



Achievement Rewards  
for College Scientists

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.

## Upcoming Events

- June 6  
Old Board/New Board Meeting
- September 7  
New Member Orientation
- September 9  
Board Meeting
- September 24  
Fall Cocktail Party
- November 16  
Scholar Awards Luncheon
- January 10  
General Meeting and Luncheon
- May 9  
Annual Meeting and Luncheon

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# ARCHiveS

## ARCS® Foundation Atlanta Chapter

Volume No. XVIII Issue IV

Spring 2017

### 2018 ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter Retreat

March 21-25 – New Orleans

Regina Olchowski

The ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter Retreat in the spring of 2018 will be to New Orleans, Louisiana. This city, so exciting and full of character, sparks visions of wonderful food, distinctive architecture, and fantastic jazz. Our plan is to experience the essence of this unique city, while exploring the aftermath of its great tragedy, Hurricane Katrina.

Our trip will focus on the environmental impact of Katrina. It was the costliest natural disaster and one of the five deadliest hurricanes in the history of the United States, with total property damage estimated at \$108 billion. Over fifty breaches in New Orleans's hurricane surge protection system were the cause of the majority of the death and destruction during Katrina on August 29, 2005. Eventually, 80% of the city and large tracts of neighboring parishes flooded, and the floodwaters lingered for weeks. All the major studies have concluded that the builders of the levee system were responsible, primarily due to a decision to cut back on materials to save money. We will hear from the Corps of Engineers, explaining the background and future of the levees that serve to protect New Orleans. We will also learn about the massive rejuvenation projects – such as Brad Pitt's Katrina homes and the Connick Musician Village - following the 2005 disaster.



In addition, there will be fine dining in the French Quarter, exploring New Orleans unique architecture, and learning a bit more about jazz. Other highlights include a visit to the World War II museum, learning about an electronic business started by a Georgia Tech grad, and a personal tour of Virginia Weinmann's home in the elegant Metairie District.

We have found a distinctive boutique hotel in the heart of the French Quarter, which gives us easy access to fine dining and exploring the soul of the city.

Registration for the retreat will open early in July. The hotel will then be available for booking, and will be offering the same rates for any days before or after the retreat. Please join us!

## From the President's Desk



Over the past year, our Chapter has been celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We have had much to celebrate - \$4.6 million has been awarded to scholars continuing their degrees in science, engineering, and medical research. In addition to celebrating the financial success of our chapter, we celebrate the accomplished and dedicated women of our chapter who have worked together to promote our mission. The amount of time, money, and effort donated is truly extraordinary and much appreciated. Perhaps more importantly, ARCS membership has also precipitated many long-lasting friendships.

Celebration 2017 has included a year-long series of special educational events with our four academic partners, website training, a special book review for our members, newly-created E-Blasts on our history and membership, and of course, the Jubilee chaired by Sylvia Dick and Pat Tuff. Ginny Plummer and Susan Higley have been the heart, soul, and glue of our Celebration 2017.

One of the highlights of each Spring is the Site Visits to our four academic partner campuses, organized by the Funds Development and University Relations teams. During these meetings, we discuss plans and issues pertinent to each institution, which in turn, reinforce the importance of good working relationships to help promote our mission. The visits may include lunch, a lab tour, and certainly presentations by our scholars. These gatherings are very uplifting and give us the vision of a bright future for our country and our world.

ARCS Foundation Atlanta has received a very generous donation of \$100,000 from the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation to our Endowment Fund in honor of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This donation will help fund awards for years to come. Our Chapter is most appreciative of the Glenn's generosity in support of our mission. In addition, our members have contributed over \$20,000 to the Endowment Fund in the past year. Thank you, members, for your generous support.

On a personal note, I want to thank our exceptional Board that has served this past year. You are the BEST and I truly appreciate your time, your wisdom, and the many opinions you have shared with me.

Wishing you a fun, relaxing, and safe summer,

Sara Jean

## LOWER YOUR TAXES... AND RAISE OUR ENDOWMENT!

Janie Wilson  
Chair, Endowment Committee

It's a win-win possibility for our chapter and our qualifying ARCS Atlanta members. Thanks to Congress making permanent an option first available in 2006, an owner – age 70 ½ or older – of an IRA may directly transfer, tax-free up to \$100,000 per year to an ELIGIBLE charity, whether the owner itemizes their deductions or not, and reap tax benefits.

