



THE ANNUAL
SCHOLAR
AWARDS
LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 19. 2015



ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.

Atlanta Chapter
Scholar Awards Luncheon
November 19, 2015

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.arcsfoundation.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is with pleasure that I welcome you to the 24th annual ARCS Foundation Atlanta Scholar Awards Luncheon. We are here to honor 48 academically outstanding scholars in science, engineering, and medical research from Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College, and the University of Georgia. These students are among the best and the brightest in their fields of study, and we are proud to be a part of their work and discovery. With 16 Chapters nationwide, ARCS® Foundation has awarded over \$96 million in unrestricted funding since our founding in

1958. Because we are an all volunteer organization, 100% of scholar awards money goes directly to the scholars. These funds are awarded to outstanding graduates and undergraduates to boost American leadership and aid advancement in science and technology. After they graduate, nine out of ten ARCS Scholars work in their sponsored fields creating knowledge, developing technologies, launching start-up companies, and building the STEM Pipeline.

Since 1992, when ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter was founded, we have provided a cumulative total of almost 4.7 million dollars in scholar awards through the contributions of our members, corporate donors, foundations, and friends. Today, our scholars will receive a total of \$345,000 in awards. Your generosity is a direct investment in the future of science, engineering, and medical research as ARCS Scholars have gone on to positions of leadership and distinction in STEM related fields.

In addition, for the first time in our Chapter's history, we have an ARCS Scholar Alumni Award. I am pleased to share with you that 14 of our Chapter's alumni have come together to co-sponsor a scholar. What an inspiration it is to see our alumni pay it forward to help today's scholars pursue their studies and careers in STEM fields.

In closing, I would like to thank and express my deep appreciation to Corrie Johnson and the entire Scholar Awards Luncheon Committee, all of whom have worked tirelessly over this past year to make this a memorable day for our scholars, members, donors, and guests.

Jane Dolinger,
President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.

2015

Atlanta Chapter

Scholar Awards Luncheon

The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta

PROGRAM

Welcome

Jane Dolinger

President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter

Message from National

Lynne M.O. Brickner

President, ARCS Foundation, Inc.

Invocation

Reverend Karla Daniel

Associate Minister, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Atlanta

LUNCHEON

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Elizabeth Martin

VP University Relations, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter

Keynote Speaker

Nael A. McCarty, Ph.D.

Marcus Professor of Cystic Fibrosis Division of Pulmonology, Allergy/ Immunology, Cystic Fibrosis, and Sleep Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine Director, Emory+Children's Cystic Fibrosis Center of Excellence

Moderator

Bill Liss

Financial, Consumer and Legal Editor, WXIA-TV

Closing Remarks

Jane Dolinger

ARCS® FOUNDATION PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

ARCS Foundation, Inc. is a national philanthropic organization supporting the best and brightest U.S. graduate and undergraduate scholars by providing financial scholar awards for pursuing further studies in science, engineering, and medical research.

ARCS Foundation was formed in 1958 in Los Angeles in response to the Soviet Union's Sputnik success and the perceived lack of U.S. supremacy in the technology race.

ARCS FOUNDATION TODAY

Since its founding in 1958, ARCS Foundation has provided close to 16,000 scholar awards totaling over \$96 million at 53 universities, and has grown to almost 1500 members in 16 chapters across the United States. More than \$4.7 million in financial support was awarded by ARCS Foundation in the academic year 2014-2015.

ARCS Foundation principles and practices have remained consistent since its founding in 1958. For example:

- 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 awards funds are raised and distributed locally.
- ARCS Foundation is an all-women volunteer organization.

Lynne Brickner, National President of ARCS Foundation, Inc., says, "ARCS Foundation supports outstanding students who are forging new paths in science, engineering and medical research. Our ARCS Scholar Alumni pursue careers in academia, industry and public service, and they are a true national treasure. Take the opportunity to talk with the ARCS Scholars being acknowledged and honored today at the Atlanta Scholar Awards Luncheon. The excitement and enthusiasm of our ARCS Scholars and ARCS Scholar Alumni will inspire and amaze you."

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The Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chapter of ARCS Foundation extends special thanks to the following whose time and talents contributed to the success of our annual celebration.

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Nael A. McCarty, Ph.D.



Nael McCarty, Ph.D., is the Marcus Professor of Cystic Fibrosis in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory University. Dr. McCarty serves as Director of the Emory+Children's Cystic Fibrosis Center of Excellence, the comprehensive CF program at Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

He earned his MS in marine biology in Wilmington, North Carolina, and his Ph.D. in cell physiology in Houston, Texas. He then received postdoctoral training in molecular physiology at Caltech, before moving to Atlanta in 1994.

