



# THE ANNUAL SCHOLAR AWARDS LUNCHEON

ADVANCING GEORGIA'S SCIENTIFIC  
SCHOLARS SINCE 1992

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2018

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## **ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.**

Atlanta Chapter  
Scholar Awards Luncheon  
November 15, 2018

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### **ARCS® FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT**

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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.atlanta.arcsfoundation.org](http://www.atlanta.arcsfoundation.org)  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 27th annual ARCS Foundation Atlanta Scholar Awards Luncheon. We are here today to honor and celebrate 54 outstanding scholars from Georgia's most prestigious universities: Morehouse College, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Georgia and Emory University. These scholars are amongst our country's best and brightest in the fields of science, engineering, and medical research. They represent our future and we are thrilled to have them here with us today to celebrate their success.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors and volunteers. Since its inception in 1992, ARCS Foundation Atlanta has provided over \$5.3 million in scholar awards. As an all-volunteer organization, 100% of award contributions go directly to the scholars as unrestricted awards so that they can focus on their important research. Today, we will be giving our scholars a total of \$416,500 in awards. Thank you to our donors and all those who have made this possible. Your generosity is a direct investment in the future of science.

A special note of thanks is due to Northside Hospital for generously underwriting today's luncheon. We are very grateful for your continued support. Also, we thank our guest speakers, Drs. Jonathan Mermin and Rebecca Bunnell, as well as Caroline Hardin and her entire Scholar Awards Luncheon Committee for making this such a memorable celebration.

In addition to celebrating our scholars, today's luncheon provides a forum for those who are passionate about science to connect. Please take this opportunity to get to know one another and most importantly meet our incredible scholars. I invite you to enjoy the rest of our program.

**Susan B. McGonigle,**  
*President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter*

## ARCS® FOUNDATION PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

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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

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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 \$5.3 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.

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2018

Atlanta Chapter

Scholar Awards Luncheon

The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta

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## PROGRAM

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### Welcome

Susan B. McGonigle

*President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter*

### Presentation of Scholars

### Invocation

Rev. Leslie Lyons Watkins

*Associate Minister*

*Peachtree Road United Methodist Church*

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## LUNCHEON

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### "Science and Purpose in Public Health"

Facilitated by Bill Liss

*Financial, Consumer and Legal Editor, WXIA-TV*

### With Special Guests

#### **Jonathan Mermin, M.D., MPH**

*Rear Admiral and Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS*

*Director, National Center for HIV/AIDS,*

*Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention*

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

#### **Rebecca Bunnell, Ph.D., MEd**

*Deputy Director for Science, Policy and Communications*

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*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

### Closing Remarks

Susan B. McGonigle



**Jonathan Mermin, M.D., MPH** is the Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) at CDC, and a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service. Dr. Mermin oversees the Nation's efforts to prevent HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis. These infections affect millions of Americans and cause tens of thousands of deaths each year. NCHHSTP focuses on high impact prevention strategies that save lives, save money, reduce health disparities, and protect the health of all Americans. Previously, Dr. Mermin was Director of CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, and he spent 3 years as Director of CDC-Kenya and HHS Public Health Attaché for the U.S. Embassy, and 7 years as Director of CDC-Uganda. In Uganda, he oversaw implementation of the first antiretroviral treatment program funded by CDC outside of the U.S., the implementation of applied research related to HIV testing, treatment and prevention, and supported development of national and global guidelines. Dr. Mermin began his career at CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer in foodborne and diarrheal diseases. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Stanford University School of Medicine, and received his MPH from Emory University. He completed an internal medicine residency at San Francisco General Hospital and a preventive medicine residency at CDC and the California Department of Health Services. He has co-authored more than 200 scientific articles and book chapters. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Emory University School of Public Health.



**Rebecca Bunnell, Ph.D.** is Deputy Director for Science, Policy and Communications, Division of Global Health Protection, Center for Global Health, CDC. Dr. Bunnell has nearly 30 years of public health experience, including 17 years stationed internationally working for CDC as well as for Médecins sans Frontières, the UK Medical Research Council, Peace Corps (Honduras), USAID, and Action Aid. She has also held leadership positions for major chronic disease prevention initiatives in the U.S. and completed CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service. Rebecca earned a Doctorate from the Harvard School of Public Health, a Masters from University of Massachusetts/Amherst, and her B.A. from Yale University. She has conducted numerous epidemiologic, surveillance, behavioral, and economic studies, and she has authored over 120 scientific publications.

