

ARCS FOUNDATION ATLANTA SCHOLAR YEARBOOK

CULTIVATING SCIENTISTS IN GEORGIA SINCE 1992

2021



ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.

"Funding STEM Scholars who will change the world"

Scholar Awards Celebration November 18, 2021

#lamARCSAtlanta

A collective story, in pictures and videos, of an organization run by altruistic, dedicated, women supporting the next generation of America's most brilliant scientists with the help of visionary donors – and the unique connection that exists between all of us.

ARCS® FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

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

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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 10,900 scholar awards totaling over \$120 million. We have more than 1,200 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. The vision of ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter is to fund stem scholars who will change the world. Our support of each scholar is an expression of our belief that each scholar holds the promise of a better future. ARCS Awards are unrestricted, and these funds enable our scholars to conduct research that has the potential to solve the challenges of today. This is the opportunity that ARCS Foundation offers to our donors, the opportunity to change the world.

During our 30-year history, we have provided over \$6.5 million for over 1,000 individual scholar awards. The 2021 ARCS Atlanta Scholar Awards total \$414,500 and will go to 53 scholars at Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College and University of Georgia. These scholars are among 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 to all those who have made this possible.

Leslie Z. Petter

President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Special thanks to BlackRock for its generous contribution as the Event Sponsor of the 2021 Scholar Awards Celebration.



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30TH ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

2022 will mark the 30th anniversary of the ARCS Atlanta chapter. Thank you to Mary O'Connor Forese, our Atlanta Chapter Founding President and Honorary Chair of the 30th Anniversary Endowment Campaign, for her significant leadership gift to the 30th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.

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Kristen Gibbs Sherry Lundeen Shelley Woods Whiting

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IN APPRECIATION

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

Emory University, Gregory Fenves, *President* Georgia Institute of Technology, Ángel Cabrera, *President* Morehouse College, David A. Thomas, *President* University of Georgia, Jere W. Morehead, *President* Henderson Shapiro Peck Retro 8 Films



GREGORY L. FENVES, PRESIDENT

"Emory has some of the most talented STEM doctoral students in the nation. They are learning and teaching on our campus, while making extraordinary contributions as researchers and rising leaders in their fields. My sincerest thanks to the ARCS Foundation for investing in STEM scholars who will go on to shape the future."

> Gregory L. Fenves President, Emory University



Aaron Bosse Glenn Award

Ph.D. Student, Organic Chemistry Third 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.



Aniruddha Deshpande Donnell Award

Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology First Year ARCS Scholar

Aniruddha is a rising 2nd year student in the department of epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health. He completed his MPH in epidemiology at Emory in 2016 and a BS in biology and philosophy at Emory in 2012. He has experience in many sectors of global health including the federal government via the CDC, non-governmental organizations in India, and academic research institutes. He was a research scientist at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington. He developed models to predict access to safe drinking water and sanitation services across low and middle-income countries. In doing so, he has built strong technical expertise in statistical modeling, handling large datasets, and scientific programming. His work has been highly published in journals such as Nature and The Lancet totaling 24 publications and over 5,600 citations with two first author publications. He currently is focused on researching climate impacts on the epidemiology of enteric diseases such as rotavirus and cholera.



Ariel Gale Hawkins/ARCS Award Ph.D. Student, Chemistry First Year ARCS Scholar

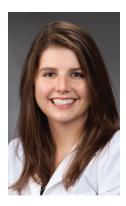
Ariel is a Chemistry doctoral student and Emory University Women in Natural Sciences Fellow focusing on method development for high pressure quantum chemistry. While earning her B.S. in Chemistry and a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies minor at Furman University, she did more than two years of computational chemistry research. This work involved several projects involving noncovalent interactions, solvent effects, and configurational sampling techniques, and was recognized nationally via the Goldwater Scholarship and an appointment as a Beckman Scholar. She has presented her findings at four national conferences and has authored seven publications. She is passionate about social and environmental justice and hopes to make research more accessible and inclusive for marginalized students.



