



THE ANNUAL
SCHOLAR AWARDS
LUNCHEON

ADVANCING GEORGIA'S SCIENTIFIC
SCHOLARS SINCE 1992

2017



ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.

Atlanta Chapter
Scholar Awards Luncheon
November 16, 2017

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.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the annual Scholar Awards Luncheon. At our first luncheon, we awarded \$15,000 to three scholars; today we will award \$385,000 to 53 scholars.

These young men and women are the best and the brightest from Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Georgia, and Morehouse College. These scholars are majoring in science, engineering, and medical research. Our chapter is very proud of these young people, the work that they are doing, and the accomplishments that they will achieve, and we are proud of our chapter's supporting role.

Since our founding in 1958, the chapters of ARCS Foundation, Inc. have awarded more than \$100 million in unrestricted funding to U.S. citizens with a maintained 3.5 grade point average. ARCS Foundation Atlanta has awarded over \$4.9 million in our 26-year history. Our financial success has been a joint effort of members, donors, foundations, and corporations. We are most appreciative of this support of our mission.

In closing, I would like to thank Northside Hospital for its generous contribution as the presenting sponsor of today's luncheon. I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Mary Watson and her Scholar Awards Luncheon Committee for planning and executing this special day for our scholars, members, donors, and guests. They have worked tirelessly over the past year to make today a memorable one.

Sara Jean Burke,
President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter

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 over 16,600 scholar awards totaling over \$100 million, and has over 1,300 members in 15 chapters across the United States. Over \$4.9 million in financial support has been awarded by ARCS Foundation Atlanta since 1992.

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.

Andi Purple, National President of ARCS Foundation, Inc., says, "ARCS Foundation has made a significant impact throughout the years in producing a cadre of extraordinary Americans superbly trained in the STEM fields. Our ARCS Alumni play a vital role in sustaining and enhancing scientific innovation in this country. Take the opportunity to talk with an ARCS Scholar being honored today at the Atlanta Scholar Luncheon to learn about their field of study and the innovative projects they are pursuing – their enthusiasm and excitement will inspire and amaze you."

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.

2017

Atlanta Chapter

Scholar Awards Luncheon

The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta

PROGRAM

Welcome

Sara Jean Burke

President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter

Presentation of Scholars

Invocation

Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus

The Temple

LUNCHEON

“Discourse and Reflections with Two of Our Own”

Facilitated by Bill Liss

Financial, Consumer and Legal Editor, WXIA-TV

With Special Guests

Bolyn Hubby, Ph.D.

Chief Scientific Officer, Agenovir

ARCS Scholar Alumna, University of Georgia

Manu O. Platt, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Coulter Dept. of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech/Emory

ARCS Scholar Alumnus, Morehouse College

Closing Remarks

Sara Jean Burke



Bolyn Hubby, Ph.D. Dr. Hubby is the chief scientific officer of Agenovir, a San Francisco company developing gene editing-based treatments for diseases associated with latent or persistent viral reservoirs. She has 15 years of industry expertise driving innovative technologies into the clinic to address unmet needs in infectious disease and cancer. Prior to Agenovir, she was the vice president of vaccines and antimicrobials at Synthetic Genomics, where she and her colleagues advanced the company's core synthetic biology technology for influenza vaccines into the clinic and developed novel RNA vaccine and antimicrobial platforms to address the rapid spread of infectious disease and the growing global threat of antibiotic resistance. Prior to Synthetic Genomics,

Dr. Hubby served as executive director of vaccines at Liquidia Technologies, Inc., where she and her team built a portfolio of programs focused on new approaches to protein, polysaccharide, and RNA-vectored vaccines targeting bacterial and viral pathogens. Before Liquidia, Dr. Hubby was head of discovery immunology at AlphaVax, Inc., where she helped advance a unique RNA-based viral vector to develop vaccines for infectious diseases, biodefense and cancer. Dr. Hubby is an author on numerous issued and pending patents as well as over 20 peer-reviewed publications. She received her Ph.D. in cellular biology from the University of Georgia.



Manu O. Platt, Ph.D. Dr. Platt received his B.S. in Biology from Morehouse College in 2001 where he was an ARCS Scholar, and his Ph.D. from Georgia Tech and Emory joint program in biomedical engineering in 2006. He finished his postdoctoral training at MIT in orthopedic tissue engineering and systems biology prior to returning to Georgia Tech/Emory in the Coulter department of Biomedical Engineering in 2009, where he has been promoted and tenured. His research centers on proteolytic mechanisms of tissue remodeling during disease progression using both experimental and computational approaches. These diseases focus not only on health disparities in the U.S., but on global health concerns: pediatric strokes in sickle cell disease, personalized

medicine for breast cancer, and HIV-mediated cardiovascular disease, taking him to South Africa and Ethiopia for collaborative projects work to find solutions for low resource settings. His work has been funded by NIH Director's New Innovator Award, International AIDS Society, Georgia Cancer Coalition, and the National Science Foundation. He is also the Diversity Director for the NSF Science and Technology Center for Emergent Behaviors of Integrated Cellular Systems (EBICS). He also co-founded and co-directs Project ENGAGES (Engaging the Next Generation At Georgia Tech in Engineering and Sciences), a program for African-American Atlanta public school students to conduct paid research at Georgia Tech. He was recently named an Emerging Scholar by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine in 2015, and the *Atlanta 40* under 40 by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* in 2016.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Northside Hospital for its generous contribution as the Presenting Sponsor of the 2017 Scholars Award Luncheon.



NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to the following whose time and talents contributed to the success of our annual celebration:

Henderson Shapiro Peck (design and printing of invitation and program)
Bill Liss, Moderator
The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta
Hannah Youngblood, Photographer

Our Partnership Schools

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CLAIRE E. STERK, PRESIDENT

"As a leading liberal arts research university, Emory University attracts and competes for the best and most promising doctoral students. These students are tomorrow's leaders—creative, determined, and innovative. The generous and empowering support of ARCS Foundation enriches the lives and development of these students and helps pave the way for them to make discoveries that will change lives for the better. On behalf of Emory University, I would like to thank ARCS Foundation for another year of outstanding partnership."

Claire E. Sterk
President, Emory University



Brenda Calderon

Donnell Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology
Third 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 co-author with a first author manuscript nearing completion. Outside of the lab, she enjoys running and hiking with her dog.



Emily Crispell

Foster Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Emily received her B.S. in Chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology, during which she pursued both undergraduate basic science research and infectious disease surveillance with the state of Georgia's Epidemiology Division. A post-baccalaureate position with Georgia Emerging Infections Program focused her research interests in laboratory science, microbiology, and healthcare, resulting in twelve publications on antibiotic resistance and bacterial infections. She is pursuing doctoral research at Emory University as a trainee of the Antimicrobial Resistance and Therapeutic Discovery Program, focusing on novel antibiotic resistance mechanisms and developing both detection methods and inhibitors to target these mechanisms. Her time at Emory has resulted in several publications, including lead authorship work in Nature Microbiology. She has keen interests in literature and gardening.



Elizabeth Littauer

Robitaille Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
Third Year ARCS Scholar*

Elizabeth Littauer 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. She has presented her work at the American Society for Virology (Madison, WI – 2017) and the American Association for Immunologists Meeting (Seattle, WA – 2016). She enjoys teaching in the classroom and laboratory and mentors undergraduate and graduate students in influenza research and vaccine development. On weekends, Elizabeth can be found hiking in north Georgia or volunteering at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History.



Elaine Liu

Johnson/ARCS Award

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

Elaine Liu obtained her B.A. in Chemistry with a Minor in Dance from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. During her undergraduate career she earned the ACS Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry. Her undergraduate thesis led to a first author publication in *Crystal Growth and Design*. Post-graduation, Elaine spent a year as an au pair to three little boys in Paris, France. Elaine began her graduate work at Emory University in August 2016 and joined the MacBeth lab in January 2017. Her research focuses on understanding the cobalt-carbon interactions in catalytic C-H activation, which will help improve catalyst applications. She enjoys aerial silks, reading, and baking.



Connor Morozumi **Carroll/ARCS Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Population Biology, Ecology and Evolution
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Connor received a B.S. in Health Science and a B.A. in Environmental Studies with Honors in the Major from University of California, Santa Cruz. He obtained a M.S. in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University in 2015 and is currently a Ph.D. student in Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution. During his M.S., he received the Coombs-Simpson Fellowship for starting an undergraduate-graduate mentorship program. Connor has worked on projects to better understand oak population decline, field validate a climate niche model, and evaluate the conservation status of mesocarnivores. He has co-authored publications in *Ecosphere*, *Bioscience*, and *Applications in Plant Sciences*. His current work is focused on how climate change affects plant-pollinator interactions. Connor is an avid backpacker and rock climber.



Anna B. Morris **Northside Hospital Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Anna is from Madison, Alabama and earned her B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology from Auburn University. Her interest in research began in high school following a prestigious internship at Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology, and flourished as a Presidential Scholar at Auburn, wherein she was awarded an Undergraduate Research Fellowship for her research in prostate cancer drug development. After beginning her Ph.D. in Immunology at Emory, she quickly coauthored a publication from her rotation work, and is now pursuing research in the Emory Transplant Center. There, she is studying novel T cell cosignaling pathways to regulate allograft responses in transplantation.



Ian Pavelich

Glenn Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biomolecular Chemistry
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Ian received his B.S. in Biomolecular Engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Biomolecular Chemistry from Emory University. As an undergraduate, Ian worked for national science programs as an educator and researcher, before publishing his senior research in the International Journal of Artificial Organs. This work was acknowledged for the uniqueness of his bioengineering approach. Now as a first-year graduate student, Ian focuses on how bacteria adapt to antibiotics, studying a recently identified pathway that promotes tolerance rather than resistance. In his spare time, Ian enjoys the arts and traveling.



Jessica Petree

Burke Award

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

Jessica Petree graduated magna cum laude from UGA with a B.S. in biochemistry and molecular biology. She is co-author on a paper published in Nucleic Acids Research for her undergraduate work on tRNA processing and received honorable mention for the graduate NSF fellowship.

