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ARCS
FOUNDATION
ATLANTA
SCHOLAR
YEARBOOK

ADVANCING GEORGIA'S
SCIENTIFIC SCHOLARS
SINCE 1992

2019



ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.

Atlanta Chapter
November 21, 2019

ARCS® FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

ARCS Foundation advances science and technology in the United States by providing financial awards to academically outstanding U.S. citizens studying to complete degrees in science, engineering and medical research.

**www.atlanta.arcsfoundation.org
ARCS Foundation Atlanta
P.O. Box 52124
Atlanta, GA 30355**

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ARCS® FOUNDATION ATLANTA CHAPTER

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. Since its founding in 1958, ARCS Foundation has provided more than 10,000 scholar awards totaling over \$100 million. We have more than 1,300 members in 15 chapters across the United States.

ARCS Foundation's principles and practices have remained consistent since our founding in 1958:

- 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.

ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter was founded in 1992. During our 28 year history, we have provided \$5.7 million for over 900 individual scholar awards. The 2019 ARCS Atlanta Scholar Awards total over \$461,000 and will go to 57 scholars at Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College and University of Georgia. These scholars are amongst our country's best and brightest in the fields of science, engineering, and medical research.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors and our volunteers. Thank you to our donors and all those who have made this possible.

Susan B. McGonigle

President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter

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Special thanks to Northside Hospital for its generous contribution as the Event Sponsor of the 2019 Scholar Awards Luncheon.



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

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"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."

Claire E. Sterk
President, Emory University



Aaron Bosse

Correll Award

Ph.D. Student, Organic Chemistry

First Year ARCS Scholar

Aaron originates from Bozrah, Connecticut and pursued a B.A. in chemistry at The College of the Holy Cross. At Holy Cross, he completed two years of research in the lab of Prof. Andre Isaacs developing novel methodologies using click chemistry, culminating in a first author publication in *Synlett*. He moved to Emory University to pursue a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, now researching C–H functionalization applied to total synthesis and method development in Prof. Davies' lab. Currently he is acting as lead researcher on C–H functionalization methodology applied to total synthesis in the Davies lab, collaborating with multiple groups in the CCHF. He has received numerous awards including the ACS DOC Outstanding Undergraduate award, Quayle New student award, Quayle Student Achievement award, and NSF GRFP Honorable mention. Outside of lab, Aaron loves spending time in nature, visiting craft breweries, and relaxing with his dog and cat.



Ana Enriquez

Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Student, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Second Year ARCS Scholar

Ana is a 4th year 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, a developmental biologist. In graduate school, Ana pursued her interest in host-pathogen interactions in the lab of Dr. Rengarajan in the Emory Vaccine Center. Her current research focuses on elucidating the interactions between *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and dendritic cells and its effect on T cells responses during infection. Her experience in research has resulted in 2 peer-reviewed publications so far. Apart from research, Ana enjoys mentoring and increasing the diversity of graduate students in STEM.



Amanda Gill

Donnell Award

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

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.



Kate Holmes

Reid/ARCS Award

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

Kate is a Microbiology doctoral student who graduated with a B.S. in Biology with Honors from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 2009. She went on to earn her D.V.M. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine in 2014, where she performed research in veterinary oncology and epidemiology. After graduation, Kate practiced as an emergency veterinarian for four years before joining the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics program at Emory University in 2018. She is interested in emerging and re-emerging zoonotic viral pathogens, and her graduate work focuses on influenza virus diversity and evolution. Kate is an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction, and she enjoys hiking, camping, and traveling.



Steve Knutson **HSP Marketing/ARCS Award**

Ph.D. Student, Chemistry
Second Year ARCS Scholar

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 lab, Steve enjoys golf, hiking, and is learning piano.



Katie Labgold **Liss/ARCS Award**

Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology
Second Year ARCS Scholar

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 US. In her free time, Katie enjoys exploring Atlanta and volunteering at a transitional housing shelter.



Elaine Liu **Johnson/ARCS Award**

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

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 **Chambers ARCS Light Award**

Ph.D. Student, Population Biology, Ecology and Evolution
Third 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. Student, Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis
Third 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 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
Third 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.



Elizabeth Sajewski

Herz Global Impact Award

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

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
Third 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/ARCS Award

*Ph.D. Student, Genetics and Molecular Biology
Third 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/ARCS Award**

Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology
Third Year ARCS Scholar

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.