Jessica Hoffman Northside Hospital Award

Ph.D. Student, Molecular and Systems Pharmacology Second Year ARCS Scholar

Jessica is a Molecular and Systems Pharmacology doctoral student and Woodruff Fellow at Emory University. Jessica grew up in Indian Trail, North Carolina and received her B.S. in Applied Mathematics and Environmental Sciences from UNC Chapel Hill in 2018. As an undergraduate, Jessica spent three academic years researching the health effects of ambient air pollutants and two summers researching the development of drug targeting lipid nanoparticles. Now, a graduate student in Dr. Michael Davis' lab, her work focuses on building computational models to predict stem cell therapy outcomes for pediatric heart disease patients. In addition to her research, Jessica enjoys volunteering with her lab through SmartHeart/HeRO: hosting elementary school groups for lab tours, holding research events for the families of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and bringing fun science activities to the cardiac step down unit.



Kate Holmes, DVM Klamon/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Third 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.



Nicole Hood Gillin/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology First Year ARCS Scholar

Nicole is an Epidemiology doctoral student at Emory University, focusing on Infectious Diseases. Her interest in public health was sparked while working towards B.S. (Summa Cum Laude) and B.A. (Cum Laude) degrees at the University of Florida (UF). Realizing that she wanted to focus on infectious diseases, she pursued an M.P.H. degree in the Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases Department at the Yale School of Public Health after graduating from UF. After earning her degree, Nicole accepted an analyst position at Kaiser Permanente Northern California's Division of Research. Working on the HIV team fueled her desire to study HIV, and she contributed to 3 peer-reviewed articles while there. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys playing tennis and running.



Logan Kavanaugh McGowan/ARCS Award

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

Logan's passion for understanding the biology of emerging antibiotic resistant pathogens began as an undergraduate Honors researcher at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Charlotte, where she received her BS and MS in Biology. She continues this commitment to understanding and combating the rise of bacterial antibiotic resistance at Emory University where she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. Logan has received multiple scholarships to support her thesis work, including a NIH/NIGMS F31 Predoctoral Fellowship. She has also coauthored five publications, mentored seven undergraduates and is the Vice President of the Division Student Advisory Council.



Alicia Lane Reid/ARCS Award Ph.D. Student, Neuroscience First Year ARCS Scholar

Alicia is a Neuroscience doctoral student and Emory University Woodruff Fellow. She obtained her B.S. in Biology in 2015 from Georgia Tech and completed her honors thesis on sickle cell disease as a Petit Scholar, resulting in a co-authored publication and the Cherry Emerson Award. She was a University of Washington Amgen Scholar and worked at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Post-graduation, Alicia studied interneurons involved in motor control at Emory University and produced 5 abstracts and a co-authored publication. She has two first-author publications under review and is conducting her dissertation research relating copper dysregulation and mitochondria to neurodegenerative disease. As the Neuroscience Program Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Co-Chair, Alicia strives to make her institution accessible and equitable.



Cameron Mattingly Liss/ARCS Award

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

Cameron is a doctoral student in Emory University's Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis program where she studies lung tissue resident CD8⁺ T cells and their role in the immune response to respiratory pathogens. After receiving her B.S. in Biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she spent four years working as a research specialist at Emory's Yerkes Primate Research Center. During this time, she contributed to nine publications through her work on the elimination of the HIV/SIV reservoir. In addition to her love of immunology, she enjoys walks with her greyhound and caring for her houseplants.



Hemali Oza Herz Global Impact Award

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

Hemali is an Environmental Health Sciences (EHS) doctoral student, Laney Graduate Fellow, and interested in measuring and building climate resilience among developing and in informal settlements. Influenced by her father's upbringing in a rural Indian village, she is particularly interested in resilience as it pertains to water systems and water, sanitation, and hygiene. Hemali received a B.S.P.H. in EHS in 2018 and an M.S. in Environmental Science and Engineering in 2019, both from UNC-Chapel Hill, where she worked on point-of-use water treatment projects that resulted in publications of her research. Hemali also enjoys dancing with Saraas, Emory's Indian dance team.



Selma Piranej Herz Global Impact Award Ph.D. Student, Chemistry First Year ARCS Scholar

Selma Piranej graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a B.S. in Biochemistry and is currently pursuing a Chemistry Ph.D. from Emory University, Selma's research interests include DNA nanotechnology and leveraging it to create synthetic systems for sensing applications. Throughout her undergraduate career, Selma has been a part of the Mulcahy Scholar's program and published three peer-reviewed articles, two of which were first author. She was also awarded the American Institute of Chemists prize. Her graduate career thus far has resulted in two peer-reviewed published articles and one first author article currently under review in Nature Nanotechnology. Selma's career goal is to work in academia as a research professor. In her free time, Selma enjoys hiking, swimming, and learning new languages. In addition to English, Selma speaks Albanian, Italian, and Spanish.