Her research interests include manipulating nucleic acids through synthetic biology 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.



Samantha Schwartz

Petter Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Samantha received her B.S. in Biology with high honors from Armstrong State University in Savannah, GA. After moving to Atlanta and working for three years as a research technician, she joined the Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology (BCDB) Program at Emory University. Samantha's research interests focus on mechanisms underpinning cellular function and disease related to infection and immunity. Her thesis research will be to elucidate molecular mechanisms of RNA-mediated regulation of the innate immune protein, 2'5'- oligoadenylate synthetase. Samantha currently has three publications (two first author) and is a recipient of a Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA Fellowship (F31) from NIH/NIAID. When not at the bench, she enjoys traveling and hiking.



Alyssa Scott

Jobe/Taylor Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Genetics and Molecular Biology
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Alyssa majored in Biology at Marist College with minors in Psychology and Environmental Science. Her research at Marist involved studying the mechanisms of DNA repair in *C. elegans*, which sparked her interest in utilizing genetic techniques to answer questions related to human health. Her undergraduate career culminated in receiving the Intern of the Year and Excellence in Science awards, each given to one student in the graduating class. She is currently in her second year in a Ph.D. program in Genetics and Molecular Biology at Emory University, where she is excited to be studying the epigenetic causes of autism.



Kaitlyn Stanhope

Klamon/Reid Award

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

Kaitlyn earned her B.A. in Community Health from Brown University. Post-graduation, she served in Peace Corps, working with a Peruvian community to build stoves and latrines and train health promoters. Supported by a Scholars in Action fellowship, Kaitlyn then received her M.P.H. in Global Health at Emory University. The Global Health Institute and GEMMA Fund awarded her grants to carry out an original research project in Bogota, Colombia. Kaitlyn is currently a Ph.D. student in Epidemiology, where she focuses on characterizing the relationships between stress, discrimination and perinatal outcomes in Hispanic women and immigrants. In her free time, Kaitlyn is a gardener, wedding cake baker, and tarot card reader.



Morgan Vaughn

Conn ARCS Light Award

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

Morgan Vaughn earned a B.S. in biochemistry from Berry College. As an undergraduate, Morgan participated in two Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) programs at North Carolina State University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. 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. Her work was recently published in *Biochemistry* and she is in the process of preparing another manuscript for submission. Additionally, Morgan was awarded a Dean's Teaching Fellowship at Emory to teach a section of introductory chemistry this fall.



Aaron Wallace **Herz Global Impact Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Epidemiology
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Aaron grew up in California and earned a B.A. in Biology from University of California, Berkeley (UCB). As an undergraduate, he worked at a UCB field station in the South Pacific and grew to love the field of global infectious diseases. He earned MPH/MBA degrees from Emory University and received the Gangarosa Award for Excellence in International Health. He then worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, leading studies evaluating global vaccine-preventable disease control strategies. He is a Ph.D. student in Epidemiology with continued interest in vaccine-preventable diseases. Aaron enjoys gardening and being a new dad.



Alynda Wood **Correll/Liss Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Neuroscience
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Alynda earned her B.A. in Neuroscience from Hampshire College in Massachusetts. As an undergraduate, she received a grant from the Culture, Brain, and Development Program to spend a summer working at the University of Virginia, studying the molecular mechanisms of learning. After graduating she received an Intramural Research Postbaccalaureate Training Award from the National Institutes of Health, where she studied neural plasticity in the olfactory system. Alynda is currently enrolled in Emory University's Neuroscience Ph.D. program. Her research focuses on the neural mechanisms of sensorimotor learning in songbirds. She has co-authored publications in *Learning & Memory* and the *Journal of Neuroscience*, and received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She is active in science outreach in the Atlanta community.



G.P. "BUD" PETERSON, PRESIDENT

"For more than a decade, Val and I have been involved with ARCS Foundation. Val served as the Colorado Chapter's president, so the Foundation's mission and the role that Georgia Tech has played in its 25-plus years are especially meaningful to us. Since 1992, the Atlanta Chapter has awarded more than \$1 million to Scholars at Georgia Tech. Today, we have 16 graduate students receiving ARCS scholar awards. We remain grateful to ARCS Foundation-Atlanta Chapter for its transformative philanthropy, which enables our very best graduate students to realize their greatest potential."

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



Osvaldo Broesicke **Anderson/ARCS Award**

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

Osvaldo earned his B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas, El Paso. Osvaldo's career has developed through a diverse set of professional, research, and international experiences, all fueling his interest in water, sustainability, and the environment. Osvaldo is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Within his research group in the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems, Osvaldo works to understand the relationships and implications between the nutrient, energy, water, and transportation (NEWT) nexus to make more resilient and sustainable cities. Osvaldo has co-authored two papers on low-impact development, a third paper on decentralized energy generation for ES&T, and a fourth on graywater reclamation in the Journal of Cleaner Production.



