024. She has published two peer-reviewed articles. In her free time, Claire helps publish young researchers at the Journal of Emerging Investigators through copy editing and reviewing.



Damián Santiago-Sosa

Olchowski/Potter Award

Ph.D. Student, Bioinformatics

Second Year ARCS Scholar

Damián J. Santiago-Sosa is a third-year Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia's Institute of Bioinformatics. His research focuses on microbial communities, using phenotypic data and deep learning to better understand carbon flux in the ocean in Earth's changing climate. He works in the Hoarfrost Lab, which integrates computational methods with culture-based techniques to bridge interdisciplinary science. Damián earned his B.Sc. in Microbiology with a minor in Computer Science from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. Outside the lab, he enjoys running, working out, and singing in the shower. A former collegiate athlete and student leader, his goal is to empower the next generation of Latin and Hispanic scientists while destigmatizing careers in science.



Skylar Settles

Dick Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Genetics

First Year ARCS Scholar

Skylar earned a B.S. in Biology from Purdue University where her love for research began through studying heat resistance in *Salmonella enterica*. During her undergraduate experience she also worked as a laboratory intern in both bioanalytical and in vivo laboratories at Inotiv, further solidifying her interest in the research industry and ambition to pursue graduate school. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Georgia working toward a Ph.D. in Genetics studying pluripotent stem cell regulation in a freshwater flatworm, the planarian. Outside of her graduate studies, she enjoys going on walks with her Dalmatian and reading fantasy or mystery novels.



Moira Taber

Cooper/Mukharji Award

Ph.D. Student, Regenerative Bioscience

Second Year ARCS Scholar

Moira received her bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Georgia, (UGA) during which time she served as an Ameri-Corp Service member and UGA Cattlemen's Association Club President. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Regenerative Bioscience as a Franklin Foundation Fellow at UGA. Moira's research focuses on delineating neural network recovery mechanisms and the influence of sexually dimorphic neuroanatomy and development on functional recovery following traumatic brain injury (TBI). She has presented her research at national conferences, and her work is expected to yield seven publications. Her hope is that her research will help address current knowledge gaps in order to help develop an FDA-approved TBI treatment.



Breanna Timani

Hinkle Award

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

Breanna Timani is a third-year Ph.D. student in Dr. Brindley's virology lab pursuing her degree in Comparative Biomedical Sciences. Her research is focused on understanding the molecular requirements for Zika virus infection in different cell types, as well as understanding how Zika replication is impacted by varying temperatures. She received her B.S. in Environmental Health Science from the University of Georgia. Throughout her undergraduate career, she gained experience working in infectious disease labs as well as environmental microbiology labs. As a graduate student, she has presented her work at national conferences and competed as a finalist in UGA's annual 3-Minute Thesis competition in 2024.

ARCS® FOUNDATION ATLANTA

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Frances Swensson*
VP Administration	Betsy Kazazian*
VP Communications	Ronnie Martin
VP Education	Ellen Adair Wyche*
VP Finance/Treasurer	Eileen Higgins*
VP Funds Development	Maggie Joslin*
VP Membership	Carolynn Cooper*
Co-VP University Relations	Ashley Cornelison* & Margaret Turk*
Recording Secretary	Suzanne Sullivan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Assistant Treasurers	Lyn Asbill & Mary Watson
Directory Chair	Jamie Deeter
Internal Communications Chair	Pace Parsons
Name Tags Chair	Kristen Gibbs*
Newsletter Editor	Anne Gieryn*
Newsletter Publisher	Niv Persaud
Public Relations Chair	Joanne Chesler Gross
2026 Retreat Co-Chairs	Molly Eskew & Debby Kelly
Scholar Alumni Chair	Mary Jo Peed*
2025 Scholar Awards Celebration Chair	Janis Henry*
Scholar Awards Celebration Chair Elect	Angelle Hamilton*
Scholar Yearbook Chair	Missy McClatchey
Scholars Chair	Meg Heyer & Suzy Wasserman
Social Media/Public Webpage Chair	Laura Gruber & Leslie Petter
Speakers Chair	Barbara Bing Pliner*
Special Events Chair	Cathey Millichap*
Special Events Chair Elect	Betts Love*
Website Chair	Pat Leake*
Website Chair Elect	Sallie Topfl*

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT

Assistant to the President	Lee Doyle*
Nominating Chair	Ann Taylor*
Parliamentarian	Maureen Lobb*

APPOINTED BY THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Endowment Committee Chair	Lisa Bankoff*
----------------------------------	---------------