His first academic position was as Assistant Professor of Physiology and Pediatrics at Emory, a position that he held for seven years. He then moved his lab to Georgia Tech in 2001 where he was Associate Professor in the School of Biology.

The Department of Pediatrics recruited Dr. McCarty back to Emory late in 2007 as Senior CF Scientist and Associate Chief for Research in the PACS Division of Pediatrics. Since that time, Dr. McCarty has expanded his basic science research into new more-translational areas, primarily focused on CF. His research program is currently funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the CF Foundation.

Dr. McCarty also serves as Director of the Molecules-to-Mankind graduate pathway in the Laney Graduate School at Emory and is the Director of the Atlanta BEST Program at Emory and Georgia Tech. The latter program, funded by the NIH, seeks to expand the horizons for biomedical Ph.D. students and postdocs, to prepare them for careers outside of academia.

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"Emory University is honored to be among 53 of the nation's top universities and colleges partnering with the ARCS Foundation to strengthen science education. Together we are fostering student success, fueling innovation, and furthering American leadership in scientific and technological research."

James W. Wagner
President, Emory University



Rachel M. Burke

Correll/Liss Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Epidemiology

Third Year ARCS Scholar

Rachel is an Epidemiology doctoral student and Emory Diversity Fellow focusing on infant health and nutrition. Inspired by her Latina heritage, she is particularly interested in child health in Latin American populations. After receiving her BA in Biophysics at Harvard College, she spent four years working as a management consultant with Monitor Group concentrating on the healthcare industry. In 2012, she obtained her MPH in Global Epidemiology (Emory University), where she was a Boisfeuillet Jones Scholar. She has delivered four presentations at national conferences and published two peer-reviewed articles. In her spare time, Rachel volunteers as a medical interpreter.



Brenda Calderon

Donnell Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Biochemistry,

Cell & Developmental Biology

First Year ARCS Scholar

Brenda received her B.S. in Chemistry with high honors from the University of Florida. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology Program with research interests in macromolecular structure and function. Brenda's thesis work is on molecular mechanisms of RNA-mediated regulation of innate immune viral sensors. During her time at Emory, Brenda has presented her research orally and in poster format at national conferences, earned travel awards, a poster prize, and has one publication as coauthor with a first author manuscript nearing completion. Outside of the lab, she enjoys running and hiking with her dog.



Patricia Cheung

Franklin Award

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

Patricia earned a B.A. in Biology and Educational Studies in 2009 from Washington University. As an undergraduate, Patricia was awarded NSF and HHMI fellowships for microbiology research. She then pursued her dream of medicine and public health, and earned a MPH from Washington University as a Community and Population Health Scholar. Currently, she is a fifth year MD/Ph.D. student in Emory University's Epidemiology Department with an interest in child obesity prevention in school and clinical settings. She has co-authored publications in PNAS, Journal of Bacteriology, and first-authored a systematic review in Childhood Obesity. In the future, Patricia hopes to combine her graduate and clinical interests by incorporating epidemiology training into medical education. Patricia's hobbies include hiking, cooking, traveling, and photography.



Lauren DePoy

Klamon/Reid Award

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

Lauren earned a B.S. in Psychology and Biology from Gettysburg College. Post-graduation, Lauren completed a prestigious post-baccalaureate position at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). As an Emory Ph.D. student in Neuroscience, she studies why adolescent cocaine abuse increases the likelihood of addiction and relapse across the lifespan. Her work has been recognized by the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society, the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, the National Science Foundation, the Society for Neuroscience and the Emory Neuroscience Program. To date, she has authored or co-authored 11 peer-reviewed manuscripts in Neuropsychopharmacology, Nature Neuroscience, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. She aims to ultimately lead a research laboratory focused on issues of drug dependence.



Paul Donlin-Asp
Roche/ARCS Membership Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biochemistry,
Cell & Developmental Biology
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Paul received his B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Illinois. He is currently working toward his Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology at Emory University. Paul's research interests include regulation of RNA metabolism. Currently, his work involves examining the role transport of RNA plays in the disease Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Prior to pursuing graduate studies, Paul was a post-baccalaureate research fellow at the National Cancer Institute. Since coming to Emory, Paul received an NIH fellowship and most recently, attended the 64th Annual Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting. Outside of the lab, Paul is an avid fan of running, the Atlanta Braves and kickboxing.



Marissa Grossman
Herz Global Impact Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Environmental Science
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Marissa earned her B.A. from Princeton University in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and then spent a year in Tanzania researching elephants for the African Wildlife Foundation. Upon returning to the states, Marissa worked at The Food Project in Boston, where she became committed to a career in public health and research. She subsequently earned her MPH degree from Emory University in Global Environmental Health, where her interest was piqued in the ecology of infectious disease through her thesis titled "Antibiotic resistance associated with small-scale poultry farming in rural Ecuador." For her doctoral research, she focuses on the ecology of mosquito-borne diseases in the beautiful Yucatan State of Mexico.