Zerleen Quader BlackBock Award

Ph.D. Student, Epidemiology Second Year ARCS Scholar

Zerleen is an Epidemiology doctoral student and a recipient of Emory's T32 Multidisciplinary Research Training to Reduce Inequalities in Cardiovascular Health Training Grant. She received her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Georgia, and her MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Minnesota. After completing her MPH, she worked as a research fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. Her research has resulted in seven peer-reviewed publications thus far. Her long-term research goals are to understand how social determinants of health and structural factors play a role in childhood cardio-metabolic health.



Sarah Strassler Petter Award

Ph.D. Student, Biochemistry Second Year ARCS Scholar

Sarah is a Biochemistry doctoral student and National Science Foundation predoctoral fellow studying the structural basis of RNA-protein interactions. After receiving her B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Florida, she spent two years teaching high school science as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana where she was named Education Volunteer of the Year by Ghana's Ministry of Education. Sarah is pursuing a career in science education to continue making science accessible to diverse audiences. She works as a Volunteer Scientist for Atlanta Science Festival, tutors Tibetan monks at Emory University, and served as a teaching assistant for an introductory graduate course. Sarah was the co-author on a paper which focused on bacterial enzymes that confer antibiotic resistance.



Julia Tanquary McGonigle/ARCS Award

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

Julia Tanquary is a Ph.D. candidate in the Dunham laboratory at Emory University where she studies the role of bacterial toxin-antitoxin complexes in bacterial survival and stress responses and seeks to identify the cellular targets of these toxins. In 2017, Julia obtained B.S. in a double major of Biology and Spanish from Eckerd College. Her experiences teaching abroad as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant and in the United States have inspired her to make science more inclusive and accessible. She is a co-author on one peer-reviewed publication in PLoS Genetics and is second author on a manuscript describing her work as a rotation student currently under review. Julia was recently awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship.



Sophie Yount Herz Award Honoring Lundeen ARCS National Presidency

Ph.D. Student, Molecular and Systems Pharmacology First Year ARCS Scholar

Sophie graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in chemistry and concentration in biochemistry. During her undergraduate career, Sophie conducted research in the Department of Nutrition, collaborated with the Neuroscience Institute, and participated in Indiana University of Bloomington's chemistry NSF program. After this diverse research experience, Sophie chose to attend Emory University for her Ph.D. training. Her work aims to understand circuit-level control of decision-making. New knowledge could shed light on innate learning systems that are "hijacked" by abuse of drugs. In future endeavors, she hopes to identify pharmacological targets within neurological systems that could mitigate harmful drug taking.

Georgia Tech

ÁNGEL CABRERA, PRESIDENT

"For more than half a century, the ARCS Foundation has been generously investing in our nation's next generation of scientists. Thanks to their vision and dedication. thousands of America's best students have received the resources they need to excel in school, pursue productive careers, launch companies, develop technologies, and push the limits of their fields. Over the past 30 years, the ARCS Foundation Atlanta has awarded more than \$2 million to some of Georgia Tech's very best students. Philanthropy of this magnitude is an indispensable part of our mission to develop leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition, and I join this year's class of ARCS Atlanta Scholars in offering our sincere thanks for these transformative gifts."

Ángel Cabrera President, Georgia Institute of Technology



Nolan Barrett Wahlen/ARCS Award Ph.D. Student, Ocean Science and Engineering

Ph.D. Student, Ocean Science and Engineering First Year ARCS Scholar

Nolan is a passionate and exuberant third-year Ocean Science and Engineering Ph.D. candidate at the Georgia Institute of Technology where he is pursuing his dream-research in the field of Marine Natural Products Chemistry and Chemical Ecology. During his formative undergraduate years at the College of Charleston, in-between playing ultimate frisbee, working in student gardens, and meticulously studying, he interned at the Medical University of South Carolina and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Upon graduation with a B.S. in Marine Biology in 2017, he returned to both institutions to work as a research technician contributing to several publications until starting his graduate studies. Additionally, Nolan volunteers with the NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer and advances EDI efforts through GaTech student organizations.