Calvin Clark **Anonymous/ARCS Award**

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

Calvin is a second year ARCS Scholar, seeking to obtain a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Brigham Young University in Provo, UT. He is studying Transportation Systems at Georgia Tech, and has received the Presidential Fellowship and the Eisenhower Graduate Fellowship in addition to the ARCS Scholarship. His current research is on user preferences for bicycle infrastructure, and he will present a portion of his research at the 2017 International Cycling Safety Conference, along with other coming reports and academic papers. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, playing piano, and running a YouTube channel dedicated to explaining topics in science and engineering to a general audience.



John Connelly

Printpack/Love Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Operations Research
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

John earned his B.S. in Applied Mathematics-Economics from Brown University. As an undergraduate, when not focusing on research in quantitative finance, John played middle linebacker for the Brown Bears football team and founded a university themed board game company. Following graduation, John spent four years working for Morgan Stanley as an analyst in its Investment Banking and Private Equity divisions. He began his post-graduate studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2015 with a President's Fellowship. His current research focuses on improving the theoretical framework for efficiently solving time-dependent integer programming problems. He is also currently working with a major delivery company to expand their inter-city service capabilities.



Michaelanne Dye

Herz Global Impact Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Human-Centered Computing
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Michaelanne's research bridges Human-Computer Interaction & Development (HCID) and Social Computing to explore how increasing internet access influences the lives of those it targets and how we might leverage pre-existing local information infrastructures to design more sustainable and effective services for users in emerging economies. Her dissertation work focuses on the socio-technical practices in Cuba surrounding the innovative, clandestine networks that have evolved in the absence of internet access and how those interact with new internet access initiatives. Michaelanne holds a B.A. in Spanish and an M.A. in Cultural Anthropology. She is a Microsoft Research Ph.D. Fellow and a two-time Foley Scholar Finalist. When she is not working, Michaelanne enjoys exploring new places with her spouse, Tim, and their son, Thomas.



Matthew Fahrbach

Imlay Award

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

Matthew earned his B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Kentucky. He is currently a Ph.D. student in Computer Science at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and his research focuses on the design and analysis of Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithms for problems in statistical physics and machine learning. He has co-authored work appearing in the Association for Computing Machinery and Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ACM-SIAM) Symposium on Discrete Algorithms, spent several summers at Google and the University of Washington, and was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.



Michael Griffin

Dasher Award

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

Michael earned his B.S. in Bioengineering from the University of Pittsburgh. As an undergraduate, Michael performed research on ventricular assist devices, which sparked his interest in cardiovascular and medical device engineering. His findings led to a first author publication in the ASAIO Journal. Now, he is in pursuit of his Ph.D. in Bioengineering and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the BioFluids and Medical Device Research Group under the direction of Dr. David Ku. His thesis work is focused on the assessment of high shear platelet thrombosis, which leads to heart attacks and strokes, and the development of a novel nanodevice to prevent these phenomena. He also enjoys running, swimming, and watching baseball.



Pravara Harati
Blalock/ARCS Award

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

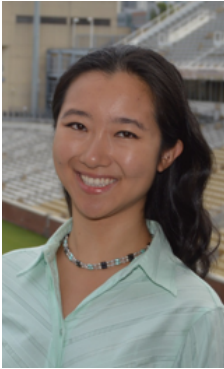
Pravara received her B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, where she became interested in research after joining the Health Analytics group in her third year. Currently she is a Ph.D. student specializing in Statistics at the same university. Her research focuses on estimating local-level supply and need of healthcare services and exploring interventions to help areas with low access to care. She has co-authored papers in the American Journal of Public Health, Health Services Research, and Public Health Reports. Outside of research, she has interned at Google and enjoys dancing and reading novels in her spare time.



Anna Liu
Azadi Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Bioengineering
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Anna grew up in Texas and graduated with honors from California Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Bioengineering. She completed a corporate internship with Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) and two Caltech Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships, one in photoelectric semiconductors and the other in 3D-printed tissue engineering. She entered the Georgia Institute of Technology Bioengineering Ph.D. program in 2015 as a National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship awardee. Her work developing an innovative microfluidic platform for cancer immunotherapy earned a grant from the Coulter Translational Partnership. This technology has been submitted as a first author publication and is being filed as a patent. This past year, she received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She enjoys cooking, staying active, and spending time with her family, friends, and puppy.



Connie Liu

Lockheed Award

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

Connie earned her B.S. in Aeronautical/Astronautical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, during which she led the design, build, and hot fire tests of a liquid bipropellant aerospike engine. Her interest in chemical propulsion was further cultivated through four internships at SpaceX working on combustion devices development. Connie also worked with electrospray thrusters at MIT, leading to her electric propulsion research in graduate school. She received her M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and is currently a Ph.D. candidate investigating the physics of rapid ionization and recombination in plasmas. Connie is a recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and is a co-author on two publications. She enjoys ballroom dancing, hiking, and cooking.



Mark Mikhaeil

Drummond Award

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

Mark is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin with his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. During his undergraduate career, he completed a design internship at Cummins, Inc. and received an Undergraduate Research Summer Grant from Texas A&M University to work on supercritical carbon dioxide research. After graduation, Mark began his Ph.D. program at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he currently studies hydrodynamics, fluid instabilities, and turbulence in inertial confinement fusion applications. His research has resulted in three publications, the Nuclear Engineering University Programs Fellowship award, and an internship at Los Alamos National Laboratory.