ÁNGEL CABRERA, PRESIDENT

"Thanks to the pioneering women of the ARCS Foundation and the sponsorships they have offered to thousands of our country's top undergraduate and graduate students, 9 of 10 ARCS Scholars after they graduate are hard at work in their sponsored fields launching startup companies, devising new technologies, and expanding our knowledge.

Since 1992, Georgia Tech's ARCS Scholars have been the recipients of more than \$1.9 million from the ARCS Atlanta Chapter. Today, we celebrate 17 graduate students receiving ARCS Scholar awards, and we offer our deep gratitude to the ARCS Foundation-Atlanta Chapter, whose transformative philanthropy continues to enable our very best graduate students to realize their great potential."

Ángel Cabrera

President, Georgia Institute of Technology



Nathan Brown

Siemens Award

Ph.D. Student, Aerospace Engineering

First Year ARCS Scholar

Nathan experimentally investigates plasma-material interaction and is developing a novel plasma diagnostic for electric spacecraft propulsion and fusion energy production. He previously worked on the James Webb Space Telescope as a multi-term intern for ATA Engineering and the XIPS ion thruster program as an intern with L-3 Electron Technologies. Nathan holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and, in addition to the ARCS award, is funded by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Georgia Tech President's Fellowship, and Georgia Tech Institute for Materials Graduate Student Fellowship.



Asheley Chapman

Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Student, Biochemistry

Second Year ARCS Scholar

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 diseases. At Georgia Tech, Asheley's doctoral work focuses on the development on nanoparticle-based vaccines and immunotherapies against bacterial and cancer targets. Her projects include collaborations with Centers for Disease Control, with whom she develops diagnostic antibodies to detect illicit small molecules and to target immunotherapeutics. She is the recipient of the Cherry Emerson Fellowship, the School of Chemistry Service Award, the Sepcic Pfeil Ph.D. Fellowship Award, serves on the Executive Board of Women in Chemistry, and as a Justice on the Graduate Senate Judiciary.



Carmen Chen

ARCS Award

*Ph.D. Student, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Carmen earned her B.S. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from New York University in New York City, New York. During her time as an undergraduate, Carmen conducted research at the University of Kentucky, and also taught Chinese to pre-kindergarten students on Sundays. After graduation, she decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Carmen has worked as a K-12 STEM instructor for the Georgia Tech CEISMIC K.I.D.S. Club, and has been awarded the Georgia Tech President's Fellowship. Her doctoral work is on developing nanoporous materials for the removal of toxic acid gases from natural gas and flue gas streams. She loves to read mystery novels, watch baseball, and travel.



Blane Fillingim

Evans Award

*Ph.D. Student, Engineering Design
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Blane, who is from Mobile, Alabama, received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Alabama in 2016 and his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2018. He is currently a Ph.D. Student in the Engineering Design Research Lab at Georgia Tech. His research focuses on understanding the development and implementation of heuristics and biases in design, and his studies with NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab have resulted in two journal publications. Blane is active in the Georgia Tech Grand Challenges program, where he facilitates the progress of first and second-year undergraduate design teams. Blane enjoys all sports and is a lifelong Atlanta Braves fan.



Alli Gombolay **Herz Global Impact Award**

Ph.D. Student, Bioinformatics
First Year ARCS Scholar

Alli is from Atlanta, Georgia and earned a B.S. in Biology and minor in Spanish from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an M.P.H. in Epidemiology from the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University. As a Bioinformatics Ph.D. student in Dr. Francesca Storici's laboratory at Georgia Tech, Alli develops computational tools to map the genome-wide distribution of a dangerous type of DNA damage caused by incorporation of ribonucleotides. One of Alli's main accomplishments is Ribose-Map, the first standardized and user-friendly computational toolkit that analyzes any type of high-throughput ribonucleotide sequencing data. Her work on Ribose-Map recently led to a first and corresponding author publication in the journal *Nucleic Acids Research*, a submitted manuscript and more in preparation.



Michael Griffin **Dasher Award**

Ph.D. Student, Bioengineering
Third 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. 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. 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 as preventative therapy.



Pravara Harati **Drummond Award**

Ph.D. Student, Industrial Engineering
Third 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. She is now a Ph.D. candidate 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.