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## SPECIAL THANKS

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Special thanks to Northside Hospital for its generous contribution as the Presenting Sponsor of the 2018 Scholars Award Luncheon.



Special thanks to our Monarcs® Donors who have each given cumulative gifts of \$250,000 or more.

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We are pleased to recognize the following donors who have contributed to the Atlanta Chapter of ARCS Foundation throughout our history.

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### ENDOWMENT DONORS

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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, program and Funds Development brochure)  
Bill Liss, Moderator  
The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta  
Hannah Youngblood, Photographer

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# EMORY UNIVERSITY

CLAIRE E. STERK, PRESIDENT

"As a leading 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."

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Claire E. Sterk  
*President, Emory University*



### **Ana Enriquez** **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Ana is a doctoral student in the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics program at Emory University. While pursuing her B.S. in Microbiology and Cell Science at the University of Florida, she worked in the lab of Dr. Cohn, where she investigated sexual development. In graduate school, Ana pursued her interest in host-pathogen interactions in the lab of Dr. Rengarajan in the Emory Vaccine Center. She currently studies the interaction between *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and dendritic cells and how this impacts T cell responses. Her experience in research resulted in two peer-reviewed publications and posters. Apart from research, Ana enjoys mentoring and cooking.



### **Amanda Gill** **Donnell Award**

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

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Amanda is currently a third-year M.D./Ph.D. student at Emory University School of Medicine. She aims to pursue a career as an infectious disease physician-scientist, undertaking research in vaccine and immunotherapy development, with a particular focus on HIV. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Bryn Mawr College in 2015, majoring in Biology and minoring in Chinese. During this time, she completed a senior thesis in HIV vaccine development at the Wistar Institute and volunteered at a mobile HIV-testing clinic. Following this, she undertook a one year post-baccalaureate fellowship at NIH and she is now investigating the molecular mechanisms of T cell exhaustion and reinvigoration at Emory. Out of the lab, she also serves as Vice President of the M.D./Ph.D. Women's Association.



### **Steve Knutson**

#### **Foster Award**

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

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Steve Knutson graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology and a M.S. in Medical Biotechnology. He is now pursuing a Chemistry Ph.D. from Emory University, focusing his research on RNA editing and synthetic biology. Steve received an overall achievement award in research for his M.S. thesis, and published this work in the journal PLoS One. He has also published a paper on his current research in the journal Bioconjugate Chemistry. Steve's career goal is to become a research professor and astronaut. Outside of the lab, Steve enjoys golf, hiking, and is learning piano.



### **Katie Labgold**

#### **Robitaille Award**

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

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Katie Labgold is a second-year Epidemiology doctoral student at Emory University. She received a B.A. in Chemistry and Archeology and a M.P.H. from the University of Virginia, where she was recognized for outstanding teaching and community service. Katie is passionate about applying her epidemiology training to interdisciplinary research questions that aim to address maternal and child health disparities. She is particularly interested in how novel epidemiological methods can improve applied public health research. Her current research focuses on reproductive health in the Southeast U.S. In her free time, Katie enjoys exploring Atlanta and volunteering at a transitional housing shelter.



### **Elaine Liu** **Johnson/ARCS Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Chemistry*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. After 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.



### **Kari Mattison** **Burke Award**

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

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Kari majored in Animal Science at Iowa State University and is currently a rising 3rd year Ph.D. student in the Genetics and Molecular Biology Graduate Program. Her previous research includes training at the Mayo Clinic, University of Minnesota, and Iowa State University. Kari's research interests involve the discovery of disease genes and elucidation of disease mechanisms. Her current research is on the role of a novel gene, ATP6V0C, in epilepsy. Kari has a first author publication describing the novel functional effects of variants in another epilepsy gene, SLC6A1. Outside of lab, Kari enjoys coaching golf through The First Tee of Atlanta.