Carmen Chen Burke Award

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

Carmen earned her B.S. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from New York University in New York City, New York. 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 CEISMC K.I.D.S. Club and has been awarded the Georgia Tech President's Fellowship. This past summer, she interned at Argonne National Laboratory where she worked on X-ray crystallography data processing and analysis. Her doctoral work is on improving hierarchical silica materials to collect water vapor from the atmosphere under arid conditions. She loves to watch baseball and go on road trips.



Kenneth De Jesus-Morales Graves Award

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

Kenneth completed his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Puerto Rico – Mayaguez. As an undergraduate, he performed research in the areas of Bioinformatics and Microfluidics for the development of therapies that could assist biomedical diseases. He also conducted summer internships at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Emory University. Kenneth has worked for medical device companies like Abbott and Boston Scientific. These experiences drove him to grow a passion for biomedical engineering to currently be a Ph.D. student at both Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. His current work focuses in optimizing a bio-printed aortic heart valve model capable of regeneration and repair for the pediatric population.



Alli Gombolay Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Student, Bioinformatics/Biological Sciences Third Year ARCS Scholar

Alli earned a B.S. in Biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2013 and an M.P.H. in Epidemiology from the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University in 2015. As a Bioinformatics Ph.D. student in Dr. Francesca Storici's molecular genetics laboratory at Georgia Tech, Alli is responsible for developing and applying computational tools to study DNA repair and genome stability. One of Alli's main accomplishments thus far is developing Ribose-Map, the first user-friendly computational toolkit that can be used to analyze any type of next-generation ribonucleotide sequencing data. Her work on Ribose-Map has led to two first author publications, one published in Nucleic Acids Research and another published in Nature Communications.



Hannah Holmes John and Mary Franklin Award

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

Hannah is a Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Ph.D. student at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2019. While at UIUC, she performed research on the electrochemical reduction of CO2 to fuels and chemicals. Hannah also worked as an intern in the process engineering department at Scholle IPN, a flexible packaging manufacturer. Her current research focuses on improving the efficiency of CO2 capture technologies using hollow fiber sorbents, and she is co-advised by Dr. Ryan Lively and Dr. Matthew Realff. In her free time, Hannah eniovs serving as secretary for the Association of Chemical Engineering Graduate Students, mentoring new students, and exploring Atlanta.



Sydney Popsuj Doyle/Easterly/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Biology Third 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 Herz Global Impact Award

Ph.D. Student, Ocean Science and Engineering/Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Third 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 ioined a nature-inspired fluids and interfaces lab where he worked for 3 years employing biomimicry for the fabrication of novel slipperv 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.



Kantwon Rogers BlackBock Award

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

Kantwon is a Computer Science doctoral student at the Georgia Institute of Technology where he has also previously earned a B.S. in Computer Engineering, M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and a M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction. His research interests are in artificial intelligence and robotics with a focus on investigating the influences that prosocial deception has on human-robot interaction. His work has led to six research publications. Throughout his educational career, he has been a research intern at Intel Corporation and Google. For fun, Kantwon enjoys singing, playing video games, and idolizing the professional tennis player Serena Williams.



Christopher Roper UPS Award

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

Chris graduated with a B.S. Dual-Degree in Physics from the University of West Georgia and Mechanical Engineering from Kennesaw State with minors in Aerospace Engineering as well as Mathematics respectively, in 2018. He earned his M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech shortly after in 2021, Following, he obtained: M.S. and Ph.D. GEM Fellowship, SREB Fellowship, and Herbert P. Haley Fellowship in support for his graduate school career. Prior to advanced education, Chris pursued research at Los Alamos National Laboratory, NASA Glenn, and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. His research interest focuses on plasma instabilities in high-speed plasma dynamic sources for propulsion. In his spare time, he enjoys various activities such as basketball, hiking, reading, and playing musical instruments for leisure.



Kevin Shu Hardin/ARCS Award

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

Kevin is a doctoral student in Algorithms, Combinatorics and Optimization at the Georgia Institute of Technology, partially funded by a President's Fellowship. He is interested in applying ideas from pure math, in particular algebraic geometry, to solve optimization problems more efficiently. Kevin has several publications connecting algebraic geometry to optimization, of which one has been accepted by a peer reviewed journal.