Lynnae Luettich **Mello/ARCS Award**

Ph.D. Student, Geotechnical Engineering
First Year ARCS Scholar

Lynnae completed her B.S. in Civil Engineering at The University of Maine. After her acceptance into the Civil Engineering Master's program at Georgia Institute of Technology in spring of 2017, she accepted a Graduate Research Assistant Position with Dr. Susan Burns. In 2018, she decided to embark on a Ph.D. plan of study at Georgia Tech where she will also receive an M.S. degree. Her doctoral research started at Ecole des Ponts Paris Tech by developing a 2-Dimensional Infiltration and Overland Stormwater Flow model through the Georgia Tech Gateway to France program. Her other academic activities include the Georgia Tech Student Government Association and participating as a Georgia Tech Leadership Educational and Development Coach. In Lynnae's free time she enjoys traveling, attending concerts, playing with her dog, and going fishing/hiking.



Jeffery Noble II

Cooley Award

Ph.D. Student, Bioengineering

Third Year ARCS Scholar

Jeff completed his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. During his time as an undergraduate, he developed a strong curiosity for biomaterials because of their ability to study and promote specified immune responses. Jeff is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Bioengineering as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His current work focuses on engineering virus-like particles to better understand glycan immunology and to develop vaccines specific for these molecular structures. His work seeks to redesign the current approach of glycoconjugate vaccines to best elicit a defined and protective immune response. Outside of the lab, he enjoys cooking and exploring new trails for running.



Samantha Petti

Frannie Graves Memorial Award

Ph.D. Student, Algorithms, Combinatorics and Optimization

Third 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.



Sydney Popsuj

ARCS Award

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

Sydney earned her B.S. in Biology from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. As an undergraduate, Sydney worked in labs researching the evolution and development of marine invertebrates and became interested in the intersection between the two fields. She researched at her home institution, Duke Kunshan University, and the Roatan Institute for Marine Science before her REU with University of Florida's Whitney Lab for Marine Bioscience. She was Agnes Scott's nominee for the Rhodes Scholarship in 2018. She is pursuing her Ph.D. in Biology at Georgia Institute of Technology where she was awarded the President's Fellowship. Sydney is researching the evolution and loss of photosensory systems in the development of certain species of tunicates. She also enjoys baking, cooking, and playing her cello.



Ziad Rashed

ARCS Award

*Ph.D. Student, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Ziad, hailing from northern Virginia, earned his B.S. in 2018 studying Engineering Science and Mechanics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Virginia. At VT, Ziad joined a nature-inspired fluids and interfaces lab where he worked for 3 years employing biomimicry for the fabrication of novel slippery surface and developing passive energy generation systems. He has co-authored two publications detailing his work throughout his undergraduate career and was awarded honors for best senior design project and a scholarship from the national adhesion society. Ziad joined the Georgia Tech EAS department in 2018 where he is researching how to use tools from nonlinear/chaotic dynamics to gain a greater understanding of the complex interactions between glacier and ocean systems.



Alex Stroh **Printpack Award**

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

Alex earned his B.S. in Mathematics, and his B.I.S.Y.E. 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 designing logistical systems for last-mile delivery of goods. Alex designs delivery routes which maximize for customer service, rather than typical business-related 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 as well as teaching, which he hopes to go into after graduation. He is an avid reader and enjoys all water activities.



Sarah Sundius **ARCS Award**

*Ph.D. Student, Quantitative Biosciences
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Sarah earned her B.S. in Mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. At RPI, her studies concentrated on operations research, applied mathematics, and biology, including research and internship experiences utilizing applications of data science. Sarah also competed on RPI's NCAA Division III Swim Team, receiving multiple All-Conference academic accolades. She began her graduate studies in the Quantitative Biosciences Ph.D. program at Georgia Institute of Technology in 2018 and was awarded the Herbert P. Haley Fellowship. Her current research is focused on developing novel mathematical models for dynamic microbial species interactions using both deterministic and stochastic approaches. Outside of research, Sarah continues to swim competitively as a member of the Georgia Tech Swim Club.



Yael Toporek

Jones Award

Ph.D. Student, Biology

Third Year ARCS Scholar

Yael graduated with a B.S. Biology from Georgia Tech in 2016. As an undergraduate, Yael did 6 semesters of research, received the President's Undergraduate Research Award, and was a team member for the 2015 iGEM competition. Yael is currently a fourth year PhD candidate focusing on biological remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater via the microbially-driven Fenton reaction, and has authored/co-authored several journal articles and a book chapter on her research. When not in the lab, Yael's hobbies include caving, backpacking, and aerial silks.