### **Connor Morozumi** **Higley ARCS Light Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Population Biology, Ecology and Evolution*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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 an internship at Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology, and continued at Auburn, where 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 co-signaling pathways that regulate T cell activation and function. This research has profound impacts not only in transplantation, but also in the fields of cancer immunology and infectious disease. She has attended conferences in Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, and Breckenridge to present her research to the national immunology community.



### **Ian Pavelich**

#### **Glenn Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biomolecular Chemistry  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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.



### **Elizabeth Sajewski**

#### **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Environmental Health Sciences  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Elizabeth is an Environmental Health Science doctoral student and a Laney Graduate School fellow. Her research centers on the intersection of water infrastructure and infectious disease, with particular interest in using mathematical models to simulate enteric disease dynamics. After obtaining a B.S.E. in Environmental Engineering from Princeton University, Elizabeth worked for four years as an environmental consultant with Ramboll Environ, conducting human health risk assessments, before starting her Ph.D. in 2017. Elizabeth is a rugby enthusiast, an avid hiker, and an active member of student organizations where she promotes research, awareness, and action on climate and environmental justice in Atlanta.



### **Samantha Schwartz**

#### **Petter Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Genetics and Molecular Biology  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Epidemiology*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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Kaitlyn earned her B.A. in Community Health from Brown University. After graduation, she served in the 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.



### **Alynda Wood**

#### **Correll/Liss Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Neuroscience*

*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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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 has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She is active in science outreach in the Atlanta community.



## G.P. "BUD" PETERSON, PRESIDENT

"For nearly 15 years, Val and I have been involved with ARCS Foundation. Val served as the Colorado Chapter's president, so ARCS Foundation's mission and the role that Georgia Tech has played in its 26 years are especially meaningful to us. Since 1992, the Atlanta Chapter has awarded more than \$1 million to ARCS Scholars at Georgia Tech. Today, we have 16 graduate students receiving ARCS scholar awards. We remain grateful to ARCS Foundation Atlanta 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. Student, Environmental Engineering*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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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 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 the Ford Environmental Science & Technology Building, and a fourth on graywater reclamation in the Journal of Cleaner Production.



## **Asheley Chapman** **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biochemistry*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Asheley earned her B.A. in Religious Studies from Agnes Scott College in 2006. In 2014, she began post-baccalaureate studies in biology and chemistry at Georgia Southern University, where she researched molecular markers of water contamination in Ghana, West Africa and in the Southeast U.S. Her time in Ghana inspired her to pursue vaccine development in order to prevent infectious disease. At Georgia Tech, Asheley's doctoral work focuses on the development of nanoparticle-based vaccines and immunotherapies against bacterial and cancer targets. She is the recipient of the Cherry Emerson Fellowship and the School of Chemistry Service Award, and she serves on the Executive Board of Women in Chemistry and as a Justice on the Graduate Senate Judiciary.



### **Calvin Clark**

#### **Anonymous/Leviton Manufacturing Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Civil Engineering*

*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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Calvin is a third-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 user preferences for bicycle infrastructure in the Transportation Group at Georgia Tech and has received the Presidential Fellowship and the Eisenhower Graduate Fellowship. He presented a portion of his research at the 2017 International Cycling Safety Conference. He will present further work in reports for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program and Georgia Department of Transportation, along with other coming reports and academic papers. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming and playing the piano.



### **Michaelanne Dye**

#### **Herz Global Impact Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Human-Centered Computing*

*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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Michaelanne's research bridges Human-Computer Interaction & Development (HCID) and Social Computing to explore how increasing internet access influences end users 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 is based in Havana, Cuba, and investigates the grassroots information 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 three-time Foley Scholar Finalist. When she is not working, Michaelanne enjoys exploring new places with her spouse, Tim, and their son, Thomas.





## **Matthew Fahrbach** **Evans Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Computer Science*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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, where his research focuses on the design and analysis of randomized 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 as well as in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science. In addition, he has spent several summers at Google and the University of Washington. He was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. He enjoys cycling and running with friends in Atlanta.