Kathleen Hartnett

Glenn Award

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

Kathleen is an epidemiology doctoral student and Woodruff fellow. A native of Atlanta, Kathleen earned a B.A. with highest honors from Emory College, where she was editor-in-chief of the student newspaper. For nine years, she worked as a journalist in South Florida, winning national awards for her coverage of children's health and education. She returned to Emory for an MPH in Epidemiology, where she was a Boisfeuillet Jones Scholar. Her doctoral work is focused on maternal and child health, particularly pregnancy outcomes in young cancer survivors. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters.



Jessica Knight

Johnson/ARCS Century Award

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

Jessica is a doctoral student in epidemiology at Emory. She is a Woodruff Scholar, and is supported by an NIH training grant in Reproductive, Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology, and previously participated in the 2013 Break the Cycle Fellowship program. Jessica plans to pursue a career conducting research on the long-term impact of pediatric and perinatal exposures. She has published on academic outcomes in children with orofacial clefts, and risk factors for mild intellectual disability and autism. Her dissertation will examine the impact of congenital heart defects on children's quality of life, academic achievements, and cognitive development.



Elizabeth Littauer
Foster/Robitaille Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Microbiology &
Molecular Genetics*
First Year ARCS Scholar

Elizabeth is a Ph.D. candidate in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at Emory University. She earned her B.A. in Biology and History at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2012 and has focused on how respiratory viral infections impact human health and immune responses. Under the mentorship of Drs. Ioanna Skountzou and Richard Compans, her graduate thesis examines how pregnancy impacts the development of protective antibodies after influenza infection. Her work was presented at the 2014 American Society for Virology Annual Meeting and 2015 Negative Strand Virology Meeting. She enjoys teaching in the classroom and laboratory and mentors undergraduate students each semester in influenza research and vaccine development. On weekends, Elizabeth can be found hiking in north Georgia or troubleshooting her old Honda.



Kira Newman
Berry/Jobe Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Epidemiology
Third Year ARCS Scholar

Kira is an MD/Ph.D. candidate at Emory University completing her Ph.D. in epidemiology. She received a B.A. in history from Yale University, where she studied public perceptions of plague and quarantine in early modern England. Her current research uses epidemiologic modeling to improve understanding of the human immune response to norovirus. She is a National Institutes of Health National Research Service Award recipient and has participated in national and international workshops on infectious disease modeling. In her free time, Kira is an avid bicyclist, rock climber, and country western two-stepper.



Jessica Petree

Burke Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Chemistry

First Year ARCS Scholar

Jessica graduated magna cum laude from UGA with a B.S. in biochemistry and molecular biology. She is co-author on a paper under review at RNA for her undergraduate research on tRNA processing and received honorable mention for the graduate NSF fellowship. Her research interests include manipulating nucleic acids through synthetic biology and nanotechnology. For her Ph.D. project, she combined these concepts to develop a nanomachine capable of RNA gene therapy. Future studies will include work with CRISPR, with a goal of becoming a research professor or senior scientist. In her free time, Jessica enjoys reading, blogging, board gaming, walking and spending time with family.



Morgan Vaughn

Martin ARCS Light Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Chemistry

First Year ARCS Scholar

Morgan earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from Berry College. As an undergraduate, Morgan participated in two Research Experience for Undergraduates programs at North Carolina State University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her work at North Carolina State University is published in Molecular BioSystems. Morgan is currently working towards her doctorate at Emory University, where she received the Woodruff Fellowship. Morgan's studies focus on enzyme dynamics and how they couple to enzyme catalysis. Morgan is interested in understanding how enzymes function, which is important for designing and synthesizing novel therapeutic agents. In addition to research, Morgan enjoys all things outdoors, including mountain biking, hiking, and rock climbing.



G.P. "BUD" PETERSON, PRESIDENT

"For more than 50 years ARCS Foundation has been providing scholar awards for the STEM fields. For more than 125 years Georgia Tech has been educating students in the STEM fields. We are very pleased to be partnering with you to be able to provide a stellar education to outstanding and deserving students."

G.P. "Bud" Peterson, Ph.D.
President, Georgia Institute of Technology



Josephine Bates **Drummond Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Environmental Engineering
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Josie, from Dallas, Texas, earned her B.S. with honors in Environmental Engineering from Cornell University. In addition to her undergraduate studies, she co-founded the Cornell Chapter for the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, acted as a teaching assistant for three semesters, and performed two years of research. Her work included using global models to investigate sources of ozone. She is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the field of Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology with a President's Fellowship. She will continue her research with air quality, specifically developing novel capabilities to investigate human health effects of pollutants. She is a published author and loves to travel, visit botanical gardens, and cook.