A. Lynnae Leuttich Stypulkowski Dodson/Plummer/ARCS Award

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

A. Lynnae is a Civil Engineering Ph.D. student at Georgia Tech researching Urban Stormwater Management through the focus of Geo-Environmental Engineering. After her undergrad at the University of Maine and multiple internships, she knew she wanted to do research that could help with the environmental impacts that our world faces today. In her future she wishes to teach similar concepts to young engineers and focus her research on bettering engineering education. Lynnae has won two ASCE awards through her GRA position and two teaching awards as a TA, including Georgia Tech's 2020 Campus-Wide Online TA of the Year. In Lynnae's free time she enjoys arts and crafts of any kind, playing with her dog, and going on adventures!



Sarah Sundius

Ph.D. Student, Quantitative Biosciences Third Year ARCS Scholar

Sarah earned her B.S. in Mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. At RPI, her studies concentrated on operations research, applied mathematics, and biology, including research and internship experiences utilizing applications of data science. Sarah began her graduate studies in the Quantitative Biosciences Ph.D. program at Georgia Institute of Technology in 2018 and is the recipient of a 2020 National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship, Her research is focused on developing novel mathematical models for dynamic microbial species interactions incorporating realistic variation in space and time, with the goal of better understanding human microbial infections and informing therapeutic strategies. Outside of research. Sarah swims and coaches for the Georgia Tech Swim Club.



Tony Wang Siemens Award

Ph.D. Student, Electrical and Computer Engineering Second Year ARCS Scholar

Tony is an Electrical and Computer Engineering doctoral student and NSE Graduate Research Fellowship recipient at Georgia Institute of Technology. Previously, he obtained his B.S. in Materials Science and Engineering with a minor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at UC Berkeley. He has interned at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he was awarded the LLNL Research Poster Award for his contributions towards laser optics. He is currently working under Dr. Azadeh Ansari and Dr. Kimberly Hoang to develop micro-robots to perform neurosurgery. Outside of research, Tony also volunteers as a Graduate Student Coordinator for the Mental Health Student Coalition to improve awareness about mental health on campus. His hobbies include hiking, table tennis, and swimming,



Erik Wijmans

BlackRock Award Ph.D. Student, Computer Science Third 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 PhD candidate at the Georgia Institute of Technology and advised by Dhruy Batra and Irfan Essa. He has been an intern at Facebook Reality Labs, Facebook AI Research, and Intel AI. 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), the International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), the European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), and the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).



Katie Young Northside Hospital Award Ph.D. Student, Biomedical Engineering Third 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, Small, Leukemia, elite, Scientific Report and PloS One with work in review at ACS Sensors and a first author publication under review at Small. 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.



DAVID A. THOMAS, PRESIDENT

"ARCS scholar awards have supported the scholarly efforts of over 140 high achieving science and mathematics majors at Morehouse for over 29 years. It is an honor that each year one student will receive the prestigious *Glenn Leadership Award* at Morehouse, 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



Malcolm Brown ARCS Award Physics Maior

Physics Major First Year ARCS Scholar

Malcolm is currently completing his final semester at Morehouse College with a B.S. in Physics, and a minor in Mathematics. During his time in undergrad, Malcolm has received a Physics Stellar Performance Award, two Excellence in Mathematics awards, a feature in a book documenting successful African Americans of Calvert County Maryland, Dean's list recognition each semester attending Morehouse. and inductions into numerous honors societies. His research experience includes working with the Naval Research Laboratories, University of Michigan, Georgia Tech and Morehouse College. Next, he will pursue a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, intending to focus his research on design, controls, and robotics in aerospace or ocean applications. Outside of the classroom, he enjoys working on motorcycles and pursuing entrepreneurial ventures.



Storm Chin BlackRock Award

Computer Science and Mathematics Major Second Year ARCS Scholar

Storm is a Computer Science and Mathematics major at Morehouse College. This Caribbean student spends most of his free time developing applications or staying active outside. He loves all water sports including scuba diving and wakeboarding and seizes every chance he can to snowboard or hike. He has conducted research in many fields including neuroscience, data analytics, and machine learning. He has worked for big-name companies like Google and Microsoft and even the C.I.A. He plans to graduate early and pursue either a Master of Business Administration degree or a Master's degree in Computer Science.



