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ARCS® Foundation Atlanta Chapter

Volume No. XVIII Issue III

Winter 2017

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

February 14
Book Club

February 23
25th Anniversary Celebration at Morehouse College

April 23
25th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration

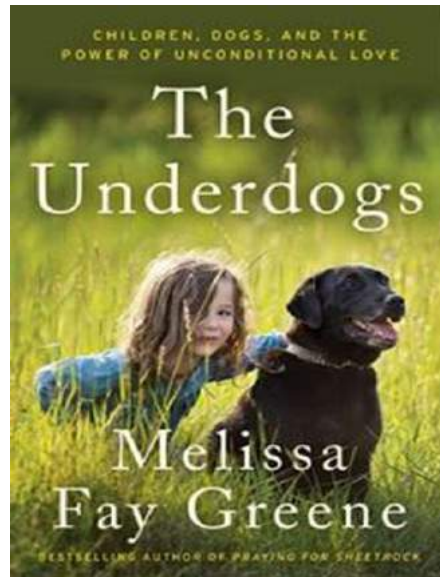
May 10
Spring Annual Meeting and Luncheon

June 6
Old Board / New Board Meeting

November 16
The Scholar Awards Luncheon 2017

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**SAVE THE DATE
for the
2017 ARCS® FOUNDATION
ATLANTA BOOK EVENT**

**FEBRUARY 14TH, 2017,
VALENTINE'S DAY**

Noted Author Melissa Fay Greene to Speak at ARCS Book Event

Clare Whitfield

On Valentine's Day, February 14th, 2017, Melissa Fay Greene, two-time National Book Award nominee, will join us at Ginny Plummer's home to discuss her latest book, *The Underdogs: Children, Dogs, and the Power of Unconditional Love*.

ARCS members will read the book and bring a sandwich for luncheon and social time afterwards. Please also bring \$10 for the speaker's honorarium.



The Underdogs is a profound and surprising account of dogs on the front lines of rescuing both children and adults from the trenches of grief, emotional, physical and cognitive disability, and post-traumatic stress disorder. *The Underdogs* tells the story of Karen Shirk whose life was changed when she was unable to secure a service dog and trained her own. Founder of 4 Paws for Ability, Karen's service dog academy, gives hope and joy to those who need it most.

We hope you will take time to read this touching account of personal interviews and behind the scenes tales of service dogs that have changed lives. Dog lovers, parents of special needs kids, and those who love feel-good stories will delight in these heart-warming portraits of dogs and their families. Melissa's previous award-winning books include *Praying for Sheetrock* and *The Temple Bombing*.

YOU ARE INVITED

as

**Morehouse College honors the 25th Anniversary of
ARCS® Foundation Atlanta Chapter**

**February 23, 2017
11:00 am - 1:30 pm**

Walter E. Massey Leadership Center

Light lunch and free parking will be provided. During the event, Morehouse scholars will conduct poster presentations that describe their research activities. Our members will have a unique opportunity to rotate through the presentations and spend time with each scholar.

From the President's Desk

The highlight of our chapter's year is The Scholar Awards Luncheon. The 2016 luncheon was particularly special, as we celebrated 25 years of supporting scholars in STEM Education.



This year, our chapter awarded \$370,000 to 50 scholars from Georgia Tech, Emory University, UGA, and Morehouse College. These scholars were selected by their respective schools for their academic successes in science, engineering, and medical research.

We were very proud to have Northside Hospital as our presenting sponsor this year. Their support is greatly appreciated in achieving our mission.

A big "Thank You" to Nancy Chambers and Marilyn Colarossi-Woods, who brought us this important new relationship.

Patty Reid and her luncheon committee are to be thanked for the successful and informative day that they planned for our chapter, scholars, donors, and guests. Patty's idea of a new format for the program was well received. Bill Liss, Financial, Consumer and Legal Editor, WXIA, moderated "A Conversation with ARCS Alumni." Deborah Kilpatrick, PhD, CEO Evidation Health and Michael Zwick, PhD, Associate Professor, Emory University, were the scholar alumni participants. The new format allowed the scholars to see what the future might be for them by hearing about the life and work experiences of two outstanding alumni scholars.

Elaine Davis, VP University Relations, and Susan McGonigle, Scholars Chair, organized and prepared the staff, professors, and scholars for participation in The Medallion Ceremony and luncheon presentations. The scholars are always very uplifting and give us hope for a bright future for our country and the world at large. Lee Doyle, VP Funds Development, and her team had a very successful year of fundraising and they deserve a big thank you for their efforts.