Erik Wijmans

ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Computer Science

First Year ARCS Scholar

Erik earned a B.S. in Engineering Physics from Juniata College and a B.S. in Computer Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. He is currently a Ph.D. student at the Georgia Institute of Technology and advised by Dhruv Batra and Irfan Essa. He has been an intern at Facebook Reality Labs and Facebook AI Research. His long-term research goal is to develop fundamental techniques, algorithms, and large-scale systems for robotic assistants (i.e. Alexa with eyes and limbs). His work focuses on training virtual robots (embodied agents) in simulation and transferring the skills learned to reality to overcome the challenges of real-world training (it's slow, and expensive). His research has been featured in top venues such as Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), and the International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV).



Katie Young

Northside Hospital Award

Ph.D. Student, Biomedical Engineering

First Year ARCS Scholar

Katie, a native Austinite, earned her B.S. in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently a BME Ph.D. candidate at the Georgia Institute of Technology studying the correlation between single cell mechanics and gene expression to better understand cancer metastasis. She has helped with publishing several articles in *Cell Stem Cell*, *iScience* and *PLoS One* with work in review at *Small* and *Leukemia* and a first-author publication in preparation for submission to *Nature Methods*. Katie is a Neal Kocurek St. David's Scholar and a recipient of an NIH F31 Fellowship. Outside of her time in lab, Katie volunteers with Young Life, mentoring high school students. She also loves biking and is a big musical aficionado.



MOREHOUSE
COLLEGE

DAVID A. THOMAS, PRESIDENT

“ARCS scholar awards have supported the scholarly efforts of 125 high achieving science and mathematics majors at Morehouse for over 26 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



Caleb Baines

John and Mary Franklin Foundation Award

Computer Engineering Major

First Year ARCS Scholar

Caleb is a Junior Computer Engineering Major currently attending Morehouse College. His research interests are in the various fields of technology, with a particular interest in machine learning. In addition to his research, Caleb enjoys participating in competitive engineering competitions as well as working on personal engineering projects and reading. Caleb has worked at Google for a summer developing testing mechanisms for the Google Flights search engine. Caleb is currently participating in research on chatbots and social media data analytics in the Culturally Relevant Computing Lab at Morehouse College.



Isaiah Bayas

Kennedy Award

Computer Science Major

Second Year ARCS Scholar

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.



Alden Brown **Kaiser Permanente Award**

Biology Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar

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 then apply his knowledge to patient care.



Lewis Campbell **Glenn Leadership Award**

Physics Major
First Year ARCS Scholar

Lewis is a junior Physics major at Morehouse College. His research interest deals with robotics, especially pertaining to locomotion and biomechanics. He has worked as a part of the Complex Rheology and Biomechanics (CRAB) Lab at the Georgia Institute of Technology, performing research in collective dynamics of task-oriented robots striving to both improve efficiency and observe their pattern formation. Work done in this lab won first place Undergraduate Poster in Physics at the Emerging Researchers National Conference. Additionally, a publication will result from the most recent research done at Georgia Tech. Besides his research, Lewis enjoys several other activities such as; working on personal projects in the Morehouse Exploration Center, assisting with engineering projects for MakeWay, and designing clothes.



Kaughlin Caver **Georgia-Pacific Award**

Computer Science Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar

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/Easterly Award**

Biology Major
Second Year ARCS Scholar

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
Second Year ARCS Scholar

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



Dimitri Johnson **Gilllin/Goodhew Award**

Biology Major
First Year ARCS Scholar

Dimitri is a Biology major at Morehouse College. His research interests are in genetics and neuroscience. He did a summer research experience at UCONN in 2018 and UT Southwestern in 2019. Dimitri plans to get his B.S. in Biology and attend medical school. He has been involved in research in Dr. Markham's lab at Morehouse since 2018. He is unsure of what type of doctor he wants to be at this time. He would like to continue his endeavors in basic research and possibly pursue an M.S. in research sciences. He currently volunteers in the neurology nursing unit at Grady hospital and is in a leadership position of a mental health organization on campus.



Huiet Joseph

Davis Award

Chemistry Major

Second Year ARCS Scholar

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 bioengineering 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

Second Year ARCS Scholar

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 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.”