## **Michael Griffin** **Dasher Award**

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

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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 American Society for Artificial Internal Organs (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** **Gillin/ARCS Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Industrial Engineering*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. She is now a Ph.D. student in Industrial Engineering at the same university, specializing in statistics. Her current research focuses on modeling the integration of primary and specialty care to evaluate effectiveness in improving local-level access to healthcare services. She has co-authored papers in the American Journal of Public Health, Health Services Research, and Public Health Reports. Aside from research, she has interned at Google, and she enjoys dancing and reading novels in her spare time.



### **Anna Liu** **Azadi Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Bioengineering*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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Anna graduated with honors from California Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Bioengineering. She entered the Georgia Tech Bioengineering Ph.D. program in 2015 as a National Science Foundation (NSF) 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. She was first author on a paper about this technology published in the journal Materials Today and has filed for a patent. Anna has presented her work at several conferences, including the Microtechnologies in Medicine and Biology Conference, where it won an award for outstanding presentation. In 2017, Anna received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. This past year she successfully proposed her thesis and was accepted as a Ph.D. Candidate. She also completed the NSF Innovation Corps program. She enjoys cooking, hiking, yoga, and spending time with her family, friends, and puppy.



## **Connie Liu**

### **Lockheed Martin Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Aerospace Engineering*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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Connie earned her B.S. in Aeronautical/Astronautical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2015, during which she led the design, build, and test of a liquid bipropellant aerospike engine. Her passion in chemical propulsion was further cultivated through five internships at SpaceX working on combustion devices on the Raptor engine. Connie also worked with electrospray thrusters at MIT, leading to her interest in electric propulsion. She received her M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2016 and is currently a 4th-year Ph.D. candidate investigating the physics of nanosecond pulsed plasmas. Connie is a recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and is co-author on two publications. She enjoys ballroom dancing, hiking, and cooking.



## **Mark Mikhaeil**

### **Drummond Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Mechanical Engineering*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Mechanical Engineering*

*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Bioengineering*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Algorithms, Combinatorics and Optimization  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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.



## **Alex Stroh**

### **Printpack Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Operations Research and M.S. Statistics  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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Alex earned his B.S. in Mathematics, and his Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Alex began his post-graduate studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Industrial and Systems Engineering Department) in 2016 with a President's Fellowship. His current Ph.D. work, in Operations Research, is primarily focused on solving various routing-based logistics problems. Alex designs delivery routes which maximize for customer service levels, rather than typical cost minimizations. He also works on the design of same-day delivery systems, in which goods are bought and delivered during the same business day. Recently, Alex spent his summer conducting research at Amazon.com's headquarters in Seattle, WA. He is an avid reader and enjoys all water activities.



## **Yael Toporek**

### **ARCS Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biology*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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Yael graduated with a B.S. Biology from Georgia Tech in 2016. As an undergraduate, she did six 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 currently a third year Ph.D. candidate and second year ARCS scholar focusing on biological remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater via the microbially-driven Fenton reaction. She has co-authored several journal articles on her research.



## **Xenia Wirth**

### **Jones Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Civil Engineering*

*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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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 Paris Tech 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  
COLLEGE

DAVID A. THOMAS, PRESIDENT

“ARCS scholar awards have supported the scholarly efforts of 115 high achieving science and mathematics majors at Morehouse for over 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.”

---

David A. Thomas  
*President, Morehouse College*



### **Isaiah Bayas**

#### **Antinori Award**

*Computer Science Major*

*First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Isaiah D. Bayas is a junior Computer Science major at Morehouse College. During his first summer of college, Isaiah was introduced to the research field at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington. His research incorporated the fields of computer science and chemistry. He analyzed the difference in the efficiency of various radiation detection systems through a graphical user interface. In addition to his research, Isaiah recently interned at Microsoft as a software engineer and project management intern. As an intern, he worked under Microsoft's Universal Team where he delivered a dashboard feature that addresses the issue of compliance and accessibility for all the sites under the company's platform. After completing his undergraduate studies, Isaiah plans to get his Master's degree in Data Science/Machine Learning.



### **Jeffrey Butler**

#### **Tompkins Award**

*Applied Physics and Mechanical Engineering Major*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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Jeffrey Butler is a senior 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. Jeffrey is also an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. Through this family, he works on and off campus to impact lives every day. He is also 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.