Without this money, our mission is not possible, and we value our members and donors who continue to help carry out our mission with time and money for our scholars. A special part of the January Meeting and Luncheon is the announcement of The ARCS Light Award recipient. Congratulations to Gracia Conn for her continued dedication and hard work for our chapter. Please see the article on page 5.

Also, please thank June Tompkins and her committee for planning the luncheon and Caroline Hardin for securing our speaker. Dr. Jonathan Mermin, Emory University, shared some very exciting and interesting information on the events taking place in the research of infectious diseases.

Finally, we have a special announcement: the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation has gifted our endowment \$100,000! Our Chapter is most thankful for this generous donation. See the following article for more details.

Celebration 2017 continues to unfold with upcoming events, celebrating our 25th Anniversary. Please check the calendar and included articles for more information on these events.

Sara Jean

Building For The Future

The Atlanta Chapter Endowment Committee

As we survive the holidays, if you are like me, you think of the Grinch and wonder if he was right when he said, “What if gifts don’t come from a store?

What if giving, perhaps, means a little bit more?” To The Wilber & Hilda Glenn Family Foundation, gifting does mean more - the Atlanta Chapter Endowment Fund has received a most generous donation of \$100,000 from them.

It is our honor to thank the Foundation, especially Lou & Tom Glenn, for this recent gift and to thank them for their total donations of \$250,000 to the Endowment over the past few years. The Glenn Family Foundation is committed to providing for the future of the Atlanta ARCS Chapter and scientific education, but they should not be the only ones to support the Endowment.

In this our 25th anniversary year, as we reflect on our past and look to the future, we would like to challenge each chapter member to make a gift to the Atlanta Endowment Fund. A donation to the Endowment Fund is a PERPETUAL gift; it is never spent and is protected as the principal of the endowment. The growth and earnings of this principal are distributed according to a spending policy which the Endowment Committee oversees. A gift to the Endowment Fund ensures support of our scholars for years to come.

So please consider donating to the Endowment today. A gift of \$100 by every member would have a significant impact on our Fund.

Checks can be made payable to the ARCS Atlanta Chapter Endowment Fund and mailed to

First Foundation
Attn: Cathy Fair
301 North Lake Avenue, Suite 100
Pasadena, CA 91101

Stock and other appreciated securities may also be donated.
For further information or questions, please contact Janie Wilson,
Chair Endowment Fund 2016-17.

Gracia Conn Is 2017 ARCS Light

Peg Cooley

If anyone ever met the criteria to be ARCS Light it is Gracia Conn.



She has taken an active role on the board in some capacity since she first joined ARCS in 2002 and immediately became Historian – a challenging job for anyone, let alone a new member.

She then moved on to other important jobs such as Newsletter editor, ARCS Scholar vice-chair, Scholar Luncheon co-chair, VP for Communications, and Database chair. After she agreed to be president-elect she was called upon to take on the responsibility early when the president became ill.

Then Gracia had her own battle with cancer while serving as president.

Now, as assistant to the president, she continues to take on a leadership role in ARCS, an organization in which she clearly believes.

Her dedication, competency, loyalty and commitment make her an excellent representative of our chapter.

Twenty Five Years!

Susan Higley

ARCS Atlanta began its good work in 1992 and has been growing support for our talented scholars each year since that time. Our scholars have increased from 3 in 1992 to 50 in 2016. Our award dollars have grown from \$15,000 in the beginning to \$370,000 this year.

Congratulations to all of our members for such outstanding success.

The time has come to crown our achievements with a fabulous Jubilee celebration. All our members and their spouses or guests are invited to the Piedmont Driving Club on Sunday, April 23, 2017. The evening will begin at 6:30 with cocktails followed by dinner and dancing to the music of The Moxie Band.

We are thrilled to announce that Wilmington Trust will be a Jubilee Sponsor of our party. Additionally, our own Kathy Rainer and her business partner Tricky Wolfes of *Parties to Die For* will provide breathtaking floral arrangements as Supporting Sponsors of the event.

No matter the level of involvement, each of us has contributed to this important work. So mark your calendars, put on your dancing shoes and CELEBRATE the lives we have changed and the scientists we have supported!