According to Tax Insider™ the requirements are straightforward. The charitable distribution must be made:

- On or after the IRA owner has reached 70 ½
- From a traditional or Roth IRA (not from an employer-sponsored retirement plan)
- Directly from the IRA trustee to the charitable organization, with no intervening possession or ownership by the IRA owner
- To an eligible charitable organization (like ARCS Foundation, Atlanta Chapter!) other than a private foundation or donor advised fund.

Tax benefits can include:

- Lowering taxable income – distributed amounts to the charity are excluded from the IRA owner's income
- Satisfying an annual required minimum distribution (RMD)
- Avoiding the percentage limitation on charitable contributions
- Avoiding itemized deduction and personal exemption phase outs
- Making it less likely that Social Security will be taxable

Two additional benefits:

- This provision applies to EACH individual's IRA; thus a couple could transfer as much as \$200,000 to a single qualified charity (\$100K per person's IRA)
- A donor can make this gift transfer EVERY year

The **ARCS Atlanta Endowment Committee** invites our qualifying members to consider making such a legacy gift to our Endowment, which supports scholar awards in perpetuity. As with any personal financial issue, please consult your financial/tax advisor or CPA.

## Thank You Endowment Donors!

Over \$120,000 has been donated to our Endowment Fund so far this fiscal year, led by a wonderful gift from the Wilber and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation. Regardless of the size, all of your contributions are important to help create a legacy fund that will support our scholars for years to come. Thank you to the following ARCS Atlanta members for your continuing generosity:

Yetty Arp  
Lisa Bankoff  
Anne Boyd  
Alice Brown  
Sara Jean Burke  
Nancy Chambers  
Gracia Conn  
Ada Lee Correll  
Elaine Davis  
Jane Dolinger  
Marcia Donnell  
Karen Doolittle  
Lee Doyle  
Anne Easterly  
Marty Gillin  
Lou Glenn  
Susan Higley  
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Leslie Petter  
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Ginny Plummer  
Patty Reid  
Phyllis Rodman  
Elizabeth Spiegel  
Frances Swensson  
Liz Troy  
Pat Tuff  
Suzy Wasserman  
Mary Watson  
Brooke Weinmann  
Janie Wilson  
Louise Yeoman

## May 2017 Scholar Alumni Updates

Lissa Webber

### Tony Szempruch, University of Georgia (2015-2016)



Dr. Szempruch was a 2015 ARCS fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Steve Hajduk in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Georgia. His PhD research was recently selected for a 2016 Kaluza Prize, given by the American Society for Cell Biology in collaboration with Beckman Coulter Life Sciences to honor academic excellence in graduate student research. His studies on African trypanosomes, the cause of human African sleeping sickness, showed that these parasites release extracellular vesicles that transfer virulence factors between parasites and can interact with host cells to cause pathology. His discoveries offer opportunities to develop new strategies for diagnosis and treatment of diseases caused by trypanosomes. Dr. Szempruch

graduated in the summer of 2016 and is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Mitch Guttman at Caltech. For information on the Kaluza prize see:

<http://www.ascb.org/kaluzaprizes/>

<http://www.ascb.org/2016/10/04/2016-ascb-kaluza-prize-winners-moonlighting-histone-fidelity-phase-separation/>

### Brady Hunsaker, Georgia Tech (1999-2002)

Dr. Hunsaker graduated from Georgia Tech in 2003 with a Ph.D. in Algorithms, Combinatorics, and Optimization.



Following his Ph.D., he took a job as a junior faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh Department of Industrial Engineering. Dr. Hunsaker was at the University of Pittsburgh for four and a half years, where he did research including improved computational techniques for integer programming as well as looking at the possible benefits of applying integer programming to redesign the national liver donation system. He particularly enjoyed the teaching aspects of the job, teaching graduate students, undergraduates, and doing outreach to high school students and teachers to introduce them to the field of operations research.