Daniel Moreno

Siemens Award

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

Daniel received his B.Eng. in Mechanical Engineering in 2014 from Cooper Union in New York City. As an undergraduate, Daniel worked on various research projects in the areas of heat transfer and fluid mechanics. His research interests are in developing alternative and renewable energy sources. Upon starting at Georgia Tech in 2014, Daniel received the William Randolph Hearst Fellowship for select minority students pursuing M.S. degrees. During his M.S. degree, completed in 2015, Daniel developed and modeled a novel fuel cell design to reduce temperature variations and improve system performance. Daniel is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Mechanical Engineering performing experimental and computational research on energy-efficient electrochemical methods for water desalination.



Jeffery Noble II

Cooley Award

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

Jeff earned his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Jeff is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Bioengineering as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow under the advisement of Professor M.G. Finn. His research focuses on exploring the immunogenic applications of engineered virus-like particles. The projects range from designing anti-parasitic vaccinations to evaluating the optimal time point for adjuvant administration using a prodrug system set-up.



Samantha Petti
Frannie Graves Memorial Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Algorithms, Combinatorics and Optimization
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Samantha earned her B.A. in Mathematics from Williams College in 2015. Later that year she began the Algorithms, Combinatorics, and Optimization Ph.D. program at Georgia Tech with a President's Fellowship. Within the interdisciplinary program, her home department is mathematics. She studies large networks, a data structure used in a wide variety of contexts including representing protein interactions, links on the internet, and social networks. Currently, her work focuses on developing a model to approximate large networks efficiently. Outside of research, she is involved with the campus chapter of Association for Women in Math and math community outreach.



Anna Skipper
UPS Award

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

Anna Skipper received her B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology with Highest Honors. Her undergraduate work consisted of data analysis of high-speed tomographic measurements of zooplankton. Anna has completed her Master's Thesis investigating the sensory response of an alpine copepod to hydromechanical cues. Anna is currently a third year Ph.D. student at Georgia Institute of Technology and a recipient of the President's Fellowship. She is also one of ten recipients of the 2016 Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Fellowship at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and one of four recipients of the 2017 David Crighton Fellowship at Cambridge University. Her research will continue to focus on the biomechanics of zooplankton, with a particular focus on their sensory capabilities. The end goal of her research is to develop bio-inspired sensory arrays capable of detecting very small changes in hydromechanical cues, with possible applications toward experimental work as well as robotics.



Yael Toporek
Betsy Hansen Memorial Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Biology
First Year ARCS Scholar

Yael earned her B.S. in Biology from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. As an undergraduate, Yael did 6 semesters of research, received the President's Undergraduate Research Award, and was a Georgia Tech team member for the 2015 International Genetically Engineered Machine competition. Yael is a second-year Ph.D. student working on biological remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater via the microbially-driven Fenton reaction, and has second-authored one paper on previous work involving bioremediation of radioactive iodine-contaminated soil. Outside of lab, she enjoys gardening, embroidering, and hiking.



Xenia Wirth
Jones Award

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

Xenia completed her B.S. in Civil Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. She was accepted to the BS/MS program in her third year and was awarded the Richard D. Barksdale Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in 2014. She earned an M.S. in Civil Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and is continuing her studies at the same university as a Ph.D. candidate. She worked at Ecole des Ponts ParisTech in Paris, France, deriving a Statistical Mechanics Adsorption Model as part of the Georgia Tech Gateway to France program. Xenia is currently working on the beneficial use and geologic disposal of coal and biomass fly ashes. She is also interested in improving undergraduate geotechnical engineering education and is first author on a publication entitled Undergraduate Geotechnical Engineering Education of the 21st Century. Xenia enjoys playing music, reading and cooking in her spare time.



MOREHOUSE
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“ARCS scholar awards have supported the scholarly efforts of 111 high achieving science and mathematics majors at Morehouse for 25 years. It is an honor that each year one student will receive the prestigious *Glenn Morehouse Leadership Award*, recognizing both outstanding scholarship and demonstrated leadership skills. Building future leaders of the country is an important goal of the college. 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.”



Jeffrey Butler **Tompkins Award**

*Applied Physics and Mathematical Engineering Major
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Jeffrey Butler is a junior Applied Physics and Mechanical Engineering major at Morehouse College. His research interest is in Applied Physics, more specifically in the use of Terahertz. Outside of the lab, he is a thrower for the Morehouse College Track and Field Team. While being heavily involved on campus, Jeffrey is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. Through this family, he works on and off campus to impact lives every day. Also he is an executive board member for Sustainability for Students, SOS. And finally, he has worked at Morehouse with Table Top Lithography for the past year. He looks forward to his new project this year.



