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ARCS® Foundation Atlanta Chapter

Volume No. XX Issue I

Fall 2018

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

October 17, 2018
Board Meeting

October 31, 2018
Fall Education Meeting at
Centers for Disease Control

November 15, 2018
Scholar Awards Luncheon
The Ritz-Carlton Downtown

January 16, 2019
General Meeting & Luncheon
Piedmont Driving Club

May 8, 2019
Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Inside this issue:

President's Desk	2
Fall Education Meeting	3
New Members	4-5
Fall Party and Photos	6-7
Funds Development	8
Member Spotlight	8
Scholar Alumni	9
Members Reunite	10



Rebecca Bunnell, Ph.D.

2018 Scholar Awards Luncheon Honors Fifty-four Scholars



Jonathan Mermin, M.D., M.P.H.

The 27th annual Scholar Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, November 15, at The Ritz-Carlton in downtown Atlanta. This year we will recognize fifty-four scholars from Emory University, Georgia Tech, Morehouse College and University of Georgia. In total, our scholars are receiving \$416,500 in awards.

Scholars will introduce themselves and give us a brief description of their scientific studies and work. The featured speakers will be Jonathan Mermin, M.D., M.P.H., and Rebecca Bunnell, Ph.D. Accomplished scholars in their own right, they also are married.

Dr. Mermin is the Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, and a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service. During his career at the CDC, he spent three years as Director of CDC-Kenya and seven years as Director of CDC-Uganda. Dr. Mermin is a graduate of Harvard College and Stanford University School of Medicine. He received his MPH from Emory University. You may remember Dr. Mermin as a captivating speaker from our January 2017 membership luncheon; he was so engaging we asked him back for an encore performance!

Rebecca Bunnell is Deputy Director for Science, Policy and Communication in CDC's Division of Global Health Protection. She has nearly 30 years of public health experience, including 17 years stationed internationally for CDC. She also was with the Peace Corps, Doctors Without Borders, USAID and Action Aid. She earned a Doctorate from The Harvard School of Public Health, a Master's from University of Massachusetts/Amherst, and her BA from Yale University.

Once again our moderator will be Bill Liss, the Financial, Consumer and Legal Editor at WXIA-TV. Mr. Liss will field questions from the attendees.

We know this will be a fascinating and informative program for all. Please make your reservations and invite guests who would be interested in seeing the great work that ARCS Foundation scholars are doing.

From the President's Desk



Susan McGonigle

ARCS Foundation Atlanta has been very busy this summer, both in Atlanta and on the National front. We have lots of great happenings and some exciting changes coming.

We have accepted six wonderful new members who bring a great deal of talent and enthusiasm to our membership. Mary Dodson, Mary Justice, Betsy Kazazian, Barbara Marxer, Vikki Millender-Morrow, and Mary Jo Peed all joined our ranks this summer. More information about them can be found in the article on membership. Orientation was on September 11 and they were all introduced at our Fall Cocktail Party. Please make an effort to get to know them.

As a break from our traditional Fall Cocktail Party, we tried something new this year - Tacos and Tequila! I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. The venue was lovely - thank you Erin Dasher for hosting - and the food and drinks were delicious. It was a fun, casual evening with spouses in attendance. Thanks also to Carla Fackler for the lovely donation of wine. Who knew that tacos are delicious with wine? We do now.

In November, we will host our annual Scholar Awards Luncheon at the downtown Ritz-Carlton and hope all will be in attendance as we celebrate our scholars and thank our donors. As of this newsletter printing, ARCS Foundation Atlanta has distributed 818 awards to 454 scholars for a total of \$4,945,000. After our awards luncheon in November, we will pass the \$5,000,000 mark! This is something to celebrate. Thank you in advance to Caroline Hardin and her committee; they have worked hard planning this annual event and also a big thank you to Nancy Chambers for securing Northside Hospital's commitment to underwrite the luncheon and support two scholars.