After four years, Dr. Hunsaker found that the reward system of a large research university was not a good fit for him. He became a software engineer at Google in 2008 and has enjoyed working there for the last nine years. The role of software engineer can include many things at Google, including data analysis, algorithm development, and product design, in addition to what people usually think of as programming. He writes, "Much of my time was spent working on online shopping, particularly in helping understand the quality of various web merchants and how we can help users make decisions about where to shop online. I also helped establish the Pittsburgh Google office's outreach program for K-12 students, co-developing hands-on activities to introduce interesting ideas in computer science to middle school and early high school students."

More recently he has worked on Google Maps, including directions when using public transit as well as understanding how users use Google Maps so that the company can make good decisions about how to invest its efforts to improve.

### **Keely Gilroy, Emory University (2002-2003)**



Dr. Gilroy received an ARCS award while she was a graduate student in the Genetics and Molecular Biology Program at Emory University. After completing her PhD in 2003, she moved to Nashville for a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Her research at Vanderbilt focused on investigating molecular pathways that contribute to the development of diabetes.

She joined Takeda Pharmaceuticals in 2006 as a Medical Science Liaison, where she is still employed. In her role at Takeda, Keely provides scientific support and education to healthcare providers to support the care of patients who are treated with Takeda's medicines. She also helps to facilitate research to develop new medications and to monitor their effects and safety after they gain FDA approval. She has worked in the areas of diabetes, hypertension, obesity and cholesterol, and currently works in the area of gastroenterology with a medication for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

She lives in Atlanta with her husband and two young sons, and is very thankful for the support she received early in her scientific career from the ARCS foundation!

### **Dr. Jim Luedtke, Georgia Tech (2003-2007)**

After graduating from Georgia Tech with a PhD in Industrial and Systems Engineering in 2007, Dr. Luedtke spent a year as a postdoctoral researcher at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center in New York, and then started a position as a professor of Industrial Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Luedtke conducts research developing methods for solving mathematical models ("integer and stochastic optimization problems"). These models help decision-makers make design, planning and operational decisions in settings where there are an astronomical number of discrete combinations, or where the decisions must be made in the face of uncertain data or outcomes. Dr. Luedtke has been awarded the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences Optimization Society Prize for Young Researchers, and an NSF CAREER Award. After being promoted to Associate Professor in 2015, Dr. Luedtke spent a semester on sabbatical teaching and conducting research in Chile as a Fulbright Scholar.

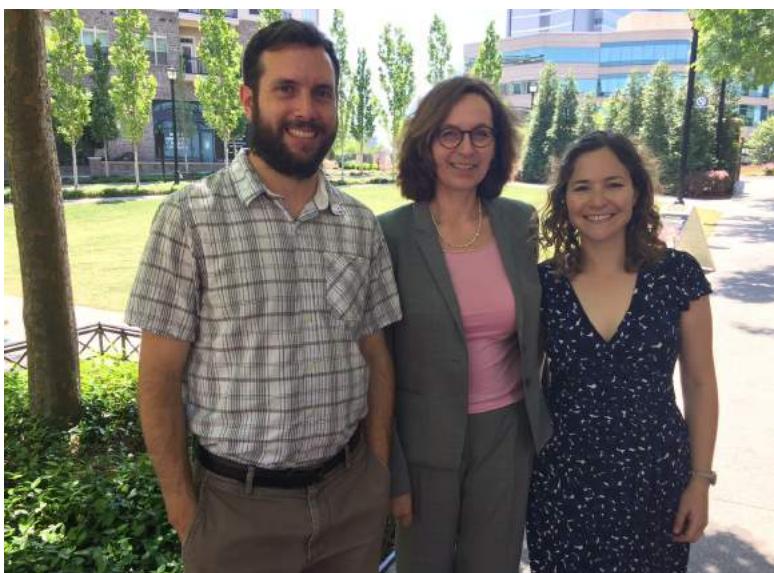


## Joachim Herz Foundation: Supporting the Creation of Knowledge Globally

Margaret Turk

Have you ever wondered who is the largest funder of ARCS Atlanta's scholar awards? And if you knew that it was the Joachim Herz Stiftung from Germany, have you wondered why they invest in Georgia's scholars?