Alonzo Frederic Georgia-Pacific Award Biology Major

Biology Major First Year ARCS Scholar

Alonzo is a junior at Morehouse College. He is pursuing his B.S. degree in Biology and minor in Public Health. His research interests surround Pathology, particularly Infectious and Chronic Diseases. He is a McNair and RISE scholar and has held research positions at Morehouse School of Medicine and Penn State University. He investigated the significance of the SGK1/MCU signaling pathway in regulating mitochondrial respiration in vascular smooth muscle cells and examined in vivo and in vitro mechanisms of microvascular dysfunction in cardiovascular disease populations, respectively. In addition to his commitment to research, Alonzo enjoys partaking in community engagement through acts of service, spending valuable time with family and close friends, and inspiring the next generation of forward-thinking visionaries.



Jordan Lawton Genuine Parts Award

Mechanical Engineering/General Science Major First Year ARCS Scholar

Jordan is a Dual Degree Mechanical Engineering and General Science major with a minor in Mathematics at Morehouse College. He aspires to graduate in May 2024 with his B.S. in General Science, along with a Mechanical Engineering degree. He also has plans to attend graduate school. This past summer, he completed a civil engineering internship in Detroit, Michigan, in which he worked for one the biggest nationwide civil engineering firms, HNTB. During the previous summer, he completed a virtual internship where he did chemical-based research for a company called Supply Factory Brands headquartered in New York. His hobbies include listening to music and hanging out with friends. His work is focused in general engineering.



Christian Lubin BlackRock Award

Chemistry Major Second Year ARCS Scholar

Christian is a chemistry major at Morehouse College. His interests are in pharmaceutical research, specifically, designing and synthesizing new drugs for the industry. Outside of his passion for research and the sciences, Christian enjoys socializing, exercise, gaming, and immersing himself in new experiences. He has most recently completed an internship at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute with the Weill Cornell Medicine Graduate School, in which he aided in researching variants of the H1 linker histone. Following this, he was named a Pinkerton Scholar and inducted into U.N.C.F.'s fourth cohort of S.T.E.M. Scholars.



Malik McRae Davis Award Biology Major First Year ARCS Scholar

Malik is a Junior Biology major from Prince George's County Maryland attending Morehouse College. On-campus, he is involved in several organizations including the Health Careers Society, Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity, Student Ambassadors, and the Howard Thurman Honors Program. Malik has also tutored in both general biology 1,2 and general chemistry. Upon graduation, he plans on attending a Medical Scientist Training Program to pursue his MD/Ph.D. Malik's research interests are broad, however, he is looking to build upon his recent experience at Vanderbilt University under Dr. Edward Sherwood where his research focused on innate immune memory. Outside of his love for research, Malik enjoys listening to music, playing basketball, and telling jokes to his friends.



Jeffrey White Glenn Leadership Award Biology Major Second Year ARCS Scholar

Jeffrey is a Biology major at Morehouse College. His research interests are in neglected tropical diseases that are endemic within low-income subpopulations of developing regions; particularly with regards to visceral leishmaniasis and the biochemical modalities that underpin its pathogenesis. Concomitant with a vehement passion for scientific inquiry, Jeffrey is involved in a host of other activities such as through-hiking along the Pacific Crest Trail, participating in blitz chess tournaments. as well as volunteering for environmental justice initiatives as a member of the NAACP Youth & College Division, Last summer he worked at the Davenport Laboratory of Pathogenic Protozoa as a Ronald E. McNair Post baccalaureate Achievement Scholar studying the kinetoplastid L. donovani.



Elijah Williams BlackRock Award Mechanical Engineering Major First Year ARCS Scholar

Elijah is a junior at Morehouse College studying Mechanical Engineering and General Science at Morehouse College. He aspires to graduate in May 2024 with a B.S. in General Science as well as a Mechanical Engineering degree. This past summer he completed an engineering internship at Carbice Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia. His project included thermal engineering-based and chemical engineering-based research. Later in the summer, Elijah completed an internship for one of the biggest HVAC companies in the nation, Carrier Transicold in Athens, Georgia. Elijah's hobbies include listening to music, playing video games, and reading. His work is primarily focused on environmental engineering.