Sarah Cannon **Petter Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Computer Science
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Sarah completed her B.A. in Mathematics at Tufts University in 2012, where she published research in computational geometry. Also a member of Tufts' nationally-ranked varsity field hockey team, Sarah received the NCAA's Elite 88 award for academic excellence. Sarah then completed her M.S. in Mathematics and the Foundations of Computer Science at the University of Oxford in 2013. As a current Ph.D. student in Algorithms, Combinatorics, and Optimization, Sarah develops and analyzes algorithms that randomly sample from large, complex systems with strong geometric properties, useful for understanding "typical" behavior of these systems. Sarah is a Clare Boothe Luce Outstanding Graduate Fellow, an NSF Graduate Research Fellow, and was nationally recognized with the Simons Award for Graduate Students in Theoretical Computer Science.



Michelle Collins
Printpack/Love Award

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

Michelle earned her B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. As an undergraduate, she interned with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Germany and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland. She began her post-graduate studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2011 with a President's Fellowship and is now an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Fellow and Sloan MPHD Scholar. Michelle received her M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2013. She is working on CAD tools for reconfigurable hardware and developing bio-inspired circuits for audio applications. Michelle enjoys mentoring, leisure activities, and traveling.



Ben Cousins
Betsy Hansen Memorial Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Computer Science
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Ben completed his undergraduate degree at Clemson University, receiving a B.S. in Computer Science and a B.S. in Mathematical Sciences. While at Clemson, he participated in multiple research projects spanning a variety of topics, including computational biology and fluid flow modeling. He has previously been awarded the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. Ben is currently a 4th year Ph.D. student at the Georgia Institute of Technology, with a focus on algorithms for high-dimensional sampling, integration, and its applications. Ben co-authored a paper establishing the current fastest, provably correct volume algorithm for high-dimensional convex bodies. In collaboration with biologists at the University of Luxembourg, he is currently exploring extending these algorithms to analyzing the human metabolism, which has applications in genetics and drug development. Ben enjoys playing sports, including table tennis, baseball, and frisbee.



Jason Frieman

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Award

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

Jason received a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering with highest honors from GeorgiaTech in May 2012. He earned several accolades for his undergraduate work, including the GeorgiaTech Aerospace Engineering Outstanding Senior Scholar Award, a President's Undergraduate Research Award, and an Honorable Mention in the 2011 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Competition. In 2012, he began his graduate studies at GeorgiaTech and received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and a GeorgiaTech President's Fellowship. From 2012-2013, Jason served as chief engineer for the Prox-1 mission, which won the 7th AFRL/AFOSR University Nanosatellite Program competition. Jason earned an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering in 2014 and is currently a Ph.D. candidate researching facility effects on spacecraft electric propulsion systems.



Susan Hastings

Roche/ARCS Membership Award

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

Susan earned her B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2013. As an undergraduate, she began her research as a sophomore and received the President's Undergraduate Research Award and was a Petit Scholar in the 2012 class. After graduating, she began graduate studies at Georgia Tech with a President's Fellowship and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Bioengineering. Her work focuses on improvement and design of blood-contacting medical devices, such as grafts and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).



Amelia Musselman
Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Industrial Engineering
First Year ARCS Scholar

Amelia earned her B.S. in Mathematics from Harvey Mudd College in 2011 and M.S. in Operations Research from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2014. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering also at GeorgiaTech, where she is a President's Fellow. Amelia is interested in applied optimization in the areas of renewable energy and national security. For her dissertation she seeks to recommend optimal expansion strategies for electricity development in Africa. She is also working on a project and has recently published a conference paper on optimizing the placement of wind farms to reduce variability. Amelia has pursued her interest in national security related research through internships at Sandia National Laboratories, RAND Corporation, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.



Elizabeth Nadelman
Jones Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Civil Engineering
Third Year ARCS Scholar

Elizabeth is a Ph.D. candidate in Civil Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She earned her B.S.E. in 2011 from Princeton University, where she developed an interest in improving the durability of cement-based materials while studying freeze-thaw damage to concrete for her senior thesis. She is currently investigating the early-age properties and long-term performance of concrete made with "green" limestone cements, seeking to develop more sustainable concretes that can be tailored to achieve both optimal early-age properties and enhanced long-term durability. When she is not studying concrete, she also plays the clarinet in a local community band.