Our relationship began in 2006 when, at Sherry Lundein's request, Mr. Herz gave the ARCS Atlanta Chapter a \$25,000 grant, enabling the chapter to switch from a yearly "raise, allocate, fund" cycle to a three-year cycle. After the untimely death of Mr. Herz in 2008, his wife Petra continued to support ARCS Atlanta personally or through his Atlanta-based company, JH Holdings. The Stiftung (German for



Andrea Martin of the Joachim Herz Stiftung with Aaron Wallace and Marissa Grossman at Emory University

foundation) was established in 2008 and has supported the Atlanta Chapter with annual contributions of \$40,000.

Mr. Herz believed strongly in the discovery, creation and communication of new knowledge and the preservation of existing knowledge. There was nothing he enjoyed more than taking long walks with people to discuss the world we live in and how we might address today's most pressing and complex problems. To that end, his foundation focuses on education and personal development, allowing for personal responsibility and initiative, the ability to reflect on personal motivation, independent thought and action and acceptance of others. The foundation is currently the

third largest in Germany and distributes over ten million euros annually. ARCS Atlanta is the only U.S. recipient.

Mr. Herz loved coming to Atlanta! He had many business holdings here but what drew him four times a year was his farm in Covington, Georgia. There he was able to escape to the tranquil, rolling green hills dotted with grazing cattle and several lakes and ponds.

Recently, Ms. Andrea Martin, his foundation representative, visited Atlanta and met some of the ARCS scholars supported by the foundation. This was the first time anyone from Herz had visited Atlanta. She was very impressed not only with the scholars but with ARCS Atlanta and our commitment to these scholars. The foundation plans to continue its support of ARCS since they know Mr. Herz believed in our mission and valued education. We hope to see Ms. Martin and other foundation members in Atlanta again soon.

## Funds Development

Lee Doyle

Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year promises to yield a successful fund raising campaign. On our spring site visits to the four campuses, we were able to give the good news to the schools that we will be increasing our awards from 50 to 52.

Revenues for the year are slightly ahead of last year and we are on track to meet or exceed last year's funds, despite the fact that we have lost Roche and several of our long-term donors. We expect all our corporate donors to renew.

ARCS members have been very responsive this year.

8 of our 10 new members have contributed

We have 14 new Century donors

Several of our Century donors have stepped up to fund scholars

Honorarium gifts have increased significantly

We have 3 new sponsors for full scholarships.

With the assistance of our contractor Katie Hauser, we have contacted 18 clients, renewed five corporate gifts and are awaiting replies from five new foundations.

Nancy Chambers and a small group of members developed a donor stewardship plan. This document, with its 31 recommendations, is intended to serve as a blueprint for strengthening our donor relationships.

## University Relations Site Visits

Elaine Davis

University Relations had VERY productive and successful campus site visits with our academic partners, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College and the University of Georgia.

University Relations Vice President Elaine Davis and UR Vice President-Elect Linda Kay McGowan planned the meetings in collaboration with Lee Doyle, VP Funds Development, and Suzy Wasserman and Kelli Keb who are Vice Presidents-Elect of Funds Development. Susan McGonigle and Sara Batts, Scholars Chair and Scholars Chair Elect also attended along with our ARCS Foundation Atlanta President, Sara Jean Burke. Each meeting included a business session with both staff and faculty in addition to a presentation of the 2017-2018 scholar award allocations.



These meetings also presented an opportunity for the schools to discuss plans or issues important to their individual campuses. Some of those discussions may result in adjustments in operation for the coming academic year. Wonderful and insightful scholar presentations followed this portion of our site meetings.

Our members left each and every visit inspired by the passion and commitment shown by the scholars during their scientific presentations, and were pleased with the staff and faculty's unequivocal support and gratitude to ARCS Foundation Atlanta. University Relations is thrilled to report that our academic partners are in full compliance with our regulations and processes. We have expectations that 2017-2018 will be an extraordinary year.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee

Susan Higley



Oh What a Night! After many months of planning by a dedicated committee, 129 ARCS Atlanta members and guests were treated to a fabulous 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Event on April 23 at the Piedmont Driving Club. After enjoying passed hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the bar, guests were wowed, upon entering the ballroom, by the fantastic floral décor so creatively designed by Parties to Die For. The tall cherry tree branches, lower pastel flower arrangements and votive candles set the tone for a magical evening.