Jere W. Morehead
President, University of Georgia



Christian Andersen **Northside Hospital Award**

Ph.D. Student, Toxicology
Second Year ARCS Scholar

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. Before enrolling, Christian was admitted to the inaugural GSLEAD program at UGA to learn about community engagement techniques. Currently, Christian is a fourth year Ph.D. candidate with 4 first author or co-first author papers in peer-reviewed journals and mentors masters, undergraduate and even high-school students. Christian was accepted into the selective Frontiers in Reproduction training course, which accepts only 20 participants from a competitive pool of graduate students, post-docs, and clinical fellows each year. Christian continues to investigate molecular mechanisms contributing to effects of chemotherapeutics on the female reproductive tract.



Kate Birdwhistell **ARCS Award**

D.V.M. and Ph.D. Student, Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Third Year ARCS Scholar

Kate obtained her B.S. in Chemistry from Loyola University of New Orleans. As an undergraduate, she trained in several laboratories to diversify her skills and ultimately solidify her interest in regenerative orthopedic research. As an undergraduate, she received the American Chemical Society (ACS) awards for Outstanding Student in Organic Chemistry and for Community Service and Outreach. Kate is currently enrolled in a dual veterinary and doctoral program at the University of Georgia. As a graduate student, Kate 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*, *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, and *Veterinary and Comparative Orthopedics and Traumatology*. Additionally, she is co-authoring a book chapter on cartilage defects in the dog. In her free time, Kate enjoys cooking and playing with her dogs, Waffles and Sunshine.



Amy Briggs
Olchowski/Potter Award

Ph.D. Student, Ecology
First Year ARCS Scholar

Amy earned a B.S. in Biology from Stanford University. After graduating, she worked for several years on terrestrial and marine ecology projects at Stanford, the Smithsonian, and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, before getting her M.S. at California State University, Northridge, where she received a fellowship for outstanding research promise. Amy researches how humans and changing environmental conditions (e.g., rising temperatures and ocean acidification) affect ecosystems, working in coral reefs in the tropical Pacific. Currently, for her Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of Georgia, she is investigating the incidence and drivers of toxic algal blooms that cause ciguatera poisoning in people, and the effects of those algae on coral reef ecosystems.



David Cobb
Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Student, Cellular Biology
Third Year ARCS Scholar

David earned his B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Mercer University, where he used a yeast genome knockout library to understand the genes required for sulfur and nitrogen metabolism. His work at Mercer ignited a passion for research, so after graduation he enrolled at the University of Georgia to pursue a Ph.D. in Cellular Biology. His current research focuses on the biology of the human malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, which is one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide. When he's not in the lab, David enjoys running, reading, and discovering new music.



Grace Cushman

Mauldin Award

Ph.D. Student, Clinical Psychology

Third 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. 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, pain, and disease activity in children and adolescents who were recently diagnosed with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Grace has co-authored numerous manuscripts investigating disease and quality of life outcomes with youth with IBD and those having undergone solid organ transplant.



Megan Douglass

Broscher/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Clinical Psychology

First Year ARCS Scholar

Megan earned her B.S. in Biological Engineering with a Biomedical Emphasis from the University of Georgia. Megan is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the field of Biomedical Engineering, where she is focused on the development of antimicrobial and blood-compatible surface modifications for biomedical devices. During her first year as a Ph.D. student, Megan was the only engineering student selected for the NSF-funded GS LEAD program, where she engaged with local community members on addressing poverty in the local Athens area. Recently, she has co-authored several publications in *ACS Biomaterials Science and Engineering* and *ACS Applied Bio Materials*. She serves as the Student Representative for the Surface Characterization & Modification SIG under the Society for Biomaterials.



Sarah Elliott

ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Chemistry

Third Year ARCS Scholar

Sarah earned a Chemistry B.S. and Physics B.A. from Bethel University. There, she contributed code to the PSI4 quantum chemistry package. After two undergraduate 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 high performance computing and mathematics training. Sarah explores atmospheric and combustion systems with rigorous computational methods and develops the associated program packages. Her research is published in the *Royal Society of Chemistry Advances*, *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics*, and *American Chemical Society Photonics* and she has presented it internationally. When not behind her computer screen, she enjoys kayaking, climbing, and camping.