### **Alden Brown**

#### **Kaiser Permanente Award**

*Biology Major*

*First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Alden Brown is a junior biology major at Morehouse College, and a native of Atlanta, Georgia. Alden's research experiences include a study of how weak magnetic fields affect seed germination and plant growth, as well as analyzing sickle cell markers in a sample of students in the Atlanta University Center. His next research opportunity was at Georgia State University where Alden investigated the role of androgen receptors as a prognostic marker in triple negative breast cancer. Alden credits his success in research and college to God, his parents, and the Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) program. Upon graduating Morehouse, Alden plans to pursue a M.D./Ph.D. degree. He is currently interested in cancer biology. He hopes to be able to advance the fields of cancer research and medical oncology and then apply his knowledge to patient care.



### **Kaughlin Caver**

#### **Georgia-Pacific Award**

*Computer Science Major*

*First year ARCS Scholar*

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Kaughlin Caver is a Junior Computer Science major at Morehouse College. During his first summer of college, Kaughlin worked as a cyber security research intern at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington. As a cyber security intern Kaughlin worked on the MLSTONES project, a biology inspired cyber security tool that detects malware by modeling binaries as cyber proteins. Recently, Kaughlin was an Engineering intern at Facebook working on a team of three to develop a new Android application. Currently, Kaughlin is working in a computer science lab at Morehouse College. The goal of Kaughlin's research is to create G-Code for 3D bio-printing of soft materials. After completing his undergraduate studies at Morehouse College, Kaughlin plans to start his career as a software engineer.





### **Samuel Curry** **Wahlen/Doyle Award**

*Biology Major*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Samuel Curry is a junior biology major at Morehouse College. During his first summer of college in 2017, Sam conducted research in the drug resistance of chronic myeloid leukemia at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The following summer Sam pursued more research at the University of Pennsylvania investigating possible methods to restore the contractility of heart muscle cells in failing hearts. The purpose of the project was to determine if the proliferation of two specific proteins (VASH1 and SVBP) can give rise to improper contractile function in failing hearts. During his research, he learned that VASH1 and SVBP do affect the contractility of heart muscle cells. Sam is currently working in a lab in the Atlanta University Center that focuses on cancer biology. After completing his undergraduate studies, he plans to obtain an M.D./Ph.D. in physiology or oncology.



### **Trevonn Gyles** **Genuine Parts Award**

*Biology Major*  
*First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Trevonn Gyles is a junior biology major at Morehouse college. During the academic year he conducts research in a neurobiology lab under Dr. Valerie Haftel, while also speaking at numerous research conferences. Working under Dr. Haftel, he is currently investigating a therapeutic treatment to combat diabetic neuropathy by using nanoparticles that contain insulin. Over the summer, Trevonn conducted research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. As a summer student in the Eric Nestler M.D, Ph.D. laboratory, Trevonn investigated the changes in gene expression that led to mice becoming resilient to social defeat. After completing his undergraduate studies, Trevonn plans to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. in Neurology and Neuroscience.



### **Darryl Hill**

#### **Betsy Hansen Memorial Award/ARCS Award**

*Biology Major*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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Darryl Hill is a senior biology major at Morehouse College. His research pertains to the study of the underlying etiology of familial diseases with particular focus on 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 Institute. When he has some free time Darryl loves to travel; he enjoys playing basketball and spending time with family. He is also a proud Eagle Scout.



### **David Holden**

#### **Glenn Leadership Award**

*Physics Major*

*Second year ARCS Scholar*

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David Holden is a senior, 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. This past summer, David conducted research in autonomous robotic structures at the University of Michigan. He is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., the National Society of Black Engineers, and the American Physics Society. David also serves as a mentor in the Cultivating Moral Cosmopolitan Practitioners Program, a group that promotes minority representation in the S.T.E.M. field at the college level.



### **Huiet Joseph**

#### **Davis Award**

*Chemistry Major*

*First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Huiet Joseph is a junior Chemistry major at Morehouse College. During his freshman year at Morehouse, Huiet was introduced to biochemical research and continues this work. He currently works in a chemical lab where he has previously studied chitin magnetic beads used for water purification. He is now studying the glucokinase regulatory protein in relation to early onset diabetes. In his sophomore summer, Huiet conducted bio engineering research at the University of South Alabama. His research focused on designing a new automated drill to be used during orthopedic surgery. Huiet aspires to be an orthopedic surgeon and his research at the University of South Alabama has solidified his passion.