President Sara Jean Burke introduced anniversary chairs Ginny Plummer and Susan Higley and Jubilee chairs Sylvia Dick and Pat Tuff. She also introduced Founding Members, First Chapter Members, Past Presidents and National Board Members. Sara Jean thanked the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation and our Legacy Endowment Gift Donors. She gave special thanks and recognition to our Jubilee Sponsor Wilmington Trust Wealth Advisor guests Jack Sawyer and Bill Torres, and Sheila and Michael Mohr, as well as Supporting Sponsor, Parties to Die For owners Kathy Rainer and Tricky Wolfes. Our chapter is extremely grateful to our donors and sponsors in attendance. Mary O'Connor, our chapter founder, presently living in Washington, DC, briefly recapped our chapter begin-



nings and congratulated the chapter on our success.

After a delicious dinner the floor was crowded with enthusiastic couples dancing to the music of the Moxie Band. Everybody danced. The tables were empty and the PDC was rocking. What fun we all had!

Kudos and thanks go to the Jubilee Committee:

Jubilee Chairs – Sylvia Dick and Pat Tuff  
Invitations – Leslie McLeod and Elizabeth Martin  
Responses – Yetty Arp

Band – Liz Lauer

Seating and Room Layout – Yetty Arp, Cathey Millichap and Sherry Lundein

Décor – Kathy Rainer

Support – Sara Jean Burke, Ginny Plummer, Susan Higley

Nametags – Deede Stephenson

There could be no more fitting recognition of our chapter's achievements over the last twenty-five years than this joyful evening of camaraderie and celebration. Congratulations to all ARCS Atlanta members past and present for their many contributions to our mission.

See all the Jubilee pictures at: <http://www.randmcphoto.com/Nonprofits/ARCS/2017-25th-Anniversary-Party/n-jfnPc2>





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Newsletter

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

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## ARCS Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Morehouse College

Missy McClatchey



On Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Morehouse College welcomed over 60 ARCS members and guests to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ARCS Atlanta. The event was held in the Walter E. Massey Leadership Center on the Morehouse Campus. Dr. Juana Mendenhall, Assistant Professor in the Morehouse Department of Chemistry, provided a scientific presentation on the creation of gels to combat osteoarthritis. Her research centers on polymer chemistry, nanotechnology and tissue engineering. Dr. Mendenhall's comments were followed by a presentation by former ARCS scholar and Georgia Tech Professor Dr. Manu O. Platt. Dr. Platt shared his insights and encouragement to the Morehouse ARCS scholars. He cited Maya Angelou, by sharing the quote "Success is liking yourself, liking what you do and liking how you do it." He encouraged scholars to think locally about their

research and act locally. Identify local needs, such as sickle cell disease, and transfer the learning to impact the entire world to combat disease. He also encouraged scholars to be a mentor by reaching back and pulling someone up with you along your career journey. A light lunch was served after which the Morehouse ARCS Scholars conducted a series of poster presentations for our Atlanta ARCS members. This celebratory event was a joint effort with Funds Development.

## Annual Meeting and Luncheon

June Tompkins

Sixty-five ARCS members, guests and scholars were greeted in the elegant Alexandria Room at the Piedmont Driving Club. The Annual Spring Meeting and Luncheon was held on May 10, 2017. The tables were dressed with floral arrangements designed by Carolynn Cooper.



Our speakers were the 25th Anniversary Scholars: Emily Crispell, Emory (Microbiology & Molecular Genetics); Daniel Moreno, Georgia Tech (Mechanical Engineering); Amir Hobson, Morehouse (Chemistry) and Daniel Becker, UGA (Ecology). Each scholar shared information about his or her individual area of study concluding with a brief Q & A.

Emily Crispell discussed novel antibiotic resistance mechanisms and detection methods and inhibitors.

Daniel Moreno shared that clean water is still unavailable to many people worldwide and his research focus is on alternative and renewable energy sources. Amir Hobson is developing injectable gel for knee joints to induce cartridge regeneration. Daniel Becker studies how activities that alter wildlife food sources affect infectious diseases. His specific focus is on wildlife and vampire bats. Daniel thanked members for the ARCS funding that helped fund his visits to Glasgow to do lab work in serology as well as three years of field work in Peru and other sites.

Listening to each of the scholars reminds us of the importance of our ARCS mission. We applaud our scholars for their research and wish them continued success as scientists!