Stephanie Halmo

Leake/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Third 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 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. She is currently working on understanding the selectivity of a key enzyme involved in the synthesis of matriglycan on alpha-dystroglycan as well as the impact of multiple instructional design approaches on student learning in biochemistry.



Nicholas Haynes

Burtchaell Award

*Ph.D. Student, Industrial-Organizational Psychology
First Year ARCS Scholar*

Nick graduated summa cum laude from Taylor University, with a B.S. in Psychology/Systems. After graduating, he worked as a Research Associate Intern at American Institutes for Research. Nick joined the Industrial-Organizational Psychology Ph.D. program at the University of Georgia in 2017, where he primarily researches the psycho-physiological pathways and outcomes of workaholism along with workplace health interventions. Since his time at UGA, Nick has authored several conference posters and symposia, a book chapter, and a first-authored article in *American Psychologist*. He has won travel awards to present his research and a research grant from the Graduate School. When not working, Nick enjoys playing basketball, board games, and the guitar, and going on walks with his wife, dog, and newborn son.



Emily Krach

UPS Award

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

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, working to integrate microfluidic technologies to better understand genetic pathways involved in fungal growth dynamics. In her spare time, Emily enjoys dancing, painting, and hiking with her rescue dog, Bailey.



Meghan Logun

Dick Award

Ph.D. Student, Neuroscience

Third Year ARCS Scholar

Meghan earned her B.S. in Biology with a minor in Anthropology in 2014 from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. As an undergraduate researcher Meghan worked in a neuropharmacology lab under Dr. Leonard Howell at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, during which time she developed an interest in neuroscience research. After graduating from Emory, Meghan began her post-graduate studies at the University of Georgia and received an M.S. in Animal Science in 2016 before continuing her projects into doctorate work under Dr. Lohitash Karumbaiah. She is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the Neuroscience program, with projects focusing on the role of the extracellular matrix in brain tumor invasion and immunosuppression.



Michael Mills

Hinkle/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Microbiology

First Year ARCS Scholar

Michael, who grew up in Ghana, West Africa, earned his B.S. in Pharmaceutical Science from the University of Georgia. During his undergraduate years, Michael worked for Synageva BioPharma Corp, a company that invented therapies to devastating rare diseases, and cultivated an interest in translating research into medicines to target diseases. He now pursues his Ph.D. in Microbiology at the University of Georgia where he hopes to understand and develop medicines against the organisms involved in the neglected tropical disease, Lymphatic filariasis. An author on three publications and a former PREP@UGA scholar, Michael also loves soccer, drawing, and teaching, and hopes to use his experiences in science to encourage more minority students to participate in the STEM fields.



Mariel Pfeifer

ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Plant Biology

First Year ARCS Scholar

Mariel Pfeifer obtained her B.S. in Microbiology, B.A. in Biology, and B.A. in Biology Education from the University of Wyoming. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Georgia. Mariel is pursuing a traditional bench science and a biology education research project as part of her dissertation. Her bench project involves discovering the details of nuclear migration during rice plant infection by the fungus, *Magnaporthe oryzae*. Her biology education project focuses on the self-advocacy experiences of students with specific learning disabilities and/or ADHD in undergraduate STEM courses.



Ashley Rasys

Sartain Lanier Award

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

Third Year ARCS Scholar

Ashley attended the University of Massachusetts and later transferred to the University of Georgia. In 2014, she was accepted into the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia; a year later, joined the D.V.M./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. Recently, she successfully used CRISPR to edit the lizard genome, creating the first mutant reptile. For her work thus far, she has been awarded the NIH T32 Genetics Training Grant and the SDB Emerging Models grant. Ashley is currently extending this work by targeting and knocking out key genes implicated in fovea development.



Kate Sabey

Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Student, Infectious Diseases

First Year ARCS Scholar

Kate received her B.S. in Biology from Juniata College. There, she performed research exploring the role of the gut microbiome in human gastrointestinal disease, co-authoring multiple publications. After graduation, she completed an internship at Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park before returning to Juniata College, where she served as an adjunct laboratory instructor and helped develop undergraduate bioinformatics curricula. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Infectious Diseases as part the dual D.V.M./Ph.D. program at UGA, combining her interests in genomics and veterinary medicine to investigate how the microbiome shapes infection processes in African wildlife. Apart from research, she enjoys science communication, singing in choir, and photography.

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