Temi Olubanjo

Cannon Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Electrical Engineering
Fourth Year Scholar*

Temi received her bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in December 2010. In 2011, Temi worked as an instrumentation engineer for The Dow Chemical Company in Houston, TX. Since starting her Ph.D. at Georgia Institute of Technology in January 2012, she has been awarded the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship and the UNCF Google scholarship. Temi's research work is focused on bio-signal processing for wearable technology that enables continuous health monitoring. In August 2012, Temi was awarded 1st place in the EMBS Student Paper Competition for her paper titled "Tracheal Activity Recognition Based on Acoustic Signals." Upon completing her PhD work in August 2016, Temi seeks to pursue a faculty career in academia through which she can continue research on technological solutions that facilitate living a healthier and more independent life.



Paul Rose, Jr.

Nunn Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Mechanical Engineering
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Paul earned his B.S. in Nuclear and Radiological Engineering from GeorgiaTech in Atlanta, Georgia. During his undergraduate studies, Paul performed 3 years of experimental research in atomic physics working on fundamentals of quantum computing. He transitioned to a graduate student at GeorgiaTech in May of 2013 and is now working on research dedicated to nuclear security. His efforts led to collaborative research at MIT Bates Accelerator Facility working with the particle accelerators used for active interrogation applications and culminated in multiple publications. Throughout his Ph.D. studies, Paul is also working on a minor in Chemistry with a concentration in nuclear forensics. In his spare time, he enjoys teaching younger students hands on laboratory skills.



Kevin Ryan
Siemens Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Industrial & Systems Engineering
First Year ARCS Scholar

Kevin, originally from Northbrook, Illinois, completed his B.S. in Mathematics and M.S. in Applied Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is currently a PhD student studying Operations Research in the School of Industrial Engineering at GeorgiaTech. His research focuses on the application of distributed computing techniques to challenging stochastic optimization problems. He spent one summer as a research intern at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, developing optimization models used to improve detection of hidden nuclear and radiological threats. Kevin is currently working with Lawrence Livermore Lab researchers to develop distributed computing solutions to optimization problems that arise in power systems engineering.



Anna Skipper
UPS Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Civil & Environmental Engineering
First Year ARCS Scholar

Anna received her B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology with Highest Honors. As an undergraduate, she conducted three semesters of undergraduate research and earned the President's Undergraduate Research Award. Her undergraduate work consisted of data analysis of high-speed tomographic measurements of zooplankton. She presented part of this work at the 2014 American Physical Society Division of Fluid Dynamics conference. Anna is currently a first year Ph.D. student at Georgia Institute of Technology and a recipient of the President's Fellowship. Her research will continue to focus on the biomechanics of zooplankton as well as biological and ecological flows.



Shiang Ting Yeh

Frannie Graves Memorial Award

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

Shiang earned his B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from Pennsylvania State University, completing his undergraduate thesis on plume impingement on the Lunar Lion spacecraft. In his undergraduate career, he worked at the Boeing Company as an intern for two summers and was a participant in the Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering/Science program at the Georgia Institute of Technology, conducting research in the Cognitive Engineering Center. He began his graduate studies at Georgia Tech in 2013 and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Aerospace Engineering. His research interests are in developing advanced chemical propulsion systems for space transportation and spaceflight. In addition to his love for research, Shiang also enjoys activities such as tennis and being involved in advising the Georgia Tech chapter of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.



Carol Young

Cooley Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Fourth Year ARCS Scholar*

Carol of Savannah, Georgia graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a B.S. in Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering. She spent a year working at Electric Boat, before returning to school to pursue a Ph.D. in Robotic Engineering from Georgia Tech. She hopes to apply her degree to sea or space exploration, by developing a framework that allows robots to have an intuitive interaction with researchers using them. Her current research goals include utilizing learning to allow for consistent and adaptive interactions between robots and humans and transferring previously learned actions to new environments.



MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

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“ARCS scholar awards have supported the scholarly efforts of 106 high achieving science and mathematics majors at Morehouse for 22 years. We were especially pleased to learn that each year one Morehouse ARCS Scholar will receive the prestigious ARCS scholar award recognizing both outstanding scholarship and demonstrated leadership skills. Building future leaders of the country is an important goal of the College. This year's recipient of the Glenn Morehouse Leadership Award is Miles Stevens, an outstanding scholar and leader. Through its support for both undergraduate and graduate students who aspire to careers in science or mathematics, ARCS Foundation is making a major contribution to increasing the number of American citizens who pursue careers in STEM. And, for that we are truly grateful.”

John Silvanus Wilson, Jr.
President, Morehouse College



Jeremy N. Ariche

Nix Award

*Physics/Mathematics Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Jeremy is a senior Mathematics and Physics double major at Morehouse College. He has conducted research in Nuclear Physics and Theoretical Astrophysics at Michigan State University and the University of California - San Diego. During the summer prior to his senior year, Jeremy conducted research in crowd dynamics utilizing computational models to simulate crowd behavior. While engaged in this work, Jeremy developed an interest in computational mathematics and partial differential equations. Jeremy plans to pursue graduate training in these fields. During his sophomore year, he was awarded the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship. Jeremy enjoys tutoring students in Mathematics and Physics and playing the electric guitar.