Khensu-Ra Love El **Genuine Parts Award**

*Physics Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Khensu-Ra Love El is a senior physics major at Morehouse College with a minor in mathematics. Khensu-Ra was introduced to experimental physics at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Laboratory. Under Dr. HyeKyoung Park, he was involved in research of the optimization of superconducting radiofrequency cavities in medical devices. Currently, Khensu-Ra is working with a mathematics faculty member at Morehouse College where he and colleagues are developing a mathematical model combining different cancer treatments. The goal of this research is to determine the optimal combination of cancer treatments to minimize the size of tumors. This work was inspired by the research of Dr. Shelby Wilson, conducted during her post doctorates. After completing his undergraduate studies, Khensu-Ra plans to pursue a Ph.D. in applied physics.



Darryl Hill
Wahlen/Woods Award

Biology Major
First Year ARCS Scholar

Darryl Hill is a junior biology major at Morehouse College. His research interests pertain to learning more about the underlying etiology of familial diseases, particularly with prostate cancer. Darryl has spent the past two summers conducting biomedical research as a First Year Research Experience student at Vanderbilt University and as a Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program scholar at Harvard Medical School and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Leadership Alliance. A publication will result from the work done at the Dana-Farber Cancer Insitute. Darryl loves to travel, he enjoys playing basketball and spending time with family during his free time, and is a proud Eagle Scout.



David Holden
Glenn Leadership Award

Physics Major
First year ARCS Scholar

David Holden is a junior, Applied Physics major at Morehouse College. His research interests are in civil engineering, nanolithography, and engineering design. Currently, his work is focused on developing optical termite prevention devices for government assisted communities. He is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., the National Society of Black Engineers, and the American Physics Society. David also is engaged in the progression of college minority representation in the STEM field by serving as a mentor in the Cultivating Moral Cosmopolitan Practitioners Program. This past summer, David conducted research in autonomous robotic structures at the University of Michigan.



Roy McReynolds III **Kaiser Permanente Award**

Biology Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Roy McReynolds III is a senior biology major, neuroscience minor, at Morehouse College. Prior to his freshman year, Roy was introduced to the field of tissue engineering by Dr. Juana Mendenhall and continued working in her lab, ultimately becoming the lab manager. Roy is working on the development of a standard operating procedure for a 3D bioprinter to facilitate the printing of hydrogels and cartilage chondrocyte cells. Roy's early interest in neuroscience was solidified by research he conducted through the Center for Sensorimotor Neural Engineering at the University of Washington in Seattle. There he conducted research under Dr. Steve Perlmutter on the effects of intraspinal electrical stimulation above and below an injury in the spinal cord in order to promote neural plasticity in rats. After completing his undergraduate studies, Roy plans to pursue a Ph.D. in regenerative medicine.



Jared Mitchell **Gillin Award**

Physics Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Jared Mitchell is a senior physics major at Morehouse College. In the summer of 2012, Jared was exposed to the field of sustainability during a summer research program at the University of Pennsylvania where he studied the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing. Motivated by that summer experience, Jared decided to pursue a career in sustainability and environmental justice. He is interested in alternative energy research, with a specific focus on improving solar energy affordability and accessibility around the globe. Currently, Jared is exploring methods to improve efficiency in concentrated solar power and to harness hydrogen at the Carbon-Neutral Energy Solutions (CNES) Laboratory at Georgia Institute of Technology. Jared is interested in holistic, sustainable development, especially in countries with low Gross Domestic Product and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in the area of solar energy research.



Logan Northcutt

Davis Award

Chemistry Major

Second Year ARCS Scholar

Logan Northcutt is a senior chemistry major at Morehouse College. He is interested in biomedical engineering, as it involves the development of products and materials to assist people with health-related issues. Logan engaged in summer research at both Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Cornell University. This past summer at Cornell University, he studied the role of glucose in the production of glycosaminoglycan in the lab of Dr. Lawrence J. Bonassar. Ultimately, this research will be utilized to create better meniscus replacements. Logan is currently researching chondrocyte cell behavior in hydrogels under normal and hypoxic conditions in the lab of Dr. Juana Mendenhall. After he completes his undergraduate studies, Logan plans to pursue a doctorate degree in biomedical engineering.



Darian Nwankwo

Doyle/Easterly Award

Computer Science and Mathematics Major

Second Year ARCS Scholar

Darian Nwankwo is a senior computer science and mathematics double major at Morehouse College. During his first summer of college, Darian was introduced to the field of computer science at Google in Mountain View, California. He has conducted research at Morehouse in both mathematics and computer science and is currently doing research in the area of mathematical biology under Dr. S. Wilson. Darian and colleagues are developing mathematical models for drug distribution to malignant tumors. The goal of his research is to improve the distribution method in which several drugs collaborate to attack cancer cells. This work was inspired by Darian's keen interest in academic research in areas of applied mathematics that benefit a larger cause. After completing his undergraduate studies, Darian plans to pursue a Ph.D. in applied mathematics.