On the National front, several members of our chapter traveled to Minnesota for the National meeting in Minneapolis in early September. Among the Atlanta delegation were Nancy Chambers, Sally McDaniels, Sherry Lundeen, Carole Stockman (Pittsburgh/Atlanta), Andi Purple (Metro Washington/Atlanta), and myself. We had 2 days of discussion and presentation on best practices and the state of ARCS Foundation nationally. Atlanta is definitely well represented on the national board. Sara Jean Burke will be serving on the Council of Presidents; Nancy Chambers serves as VP Finance/Operations; Sally McDaniel serves as Chair of Funds Development; Carole Stockman is Chair of the Council of Advisors; Andi Purple is the current President; and Sherry Lundeen is President-Elect.

I look forward to seeing you all at the luncheon in November.

Susan

Museum Tour on October 31 Showcases History and Mission of the Centers for Disease Control

ARCS Foundation
Atlanta Chapter
Fall Education
Meeting will take
place at the
David J. Sencer
Museum at the CDC



Ever wonder how CDC scientists merge old-fashioned detective work with high-tech science to crack the cases of mystery diseases? You can get the story at the [David J. Sencer Museum at CDC Headquarters](#). This unique museum features award-winning permanent and changing exhibitions that focus on a variety of public health topics, as well as the history of CDC.

Our fall education event is a 1½ - 2 hour tour of the museum on **October 31 at 10:00 am**. The mission of the museum, which is a Smithsonian Affiliate, is to educate visitors about the value of prevention-based public health, while collecting, preserving, and presenting CDC's rich heritage and vast accomplishments through engaging museum exhibitions, dynamic educational programming, and web archives.

The new exhibit *By the People: Designing a Better America* will have just opened when we visit. This new exhibit focuses on humanitarian design solutions in the modern world, examining how design is addressing social, health, economic and environmental challenges faced by communities throughout the United States. Included is the Beltline Atlanta Concept, which is transforming four existing rail lines into a 22-mile green loop that connects 40 diverse neighborhoods. Organized by Cynthia E. Smith, Curator of Socially Responsible Design at Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, the exhibition includes objects, infographics and media to illustrate new design approaches and to provoke questions about the dynamic role of design in providing innovative solutions.

There is no charge for this event; however, it will be limited to 30 members. If you're unable to attend, check out the hyperlink above for more information about the museum.

New Members Join ARCS Foundation Atlanta

Our Chapter welcomed and introduced six new members at the Fall Cocktail Party. They are Mary Dodson, Mary Justice, Betsy Kazazian, Barbara Marxer, Vikki Millender-Morrow and Mary Jo Peed.



New members from left: Vikki Millender-Morrow, Betsy Kazazian, Mary Dodson, Mary Justice, Barbara Marxer and Mary Jo Peed

2018 ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter New Members

Mary Dodson

Mary Dodson is a co-founder of the Chastain Park Conservancy and a member of the Chastain Park Civic Association. She was recently campaign treasurer for District 8 City Councilman JP Matzigkeit. Mary had a 20+ year career in banking, and she continues to be the finance manager for her husband's law firm. Cathy Wahlen and Sara Jean Burke sponsored Mary for membership.

Mary Justice

Mary Justice has had many years of volunteer experience in the Atlanta area. She co-chaired the Egleston Children's Parade, served as chair of TWIGS and as assistant treasurer of the Junior League of Atlanta. Mary has extensive fundraising experience. She was sponsored by Janis Henry and Janie Wilson.

Betsy Kazazian

Betsy Kazazian has recently served as Parent Education Chair of the Westminster Schools Parent Association and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Atlanta. Earlier in her career, Betsy was a project manager for InSite Clinical Trials and a senior director of quality assurance at UCB Inc. She has a Master's degree in public health. Missy McClatchey and Susan Higley are Betsy's sponsors.

Barbara Marxer

Barbara Marxer graduated from Vanderbilt University and has an MBA from the Emory Goizueta Business School. Prior to being a residential real estate consultant with Dorsey Alston, she worked as vice president of Investor Relations at First Data Corp, senior vice president of Marketing at IBT, and director of Investor Relations at Norrell Corp. Barbara is Ellen Adair Wyche's sister-in-law. She was sponsored by Liz Lauer and Betty Mori.