Ayorinde Cooley

Olchowski Award

*Biology Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Ayorinde is a senior Biology major, Bioinformatics minor at Morehouse College. His research interests are in the biomedical sciences, particularly in the area of personalized medicine. He has conducted research on autism spectrum disorders at the University of Washington Department of Genome Sciences and cancer research at the Harvard Medical School Department of Bioinformatics. In his free time he enjoys cooking, biking, and building models.



Rafaelle Delaney
King & Spalding Award

Biology Major

Second Year ARCS Scholar

Rafaelle is a senior Biology major at Morehouse College. During the summer of 2014, he researched the role of smooth muscle cell discoidin domain receptor-1 on matrix vesicle calcification, through participating in the Brigham and Women's Hospital Summer Training in Academic Research and Scholarship Program. After conducting this research, he developed an appreciation for exploring the mechanisms for cardiovascular diseases. After completion of his undergraduate studies, Rafaelle plans to pursue a Ph.D. in the biological sciences. Outside of academia, Rafaelle enjoys playing basketball, solving puzzles, and spending quality time with family and friends.



Dakari Franklin
Georgia-Pacific Award

Physics Major

First Year ARCS Scholar

Dakari is a junior Physics major, Mathematics minor at Morehouse College. During the summer of 2015 Dakari explored the field of Biophysics in Grenoble, France at Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA). This experience introduced Dakari to Interdisciplinary Sciences in Research, and currently, Dakari is working in the Micro/Nano Optics Research and Engineering lab at Morehouse College where he works on the fabrication and characterization of Nano-materials. The goal of Dakari's research is to fabricate a diffraction grating material to control EUV rays. After completing his undergraduate studies, Dakari plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Physics.



Terrell Glenn **Genuine Parts Award**

Physics Major

Second Year ARCS Scholar

Terrell is a senior Physics major, Mathematics minor at Morehouse College. Terrell worked at Case Western Reserve University during the summer of 2013 conducting research in Applied Mathematics and Materials Science. During the summer of 2014 Terrell conducted research in electrical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, and during the summer of 2015 he conducted research in Quantum Networking at the Army Research Laboratory (Adelphi, Maryland). After completion of his undergraduate studies, Terrell plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Robotics Engineering. When he is not engaged in academic work, Terrell is busy serving as the lead Resident Advisor of the Historic Samuel T. Graves House.



Amir Hobson **Ritz-Carlton Award**

Chemistry Major

First Year ARCS Scholar

Amir is a junior Chemistry major, Biology and Mathematics minor at Morehouse College. Currently, Amir's research goal is to develop therapeutic functional hydrogels to cure rheumatoid arthritis. This work was inspired by the research Amir conducted during the summer of 2014 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he worked under Dr. Lawrence Bonassar to research the effect of PVCL hydrogels cross-linked with antioxidants on chondrocyte extracellular matrix production. The following summer he conducted research at the Institute of Structural Biology in Grenoble, France under Dr. Martin Blackledge examining the dynamics of the interaction between N-tail and XD domains in the measles virus. After completing his undergraduate studies, Amir plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Physiology or Organic Chemistry.



Nyalia Lui **Sartain Lanier Award**

Computer Science Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Nyalia is a senior Computer Science major at Morehouse College. During his first summer of college Nyalia was introduced to the bioinformatics research field at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Coupling this experience with his love for mathematics, Nyalia declared minors in both areas and he has conducted research at Morehouse in both fields. Currently, Nyalia is working in a computer science lab at Morehouse College where he and a colleague have finished developing a computer cluster. The goal of Nyalia's research is to improve a parallel programming language, Message Passage Interface, to be more intuitive for individuals of all backgrounds. This work was inspired by the research Nyalia conducted during the summer of 2015 at the Indiana University-Purdue University Institute (IUPUI). At IUPUI, Nyalia worked under Dr. James Hill to research methods to develop the parallel programming language, Computer Unified Device Architecture (CUDA), to be more intuitive for programmers of all levels.



Phillip Stephens **Franklin/Habif Arogeti & Wynne Award**

Chemistry Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Phillip is a senior Chemistry major from New Orleans, Louisiana. His primary research interests are in neuroscience. Phillip focused on cytochrome P450s in his research at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. He spent one summer at Rockefeller University conducting genetics research, one summer at the University of Chicago studying psychiatric genetics, and one summer at Harvard Medical School studying the neurobiology of cancer. Phillip studies social defeat in hamsters in the laboratory of Dr. Chris Markham at Morehouse College. He plans to pursue the MD/PhD and become a physician scientist. In addition to research, Phillip is a member of the Morehouse CollegeTrack and FieldTeam and enjoys reading, playing music, and doing community service.