**Indicates new to the position*

ARCS® FOUNDATION

ATLANTA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Yetty Arp	Laura Hardman	Mary Jo Peed
Cyndae Arrendale	Susan Hawkins	Niv Persaud
Lyn Asbill	Janis Henry	Leslie Petter
Lisa Bankoff	Meg Heyer	Barbara Bing Pliner
Mollie Winston Barrow	Eileen Higgins	Mary (Teed) Poe
Sarah Batts	Susan Higley	Patty Reid
Barbara Bazzel	Sally Hinkle	Vicki Riedel
Kelley Berman	Cecile Jones	Becky Riley
Sally Boice	Maggie Joslin	Tricia Rosenbaum
Erin Boom	Mary Justice	Janie Skinner
Anne Boyd	Elizabeth Kazazian	Elizabeth M. Spiegel
Susan Boyd	Kelli Keb	Deede Stephenson
Suzette Brading*	Debby Kelly	Carol Stockman
Lisa Brown	Anita Kern	Suzanne Sullivan
Donna Burchfield	Cathy LaMon	Frances Swensson
Sara Jean Burke	Liz Mori Lauer	Ann Taylor
Meredith Carpenter	Pat Leake	Macie Thompson
Nancy Chambers	Barbara Levy	Sallie Topfl
Carolynn Cooper	Gina Lim	Pat Tuff
Ashley Cornelison	Debbie Liss	Margaret Turk
Barbara Crum*	Maureen Lobb	Cathy Wahlen
Erin Dasher	Betts Love	Suzy Wasserman
Elaine Davis	Sherry Lundeen	Mary Watson
Jamie Deeter	Beaty Maffett	Shelley Woods Whiting
Mary Dodson	Beth Maguire	Nancy Parks Williams
Jane Dolinger	Ronnie Martin	Jane Wilson
Martha Lee Doyle	Barbara Marxer	Ellen Adair Wyche
Anne Easterly	Melissa McClatchey	
Margaret (Molly) Eskew	Sally McDaniel	
Elizabeth Finnerty	Susan McGonigle	
Kristen Gibbs	Linda Kay McGowan	
Anne Gieryn	Cathey Millichap	
Kathryn Graves	Caroline Moise	
Joanne Chesler Gross	Andrea Montag*	
Laura Gruber	Regina Olchowski	
Angelle Hamilton	Pace Parsons	
Caroline Hardin	Laura Pease	

**Indicates 2025 - 2026 new member*

ARCS® FOUNDATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kathy Ashe	Betty Feezor
Jeanne Berry	Louise Glenn
Lynn Cochran	Robin King
Sylvia Dick	Ann Klamon
Marcia Donnell	Leslie McLeod
Patsy Drummond	Kristen Whatley
Marie Edwards	

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mary O'Connor
Beth Cabrera

ARCS LIGHT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Cheryl Dixon, 1992-1993	Janie Wilson, 2009-2010
Carol Teem, 1993-1994	Susie Deyo, 2010-2011
Cecy Jones, 1994-1995	Debbie Liss, 2011-2012
Alice Brown, 1995-1996	Liz Troy, 2012-2013
Patsy Drummond, 1996-1997	Sherry Lundeen, 2013-2014
Frannie Graves, 1997-1998*	Ronnie Martin, 2014-2015
Lexi Mitch, 1998-1999	Peg Cooley, 2015-2016
Mary O'Connor, 1999-2000	Gracia Conn, 2016-2017
Kitty Hawks, 2000-2001	Susan Higley, 2017-2018
Clare Whitfield, 2001-2002*	Nancy Chambers, 2018-2019
Teed Poe, 2002-2003	Sally Hinkle, 2019-2020
Betty Feezor, 2003-2004	Frances Swensson, 2020-2021
Kay Weiss, 2004-2005	Deede Stephenson, 2021-2022
Lisa Bankoff, 2005-2006	Lee Doyle, 2022-2023
Pat Leake, 2006-2007	Leslie Petter, 2023-2024
Anne Boyd, 2007-2008	Sally McDaniel, 2024-2025
Jeanne Berry, 2008-2009	

**Deceased*

**SCHOLAR AWARDS
CELEBRATION COMMITTEE 2025**

Chairman	Janis Henry	
Chairman-Elect	Angelle Hamilton	
VP Funds Development	Maggie Joslin	
Funds Development Committee	Sara Jean Burke Nancy Chambers Carolynn Cooper Jamie Deeter Mary Dodson Lee Doyle Caroline Hardin	Janis Henry Sherry Lundeen Sally McDaniel Leslie Petter Frances Swensson Cathy Wahlen Suzy Wasserman
Public Relations Chair	Joanne Chesler Gross	
Scholars Chair	Meg Heyer and Suzy Wasserman	
Co-VP University Relations	Ashley Cornelison and Margaret Turk	
Scholar Yearbook Chair	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, INC. NATIONAL BOARD OR COUNCIL OF ADVISORS 2025-2026

Nancy Chambers	Chair, Council of Advisors
Carolynn Cooper	Chair, Council of Presidents
Sara Jean Burke	Parliamentarian
Sally McDaniel	National Endowment Committee
Sherry Lundeen	National Endowment Committee
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***