Vikki Millender-Morrow

Vikki Millender-Morrow is the CEO and President of the National Black Arts Festival. She has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's in public and private management. Vikki spent twenty years with BellSouth and AT&T before serving as CEO and President of several non-profit organizations in Atlanta. Suzy Wasserman and Beth Finnerty are Vikki's sponsors.

Mary Jo Peed

Mary Jo Peed is a lawyer and volunteer for Legal Aid of Atlanta as pro bono counsel. She is a member of Central Atlanta Progress and is very active in her neighborhood association. Lee Doyle and Regina Olchowski are Mary Jo's sponsors.

Fall Cocktail Party Introduces New Members with a *Cálida Bienvenida*

On Sunday, September 30, 2018, the annual fall cocktail party was held at the home of Erin and Karl Dasher. This year was a casual affair with the theme of *Tacos and Tequila* and guests came in “fiesta attire”. A delicious meal of tacos and signature tequila drinks were served by Soiree Catering owned by Chapter member Mary Hataway. As an added treat white wine was donated by long time Atlanta Chapter member Carla Fackler from her vineyard, Stonewall Creek.

New members Mary Dodson, Mary Justice, Elizabeth Kazazian, Barbara Marxer, Vikki Millender-Morrow and Mary Jo Peed were introduced and welcomed to ARCS Foundation Atlanta membership.



Our gracious hosts Erin and Karl Dasher



President Susan McGonigle, Mary Watson, Missy & Cody McClatchey



Mary Hataway and Soiree Catering prepared a sumptuous Mexican buffet perfect for the Tacos and Tequila theme





Strong Fundraising Supports Fifty-four Scholars this Year

Funds Development is pleased to announce that the Atlanta Chapter will award 54 scholarships totaling \$416,500 for the 2018-19 academic year. We have three new full scholar awards and the Joachim Herz Stiftung (Foundation) has increased its donation to add three additional full scholar awards, one each at Emory, Georgia Tech and UGA. Each year the Joachim Herz Stiftung gives \$10,000 to one scholar at each school, so this increase is double their support and tremendous news!

Already this fiscal year, we've raised or have commitments for almost \$500,000. We are always looking for introductions to new corporations and foundations with an interest in supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics, so look through your LinkedIn connections, your social network, and your neighbors for possible donors you could introduce us to.

If you have an idea or a connection please email Suzy Wasserman at suzy@wassermangroup.com or Kelli Keb at etckelli@aol.com.

Northside Hospital Sponsors 2018 Scholar Awards Luncheon

Northside Hospital will once again sponsor the Scholar Awards Luncheon with a \$25,000 gift to ARCS Foundation Atlanta. The hospital also sponsors two of our scholars. Many thanks to Northside Hospital for their generous support, and kudos to Scholar Awards Luncheon Sponsorship Chair Nancy Chambers for securing such an important gift!

Member Michelle Wells *Making a Mark*



Michelle Wells, who joined the Atlanta Chapter in 2014, was featured in *Atlanta* magazine's annual *Women Making a Mark* edition in May 2018. Each year the magazine recognizes those who are doing extraordinary work to make our community better. Michelle was nominated by The Junior League of Atlanta, of which she is a past president, and she was selected for not just her community voluntarism but for her focus on encouraging young women to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Michelle is currently lead physicist at Piedmont Cancer, where she works with physicians treating cancer patients. Her responsibilities include working on computer modeling of radiation therapy and supervising a staff that maintains and calibrates sophisticated radiation machinery. In addition to ARCS Foundation and The Junior League of Atlanta, Michelle also serves on the boards of the Girls Scouts of Greater Atlanta and the Georgia Tech Women's Affinity Network, among other organizations that address STEM, literacy, and intergenerational poverty.

Check out Michelle's profile at atlantamagazine.com/.