Miles Stevens
Glenn Leadership Award

Mathematics/Economics Major
First Year ARCS Scholar

Miles is a junior Mathematics and Economics double major at Morehouse College. Miles has conducted research in both and is interested in exploring the intersection of these two fields. Currently, the goal of Miles's research is to draw conclusions from methods of voting to determine the most optimal choice for widespread use. This work was inspired by the research conducted by Dr. Francis Edward Su, president of the Mathematical Association of America, at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI). At MSRI, Miles worked under Dr. Su to research methods to define a median voter and develop an analogue to the median voter theorem for approval voting to more accurately predict the outcome of approval elections. After completing his undergraduate studies, Miles plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics.



Sahim Wallace
Kaiser Permanente Award

Biology Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Sahim is a senior Biology major from Norristown, Pennsylvania. His past research experiences include participation in programs at Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California- Los Angeles, and the Richard B. Gump Research Station in Moorea, French Polynesia. Currently, Sahim is working in the Morehouse College laboratory of Dr. Alexandra Peister where he is testing murine embryonic stem cell (mESC) differentiation protocols in preparation for insertion of expression vectors via viral transduction. Following completion of his undergraduate studies, Sahim plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Synthetic Biology.



The University of Georgia

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JERE W. MOREHEAD, PRESIDENT

"The University of Georgia is pleased to be a recipient of ARCS Foundation support for graduate students in the biomedical and health sciences. These prestigious awards not only provide significant and flexible direct financial support to the award winners during their training period, but also create invaluable life-long connections to the ARCS Foundation membership."

Jere W. Morehead

President, The University of Georgia



Lydia Anderson

Dick Award

*DVM-Ph.D. Candidate, Infectious Diseases
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Lydia earned her B.S. in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology from Emory University, where she learned to evaluate the behavioral and mechanistic effects of various disease conditions across a wide range of species. She also worked part-time as a researcher in the Clinical and Environmental Microbiology Laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Post-graduation, she completed a two-year fellowship at the CDC. She is currently a DVM-PhD dual degree candidate at the University of Georgia. Her current research involves determining the mechanisms of immunity and disease pathogenesis associated with respiratory syncytial virus. Lydia plans to use her training to address the challenges facing population health from emerging and zoonotic infectious diseases.



John Avery

Looney/Leake Award

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

John worked as a financial advisor and financial fraud investigator for five years after graduating from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in Spanish. John then returned to academics, receiving a B.S. in Biotechnology and Biochemistry from Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, GA, where he became a Presidential Fellow and a Merck/AAAS Scholar. Subsequently, John joined the Department of Infectious Disease at the University of Georgia, earning his M.S. developing therapeutic interventions for malaria during pregnancy. John is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Biochemistry, focusing on human tissue engineering. He is developing a method to derive brown adipose from human pluripotent cells. In addition to his scholastic pursuits, John is a triathlete as well as a new father.



Daniel Becker
Gilham/ARCS Alumni Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Ecology
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Daniel earned his B.A. in Anthropology and Global Health from Bard College in New York's Hudson Valley. He then worked at the New York Academy of Sciences and Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, where he developed his interests in infectious disease ecology. Daniel is now a Ph.D. candidate and NSF Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Georgia's Odum School of Ecology, where he combines field studies with mathematical models to understand how human activities that alter the food resources of wildlife influence infectious disease outcomes. Daniel has published theoretical and synthesis papers on this topic in *Biology Letters* and *Ecology Letters* and is applying this framework to understand how livestock intensification affects vampire bat rabies dynamics in Latin America.



Heather Bishop
Roche/ARCS Membership Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Cellular Biology
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Heather received her B.S. in Biology in 2013 from Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU). During her time at SPSU, she worked on several research projects and participated in a summer research program at Emory University. These experiences further solidified her goal to become a research scientist. In the fall of 2013 she began her Ph.D. at the University of Georgia in the Department of Cellular Biology. She is currently under the advisement of Dr. Vasant Muralidharan studying the role of endoplasmic reticulum chaperones in the human malarial parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*. Heather was awarded a Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases NIH T32 Training Grant, which will further support her academic studies and training. This is her second year as a Roche/ARCS Scholar.