Nicholas Porter
Ritz-Carlton Award

Engineering and General Science Major
First Year ARCS Scholar

Nicholas Porter is a junior Dual-Degree Engineering major at Morehouse College. He has done research at Morehouse College for two years concentrating in Computer Science research. His research interests include applied physics and computer science. Nicholas enjoys other activities including reading, playing video games and learning how to make different apps on various platforms. As a member of the Morehouse robotics team, he is deeply engaged in the study of robotics. He has been given awards for excelling in Calculus 1, Calculus 2, Calculus 3, and Linear Algebra classes. He also has received the “Dual-Degree Engineering Shining Star Award” for being an excellent student in the Dual-Degree Engineering program.



Keith Strozier
Georgia-Pacific Award

Applied Physics and Engineering Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Keith Strozier is a senior dual degree engineering and applied physics major at Morehouse College. He has conducted research on supplying legume plants with phosphorus through injections of phosphorus fixing bacteria in order to eliminate excessive use of fertilizers posing a threat to our environment. This research along with a passion for math and science introduced Keith to the field of chemical engineering. Currently, Keith is researching novel methods to generate energy, maximize its efficiency, and maintain our environment. Under the advisement of Dr. Duane Jackson, he is researching ways to extract cellulose from different grasses for the production of biofuels. In the future, Keith plans to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry and to become an innovative chemical engineer.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

JERE W. MOREHEAD, PRESIDENT

“The University of Georgia remains deeply grateful to ARCS Foundation for their support of our outstanding graduate students in the sciences. The generous funding and valuable professional opportunities provided to ARCS Scholars are helping to amplify the positive impact our students are making on their respective fields and the world around us.”

Jere W. Morehead
President, University of Georgia



Erin Baker

Gilham/ARCS Award

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

Erin graduated with a B.A. in Biology from St. Petersburg College in Clearwater, FL. As an undergraduate she developed a keen interest in cell cycle regulation, and conducted research that explored the unique mitotic G₀ arrest observed in sea urchin oocytes. Erin was awarded the Excellence in Biological Research award from St. Petersburg College for this project. Post-graduation Erin went on to work in a prominent coral microbiology lab at the United States Geological Survey, funded by an education award through the AmeriCorps Environmental Stewards Program. As a Ph.D. student in the Genetics Department at the University of Georgia, Erin was a 2016-2017 NIHT-32 training grant recipient. Her thesis research explores the molecular mechanisms underlying the fetal to adult transition in thymic epithelial cells.



Kate Birdwhistell

UPS Award

*DVM and Ph.D. Candidate, Comparative Biomedical Sciences
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Kate obtained her B.S. in Chemistry from Loyola University of New Orleans. As an undergraduate, she trained in several different research laboratories to diversify her skills and ultimately solidify her interest in regenerative orthopedic research. During her undergraduate years, she was awarded the ACS Award for Outstanding Student in Organic Chemistry as well as the ACS Award for Community Service and Outreach. Kate is currently in a dual DVM-Ph.D. program in UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine. Since starting her graduate work, she has had first author publications in the *Journal of Knee Surgery* and the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*. She has also co-authored publications in the *American Journal of Sports Medicine* and *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*.



Christopher Cleveland **Olchowski/Potter Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Wildlife Ecology and Management
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Chris earned his B.S. in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Asheville. As an undergraduate, Chris worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and as a researcher in northern Arizona investigating ungulate and passerine ecology. It was here that Chris first gained exposure to wildlife ecology, and went on to complete his M.S. in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Georgia. Upon completion of his M.S. in 2015, Chris began managing a project investigating the role of paratenic hosts in *Dracunculus medinensis*, the Guinea worm. Working with The Carter Center, Chris is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Georgia focusing on the Guinea worm, paratenic hosts, and eradication efforts in Africa.



David Cobb **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Candidate, Cellular Biology
First Year ARCS Scholar*

David earned his B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Mercer University in Macon, GA. As an undergraduate, he developed an interest in biological research while using a yeast genome knockout library to study responses to nutrient starvation. After graduation, he enrolled at the University of Georgia, where he is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Cellular Biology. His work is focused on the cellular biology of the malaria parasite as it replicates inside of human red blood cells. While not in the lab, David enjoys reading, listening to music, and working as a Teaching Assistant to help undergraduates learn biology.



Grace Cushman

Mauldin Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Clinical Psychology

First Year ARCS Scholar

Grace earned her B.S. in Psychology from Washington and Lee University. Post-graduation, she worked as a research assistant at Brown University and Bradley Hospital where she studied biological and behavioral markers of pediatric psychiatric illnesses. Grace is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in the Psychology program and her work is focused on improving short and long-term disease-related outcomes in pediatric patients with a chronic medical illness. More specifically, she is investigating the role of physiological reactivity, health-related quality of life, and disease activity in children and adolescents who were recently diagnosed with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Grace has also examined medication adherence and readiness to transition to adult healthcare providers with pediatric patients who have undergone a solid organ transplantation.



Sarah Elliott

Arrendale/Michaels Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Chemistry

First Year ARCS Scholar

Sarah earned a Chemistry B.S. and Physics B.A. from Bethel University. There she contributed to the PSI4 quantum chemistry package, which is an open-source quantum chemistry code. She also performed nanofabrication for Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS). After two summers at UGA's Center for Computational Quantum Chemistry, Sarah enrolled there as a Ph.D. student with a Graduate School Assistantship and Coulson Fellowship. She received the Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship, enhancing her research opportunities with an Argonne Lab practicum and further computer and mathematics training. Sarah's interests led her to explore atmospheric and combustion systems with rigorous computational methods and develop the associated tools. Her research is published in the Royal Society of Chemistry Advances and American Chemical Society Photonics.