ARCS Atlanta Celebrates 25th Anniversary at Georgia Tech

Missy McClatchey

Sixty ARCS members celebrated the Silver Anniversary of ARCS Atlanta at the Georgia Institute of Technology on October 18, 2016. The event was held in the University's new state of the art Engineered Biosystems Building which features nearly 219,000 square feet of multidisciplinary research space designed to enhance the Institute's partnerships with Emory University Hospital and with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

The event began with Georgia Tech researchers providing small group guided tours of their labs and warm introductions of their graduate students. The graduate students then gave thorough presentations of their current cutting-edge research projects.

One student presenter was Dwight Chambers, son of our ARCS Atlanta Chapter member Nancy Chambers. His research focuses on the development of a platelet-like particle capable of dissolving scar tissue in the lungs caused by pulmonary fibrosis.

This is a progressive condition that causes difficulty breathing and eventually death. One of the researchers on this team, Haylee Bachman, created a visual display using the bacteria *E. coli*. By conjugating an antibody fragment that reacts to blood clots with a fluorescent protein, we could see the glow-in-the-dark bacteria under a black light.

After our tours, ARCS members were treated to a seated luncheon in the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Seminar Room. Georgia Tech President Bud Peterson, husband of member Val Peterson, provided a warm welcome and opening remarks. He was followed by Provost Rafael Bras, husband of member Pat Bras. Following lunch, three current ARCS Scholars provided an overview of their research.

This event was the second of three Atlanta ARCS Silver Anniversary Celebrations hosted by our University partners. The first event was held at the University of Georgia in the Spring of 2016, followed by this Georgia Tech event.

The final University celebration will be held at Morehouse College on February 23, 2017. Many thanks to Georgia Tech for their warm hospitality and intellectually stimulating and celebratory occasion!

25th Annual Scholar Awards Luncheon

Mary Watson



The 25th annual Scholar Awards Luncheon was held at the Ritz Carlton downtown on November 17th 2016. \$370,000 was awarded to a total of 50 scholars from Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Georgia, and Morehouse College. Both the number of scholars and the amount awarded are impressive in their own right, but particularly so when viewed against the 1st Scholar Awards Luncheon in 1992 when \$15,000 was awarded to three scholars.

The luncheon was very well attended by ARCS members, donors, scholars, University officials and guests. After Sara Jean Burke, President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter, welcomed everyone and thanked Northside Hospital, the presenting sponsor, the scholars processed in to the theme song from “Rocky” and thunderous applause. Following the introduction of each university official, the scholars introduced themselves and briefly described their areas of study and research focus.

As usual, they are a most impressive group of young men and women and it is apparent that their accomplishments and achievements will be many. Reverend Monsignor Francis G. McNamee gave the invocation after which everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and lively conversation with our Scholars. In lieu of having a single featured speaker, this year’s program was titled “A Conversation with ARCS Alumni” and had a different format. Bill Liss, Financial, Consumer and Legal Editor of WXIA-TV, facilitated a discussion with Dr. Deborah Kilpatrick, PhD and Dr. Michael Zwick, PhD. Dr. Deborah Kilpatrick is an ARCS Scholar Alumna from Georgia Institute of Technology who is the CEO of Evidation Health.

Dr. Michael Zwick is an ARCS Scholar Alumnus from the University of California at Davis who is at Emory University as an Associate Professor in the Departments of Human Genetics and Pediatrics and is Assistant Dean of Research in the School of Medicine.



Bill Liss asked them questions about their research and the effect that ARCS had on their lives and careers. It was a very candid and enlightening discussion which was enjoyed by all, particularly the Scholars who seemed impressed and inspired by the comments of our special guests.

This year's luncheon was a lovely and inspirational event and was another successful celebration of the 25th Anniversary of our Chapter, thanks to the hard work of our many volunteers and to the generosity of our many donors.



Winter Meeting and Luncheon

June Tompkins

On January 18, 2017, our Winter Meeting and Luncheon was held at Capital City Club Downtown. Our speaker, Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH, is the Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB prevention at the CDC.



Dr. Mermin presented a couple of infection scenarios to our members and guests. He interacted with the audience by asking how they would proceed once there was a clue of an outbreak. After the engaging participation, Dr. Mermin outlined the steps CDC would take to investigate a public health emergency.



We certainly appreciate the works and preparedness of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that help make us safe. This was a meeting not to be missed.

Join our members and guests for the Spring General Meeting and Luncheon that will be held on May 10, 2017 at Piedmont Driving Club.



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