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



Alyssa Baugh Sartain Lanier Award Ph.D. Student, Microbiology Second Year ARCS Scholar

Alyssa is a Microbiology Ph.D. candidate and Presidential Graduate Fellow at the University of Georgia, where she is genetically engineering bacteria to make biofuels. She earned a full-ride National Merit scholarship and obtained three B.S. degrees from the University of Idaho, where she wrote grants to fund independent research and worked at the Center for Volunteerism and Social Action. As an incoming graduate student, Alyssa participated in the NSF-Funded GS LEAD program. In valuing scientific outreach, she has presented her work at six conferences, TA'ed three courses, and volunteered with the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. Alvssa has interned at DOE national labs in Oak Ridge and Los Alamos. She hopes to do research on microbially-mediated bioremediation and bioproduction.



Amy Briggs Olchowski/Potter Award Ph.D. Student, Ecology

Ph.D. Student, Ecology Third Year ARCS Scholar

Amy earned a B.S. in Biology from Stanford University. After graduating, she worked on research 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 affect ecosystems, working in coral reefs in the tropical Pacific. For her Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of Georgia, she is investigating drivers of reef microbial communities and how microbes affect the broader reef ecosystem. Her work focuses on 1) bacteria that affect coral health. and 2) toxic microalgae that cause a widespread human illness in the tropics, ciquatera poisoning.



Amanda Caulfield Henry/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Infectious Diseases First Year ARCS Scholar

Amanda is a Ph.D. student in Infectious Diseases in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. Her research focuses on immunomodulation in Bordetella pertussis and identifying immune correlates of protection that will inform the development of improved vaccines against whooping cough. Amanda Completed her B.S. in Biology at Quinnipiac University where she researched topics in parasitology and invertebrate zoology. In her time as a Ph.D. student, Amanda was awarded an NIH R21, and fellowship in the Interdisciplinary Disease Ecology Across Scales (IDEAS) program, which focuses on integrating multiple biological scales of research into one's thesis using quantitative methods. Amanda has published two first author papers and has co-authored five additional articles.



Kendall Clay Boyd/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Neurology First Year ARCS Scholar

Kendall is a Neuroscience Ph.D. student, NIH Genetics T32 Recipient, and Diversity Matters scholar at the University of Georgia focusing on neural regeneration. After receiving a B.S. in Psychology and a B.S. in Biology from the University of Georgia, she published her undergraduate thesis in the Journal of Early Intervention in Psychiatry. Her graduate work is focused on elucidating the genetic mechanisms of regeneration of dopaminergic neurons in planarians. In addition to research, Kendall enjoys painting and science communication.



Megan Douglass Hinkle/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Biomedical Engineering Third 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. She has co-authored several publications in ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, 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. She was recently awarded the 2020 Brahm Verma Award from the College of Engineering at the University of Georgia for her academic and research efforts.



Katherine Duval Leake/ARCS Award Ph.D. Candidate, Genetics Second Year ARCS Scholar

Katie is a Genetics Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Georgia where she researches chromatin. She first became interested in the field of epigenetics as an undergraduate researcher at Emory University, where she earned a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in English. After graduating in 2018, Katie was awarded the NSF Graduate Scholars Leadership, Engagement, and Development Fellowship, a program that enables incoming doctoral students to hone their leadership and communication skills. Now in her fourth year at UGA, Katie's doctoral research focuses on the establishment and regulation of chromatin states in vertebrate development. In addition to research, Katie is passionate about science policy and enjoys training her two dogs in agility.



Christian Freeman Goodhew/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Student, Chemistry First Year ARCS Scholar

Christian is a 3rd year Chemistry Doctoral student at the University of Georgia studying the effects of phospholipid composition on antibiotic resistance in bacteria. He graduated from Georgia Southern University with his B.S. in Chemistry and pre-pharmacy. There, he completed three years of research on chemo-sensor micellar interaction, attended an REU at the University of Wisconsin-Madison producing domain containing vesicles, and graduated as a Dean's Research scholar, Bill Ponder Scholar, American Institute of Chemists (AIC) outstanding senior, and American Chemical Society (ACS) outstanding senior undergraduate organic chemistry student. He has five publications, including a first author research paper on method development in phospholipid isomer identification. In, his spare time, Christian likes to garden and volunteer in organization work.