Marcus Goudie

Leake Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Biological and Biochemical Engineering
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

Marcus received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 2012, and received his M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013. As an undergraduate, he designed microfluidic systems for controlling the contents of microemulsions. During his M.S., he continued his research in microfluidics to develop methods for high throughput encapsulation of bacteria/large organisms. Marcus also has two years of industrial experience designing membrane oxygenators and blood pumps for pediatrics. He has authored 13 publications, a book chapter, and has 3 patents pending. His current work focuses on developing new biomaterials to prevent infection and clotting caused from medical devices, focusing his attention on artificial organs for long term patient support.



Stephanie Halmo

Hinkle/ARCS Award

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

Stephanie earned her B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Georgia in 2012. Her post-graduate experiences as a science teacher in rural South Carolina with Teach For America and as a lab technician at the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center catalyzed her decision to pursue graduate studies. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology department at her alma mater. At UGA, Stephanie has found a way to combine her passion for science and education by pursuing both glycobiology and discipline-based education research.



Stephanie Herrlinger **Herz Global Impact Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Stephanie received her B.S. in Molecular Genetics from the University of Rochester. As an undergraduate, Stephanie performed three independent studies, a senior thesis, and graduated with a distinction in research. After graduation, she worked as a technical associate at the University of Rochester studying Huntington's Disease. In her first few years of her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Neuroscience at the University of Georgia, Stephanie has contributed to five publications, all of which have focused on the study of brain development and causes of Microcephaly, including the Zika Virus. Stephanie has an intense passion for understanding the brain and its diseases, and pursues playing and listening to live music in her spare time.



Danielle Lambert **Burtchaell Award**

Ph.D. Candidate, Health Promotion and Behavior
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Danielle earned her B.S. in Psychology from UNC Chapel Hill, during which time she studied the effects of positive emotions on resilience and relational outcomes. She went on to receive her MPH from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health focusing on sexual risk reduction interventions among African American women. After completing her degree, Danielle continued working at Emory as a research coordinator for several federally funded faith-based HIV prevention interventions among predominately African American churches in Atlanta, GA. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Health Promotion and Behavior Department at the University of Georgia and her dissertation research assesses HIV/STI prevalence and substance use among African American adolescent couples exiting the juvenile justice system in Georgia.



Meghan Logun

Dick Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Neuroscience

First Year ARCS Scholar

Meghan earned her B.S. in Biology with a minor in Anthropology in 2010 from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. During that time, Meghan worked in the Howell neuropharmacology laboratory at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, which cultivated her interest in neuroscience research. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Meghan joined the Karumbaiah laboratory within UGA's Regenerative Bioscience Center where she became interested in the role of brain extracellular matrix in glioma invasion. After receiving her M.S. in 2016, she stayed within Dr. Karumbaiah's lab to further her projects on glioma invasion and pursue her doctorate. Meghan's current research focuses on biomaterials for clinically relevant models of glioblastoma multiforme and diagnostic device development.



Ashley Rasys

Sartain Lanier Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Cellular biology and DVM Candidate, Veterinary Medicine

First Year ARCS Scholar

Ashley attended the University of Massachusetts and later transferred to the University of Georgia. In 2014, she was accepted while still an undergraduate student into the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. A year later, she was accepted into the DVM/PhD program. Since joining the Department of Cellular Biology, Ashley has continued to pursue her work on eye and fovea development in the *Anolis sagrei*—a new lizard model system for developmental studies. For her work thus far, she was awarded the NIHT32 Genetics Training Grant. Ashley is currently working on methods to manipulate gene expression in the developing lizard embryo and will be further extending this work to develop techniques to manipulate the lizard genome.



Cecilia Sanchez
Franklin Foundation Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Ecology
Second Year ARCS Scholar

Cecilia earned a B.S. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Yale University, then spent a year working at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Victoria, Australia. She is now a Ph.D. candidate at the Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, studying the impacts of urban development on Australian bat nutrition, health, and infectious disease. She founded Women in Science (WiSci) at UGA and was the group's president for two years. In recognition of their efforts to promote mentoring, networking, and professional development, WiSci received UGA's 2015 Outstanding New Organization award. Cecilia was also recognized with UGA's 2016 Graduate Student Diversity Engagement Award. In her free time, Cecilia enjoys playing roller derby as a member of the Classic City Rollergirls.

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Panel Coordinator	Sally Boice	
Program	Caroline Hardin	
Public Relations	Louise Yeoman	
	Sally Hinkle	
	Ellen Adair Wyche	
Registration/ Reservations	Ronnie Martin	
Scholar Relations	Sarah Batts	
Seating	Sherry Lundeen	
	Lee Doyle	
University Relations	Elaine Davis	
	Linda Kay McGowan	