2018 Scholar Alumni Updates

Benjamin P. Austin, University of Georgia (2009)



Dr. Austin is currently a Vehicle Performance Development Senior Engineer at Toyota Motor North America, Inc. in Ann Arbor, Michigan. As a human factors engineer on the R&D team, Dr. Austin conducts research and supports the development of the human machine interfaces (HMI) for next generation multi-media systems considering intuitiveness, driver distraction, and future cockpit needs including automated vehicles. Dr. Austin received his B.E. in mechanical engineering from Vanderbilt University and his M.S. and Ph.D. in cognitive-experimental psychology from the University of Georgia, where he studied executive dysfunction using MRI brain imaging techniques. After graduate school, Dr. Austin pursued training in advanced neuroimaging at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health where he held postdoctoral appointments in the Department of Radiology, the UW Cardiovascular Research Center, the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and the Department of Medicine, where he served as

Assistant Scientist. Dr. Austin writes that support from the ARCS Foundation played a critical role in his career path and enabled him to bring together his core interests in engineering and psychology as he develops technology for future autonomous vehicles."

Jillian Hurst, University of Georgia (2008, 2009)



After completing her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Georgia, Jillian Hurst joined the Department of Biochemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a postdoctoral research fellow in the lab of Dr. Henrik Dohlman. While in Dr. Dohlman's lab, Jillian studied signaling mechanisms that govern cellular behavior in budding yeast (*S. cerevisiae*) and was awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the NIH for her research. In 2012, Jillian left the lab to become a Science Editor at the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. During her five years at the *JCI*, Jillian managed commissioning and peer review of all review articles for *JCI* and helped launch a new journal *JCI Insight*, where she adjudicated research manuscripts in all areas of biomedical research. Jillian also served as the primary writer for the monthly journal digest, *JCI This Month*. In 2017, Jillian became a Research Program Manager in the Department of Pediatrics at Duke University School of Medicine, where she runs a pediatric physician-scientist training

program and is helping to develop the new Children's Health & Discovery Institute (CHDI). The goal of the CHDI is to foster multidisciplinary research into the early life factors that influence lifelong health and well-being. She is extremely grateful for the support of the ARCS Foundation, which helped her secure additional funding as a researcher and helped her develop a broad scientific career.

Tony Szempruch, University of Georgia (2015)



Tony Szempruch was a 2015 ARCS scholar in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Georgia in the laboratory of Dr. Stephen Hajduk. During his Ph.D. he studied African trypanosomes, human parasites which cause African sleeping sickness. He was the first to discover that these parasites produce extracellular vesicles which transfer virulence factors between parasites and host cells causing disease pathology. For his graduate discoveries, he was a recipient of the 2016 Kaluza prize from the American Society for Cell Biology and Beckman Coulter. Currently Dr. Szempruch is a Helen Hay Whitney Foundation postdoctoral fellow at Caltech, where he studies mechanisms of long non-coding RNA mediated spatial regulation of gene expression in the laboratory of Dr. Mitchell Guttman. The goal of his work is to understand how non-coding

RNAs function to coordinate the expression of multiple genes and how changes to these processes may have significant roles in cancer and developmental diseases.

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Lasting Friendships of ARCS Foundation Atlanta

Elizabeth Morgan Spiegel ran into Clare Whitfield at the Harvey Mudd graduation where Clare's granddaughter Annalise and Elizabeth's grandson Porter Adams were graduating. Clare moved from Atlanta to Santa Rosa, California in December 2017. Clare was a founding member of ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter and the recipient of the 2001 ARCS Light Award.

Grandmothers and Graduates



Porter Adams, Elizabeth Morgan Spiegel and Clare Whitfield with her granddaughter Annalise

“By recognizing and supporting young scientists, the ARCS Foundation has significantly impacted the careers of future leaders in STEM fields. Thanks to the ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter, I received the encouragement and support to make important discoveries in biology and launch my career in biomedical sciences.”

Tony Szempruch, 2015 ARCS Scholar