Anastasia Bobilev

Burtchaell Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Neuroscience

First Year ARCS Scholar

Anastasia earned her B.A. in Cognitive Science from the University of Georgia in 2011. As an undergraduate, she pursued research in cognitive and cellular neuroscience and was a NCAA Equestrian Student Athlete. She is currently a Neuroscience PhD student at the University of Georgia. Her primary research goal is to integrate molecular genetics and cognitive neuroscience perspectives towards understanding complex disease phenotypes. Her research focuses on aniridia, a disease caused by mutations in the PAX6 gene. She received a Franklin Foundation Neuroimaging Fellowship to support her work. Through human genetics, a mouse model of aniridia and human neuroimaging techniques, her work has identified novel causal mutations of PAX6 and characterized anatomical and functional brain phenotypes associated with the disorder.



Kerri Coon

Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Entomology

First Year ARCS Scholar

Kerri earned her B.S. in Biology & Biostatistics from the University of Virginia. In her last year, she was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to pursue graduate studies. Kerri is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Entomology at the University of Georgia. Her research focuses on how gut bacteria contribute to the development and reproduction of disease-transmitting mosquitoes. Kerri has received support from the NIH, the UGA Graduate School, and Sigma Xi. She has won several awards for presentations at national meetings. Kerri is known for her dedication to mentoring; she has served as a graduate mentor for an NSF REU Program for three years now. When not in the lab, Kerri enjoys exploring Athens' food scene.



Wided Najahi-Missaoui
Prince/ARCS Century Award

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

Wided earned her Pharm.D. degree from the college of Pharmacy in Tunisia. Wided earned an M.S. degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Georgia after which she went on to work as research technician in the department of Microbiology at UGA. Wided earned her second M.S. degree in Pharmacy from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Iowa. She has published one first author publication in Blood, a second author publication in Biochemistry and co-authored two other publications in Biochemistry and Journal of Medical Genetics. Wided is currently working on developing novel therapeutic strategies to treat cancer by targeting overexpressed enzymes in cancer tissues. Wided has recently submitted her second primary author paper for publication.



David Schaeffer
Mauldin Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Neuroscience
Second Year ARCS Scholar

David earned a B.S. in Psychology from Michigan Technological University in 2010. David is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Neuroscience at the University of Georgia, where he employs human neuroimaging techniques to study neural circuitry related to debilitating physical and mental health illnesses. In 2011, David was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. He has published four first author publications and co-authored an additional seven publications. Currently, David is working on mapping neural white matter circuitry related to eye movements in people with schizophrenia, with the hope of contributing data which will support biology-based diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia.



Natalie Scholpa

Herz Award

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

Natalie is a Ph.D. Candidate in the University of Georgia Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program in the Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences. She earned her B.S. in Biochemistry with a minor in Psychology at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2011. She began her graduate studies the following summer after being awarded the Alfred P. Sloan Minority Scholarship and the UGA Graduate School Bridge Award. Natalie recently submitted her second primary author paper to Neuropharmacology and was selected to receive a 2015 UGA Graduate School Dissertation Completion Award. Her current research focuses on novel roles of hippocampal p21 in cocaine-induced response and motivated behaviors. After graduation, Natalie is looking forward to moving to Charleston, South Carolina for a post-doctoral position at MUSC.



Anthony Szempruch

Broscher/Chambers/McDaniel Award

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

Anthony earned his B.S. in Microbiology from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. As an undergraduate he developed a passion for RNA biology, which led him to join Dr. Stephen Hajduk's lab in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Georgia in 2010. Anthony's PhD research focuses on molecular mechanisms of protein diversification and the development of methods to understand mitochondrial RNA function in *Trypanosoma brucei*, the causative agent of human African sleeping sickness. This work has resulted in a co-first author publication in the journal *Eukaryotic Cell* and a first author publication in *RNA*. He has also identified a novel mechanism of host cell remodeling that results in disease pathology, this work is under review.



Emily Trunnell

Adams Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Neuroscience

First Year ARCS Scholar

Emily earned her B. S. in Nutrition Science from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia in 2010. In 2012, Emily joined the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Ph.D. program, also at the University of Georgia. She began working under the mentorship of the late Dr. Clifton A. Baile to study the effects of diet on the hippocampi in rodents and continues this work under the mentorship of Dr. Gaylen Edwards to uncover potential epigenetic mechanisms behind her observations. Emily's work has produced one first author publication in BMC Neuroscience and presentations at numerous national conferences. In the future, Emily plans to pursue a career in scientific writing and publishing.



Jeremy Yatvin

Davis Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Chemistry

First Year ARCS Scholar

Jeremy is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he graduated from Central High School in the 266th graduating class. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. Jeremy is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Georgia studying surface and polymer chemistry under Dr. Jason Locklin. He is currently working on elucidating the mechanism of surface bound quaternary ammonium antimicrobial activity using STORM imaging, synthesizing durable fire retardant coatings for textiles, and developing new forms and applications of click chemistry on surfaces. Outside of the lab, Jeremy's greatest passion is various forms of rock climbing around the Southeast United States.

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