### **Terreill Robertson**

#### **Ritz-Carlton Award**

*Chemistry Major*

*First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Terreill Robertson is a junior at Morehouse College. He is currently majoring in Chemistry and minoring in French. He has worked in Dr. Juana Mendenhall's lab synthesizing functional therapeutic laden hydrogels in order to potentially alleviate osteoarthritis. During this past summer, Terreill was fortunate to conduct research at Washington State University on a project similar to the one in Dr. Mendenhall's lab at Morehouse College. His research focused on culturing chondrocytes on therapeutic laden hydrogels in order to compare the chondrogenic markers released by these cells and the chondrogenic markers released by cells grown in a monolayer. Currently, Terreill is working in the lab of Dr. Mendenhall where he will optimize the research he conducted at Washington State University. After his undergraduate education, Terreill Robertson plans to either pursue a M.D./Ph.D. degree or Ph.D. degree in chemistry.



**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.”

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**Jere W. Morehead**  
*President, University of Georgia*



### **Christian Andersen**

#### **Northside Hospital Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Toxicology*

*First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Christian graduated from the University of Georgia in 2015 with a B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, earning credit as an independent researcher. Christian applied to UGA's Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program to pursue a Ph.D. in Toxicology. Before enrolling, Christian worked as a science program coordinator and provided instructor-led science experiments and programming courses for elementary students. Christian was admitted to the inaugural GSLEAD program, a National Science Foundation Fellowship, at UGA to learn about community engagement techniques and has earned a first place platform award from the regional chapter of the Society of Toxicology. Christian has a first-authored review publication on mycoestrogens and the female reproductive system. Christian is specifically focusing on placental development and the effects chemotherapy can have on the uterus.



### **Erin Baker**

#### **Gilham/Broscher Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Genetics*

*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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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 G<sub>0</sub> 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 NIH T-32 training grant recipient. Her thesis research explores the molecular mechanisms underlying the fetal to adult transition in thymic epithelial cells.



### **Kate Birdwhistell**

#### **Berry Award**

*DVM and Ph.D. Student, Comparative Biomedical Sciences  
Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Wildlife Ecology and Management  
Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Cellular Biology*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Clinical Psychology*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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Grace earned her B.S. in Psychology from Washington and Lee University. After 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/ARCS Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Chemistry*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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), and mentored students as a TA, tutor, and Society of Physics Students Officer. 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. A summer research coordinator, her three undergraduates have work submitted to the Journal of Chemical Physics. Sarah's interests led her to explore atmospheric and combustion systems with rigorous computational methods and to develop the associated tools. Her research is published in the Royal Society of Chemistry Advances and American Chemical Society Photonics.



### **Stephanie Halmo** **Hinkle/Leake Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience  
Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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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 the glial cell contribution to 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.



### **Emily Krach** **UPS Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Genetics  
First Year ARCS Scholar*

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Emily earned her B.S. in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics from the University of Maryland. During that time, she conducted research at the Johns Hopkins Stanley Division of Neurovirology to identify epigenetic mechanisms associated with Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder. Additionally, she conducted population genetic analyses on monkey flowers through a collaboration between the University of Maryland and Smithsonian Institution. This diversity of research experience not only provided Emily with a love for genetics, but also a key appreciation for interdisciplinary work. Emily is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Genetics, interested in integrating microfluidic technologies to understand genetic pathways throughout fungal development. In her spare time, Emily enjoys dancing, paddle boarding, and hiking with her dog, Bailey.



### **Danielle Lambert**

#### **Burtchaell Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Health Promotion and Behavior*

*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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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 Ph.D. 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. Student, Neuroscience*

*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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. Student, Cellular biology and DVM Candidate, Veterinary Medicine*  
*Second Year ARCS Scholar*

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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/Ph.D. 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 NIH T32 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. Student, Ecology*  
*Third Year ARCS Scholar*

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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.

# ARCS FOUNDATION ATLANTA

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