Morgane Golan Cooper/Mukharji Award Ph.D. Student, Regenerative Bioscience

Ph.D. Student, Regenerative Bioscience First Year ARCS Scholar

Morgane is a Ph.D. student in the Regenerative Bioscience Center (RBC), within the department of Animal and Dairy Science, at the University of Georgia. She began her doctoral program at UGA after graduating with her B.S. in Animal Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she was named a 2019 Rising Researcher. Her Ph.D. research project is an investigation of neural stem cell-derived extracellular vesicles (NSC-EVs) as a therapeutic for the treatment of traumatic brain injury (TBI). Morgane is also pursuing a graduate certificate in University Teaching, and she is the President of the RBC Graduate Student Association. Morgane is passionate about science communication, teaching, and outreach, and she aspires towards a career as a professor of regenerative medicine.



Nicholas Haynes Burtchaell Award

Ph.D. Student, Industrial-Organizational Psychology Third 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 articles in top journals in his field, including American Psychologist and Journal of Applied Psychology. He has won travel awards to present his research and a research grant from the Graduate School. When not working, Nick enjoys woodworking and the guitar, and going on walks with his wife, dog, son, and daughter.



Liju Mathew Dick Award

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

Liju is a doctoral student in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Georgia. He also received his B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Georgia, conducting research on cysteine protease inhibition and plant cell wall characterization during his undergraduate studies. His graduate research focuses on characterizing the molecular mechanism of a reaction pathway in pathogenic *E. coli*, with broader interests in enzyme structure-function relationships and natural products discovery. He has presented his research at multiple national conferences and published a peer-reviewed article since beginning his graduate studies.



Megan Meany Jobe/ARCS Award

Ph.D. Candidate, Genetics First Year ARCS Scholar

Megan is a 3rd year Genetics Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Georgia where she is investigating the molecular mechanisms underlying sex determination and gonad differentiation in the brown anole lizard. In 2017, she earned her B.S. in Evolution and Ecology at the University of California, Davis. She went on to work as a Lab Manager at the University of Montana publishing her work in *Evolution* in 2019. She began graduate school in June 2019 as a UGA Gateway Scholar. She has received the UGA Graduate School Interdisciplinary and Innovative Research Grant and has been a trainee on the NIH T32 Genetics Training Grant. She is currently an NSF Graduate Research Fellow.



Michael Mills Herz Global Impact Award Ph.D. Student, Microbiology Third Year ABCS 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.



Judith Reyes Ballista Northside Hospital Award

Ph.D. Student, Infectious Diseases First Year ARCS Scholar

Judith obtained her B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras. During her undergraduate studies, Judith obtained research experience in the fields of diseases ecology, and virology from her home institution and from summer internships at Duke University, Purdue University, and University of Missouri – Columbia. Currently, she is a Ph.D. student in Infectious Diseases at the University of Georgia studying the role of phospholipids and glycosylations in the entry and budding of RNA viruses. Judith has received multiple awards including the NSF GRFP, an NIH Diversity Supplement, and the UGA 3MT grand prize. In her free time, she enjoys mentoring undergraduate students, playing with her cats, and making art.



Kate Sabey

Herz Global Impact Award Ph.D. Student, Infectious Diseases Third 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 DVM-Ph.D. program at UGA, combining her interests in genomics and veterinary medicine to investigate how the microbiome shapes infection processes in African wildlife. Throughout her Ph.D., she has presented her work at both local and national conferences. Apart from research, she enjoys science communication, singing in choir, and photography.



Aarya Venkat Frances Swensson ARCS Light Award

Ph.D. Student, Biochemistry First Year ARCS Scholar

Aarya is a Biochemistry doctoral student in the Kannan lab at the University of Georgia, where he does research on glycoenzymology. After graduating with an M.S. in Chemistry from UC, San Diego, he went on to work on projects in his lab using bioinformatics and structural biology methods. He currently has eight peer-reviewed publications, with two more accepted. He has received two Outstanding Teaching awards, won the three-minute thesis People's Choice award, and was a 2019 Future Faculty Fellow. As an LGBTQ scientist, he would like to become a professor with a focus on inspiring underrepresented students to pursue science. In his spare time, he volunteers at a local animal sanctuary and teaches computer classes at the local library.

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