

ARChiveS

ARCS® Atlanta Chapter Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

- 12/02 Board Meeting
- 1/12 Tech High
- 1/20 General Membership
Meeting and Luncheon
- 2/15 Annual Dues Deadline
- 3/17 Board Meeting

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Annual Scholar Awards Luncheon

The Atlanta Chapter of Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) held its Annual Scholar Awards Luncheon Monday, November 9th, at The Ritz-Carlton Atlanta. The Atlanta Chapter this year gave science awards to 35 individuals attending Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College and the University of Georgia, in the areas of natural science, computer science, medicine and engineering. The annual award total amount this year was \$219,000, up from last year's total of \$197,000, an increase of well over 10%, an impressive achievement in current economic times. The current awards will bring the 17-year cumulative total for the Atlanta Chapter of ARCS to \$2.1 million.

The inspired organizers of this year's event were Chair, Cathey Millichap and Chair-Elect, Susan McGonigle. They engaged David Spencer, Professor of Practice at Georgia Institute of Technology's Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, to be the 2009 Keynote Speaker. Mr. Spencer also serves as Director for the Center for Space Systems at Georgia Tech, a multi-disciplinary education and research center dedicated to excellence in space system engineering, and is conducting research on collaborative observation systems for studying the coastal oceans. His biography notes that Mr. Spencer joined the Georgia Tech faculty in 2008 after seventeen years with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. While at JPL, he was the Deputy Project Manager for the Phoenix Mars lander, Mission Manager for the Deep Impact and Mars Odyssey projects and mission designer for Mars Pathfinder. He is the



Luncheon Chair, Cathey Millichap, Speaker David Spencer, ARCS President Sherry Lundeen

author or co-author of technical publications in the fields of planetary mission design, flight operations, and system engineering.

In a June 2008 interview with Bill Liss, Channel 11Alive correspondent and husband of member Debbie Liss, Spencer, in speaking of the Phoenix Mars project, noted the "... amazing image from the Mars Recon Orbiter," which he cited as a "... classic in terms of space exploration images." In speaking of the new program at Georgia Tech, he stated, "The School is starting up a Center for Space Systems, which gives students hands on experience doing flight project work, space systems, getting their hands dirty building the hardware and operating the hardware." Liss also described Spencer as an avid golfer who had early aspirations toward professional baseball. (See the full article at, "Mars Lander Manager Heading to Georgia Tech-11Alive.com/Bill Liss/June 28, 2008.)

The audience of some 280 audibly responded to Mr. Spencer's talk with

great approval and interest, through applause, laughter, oohs and aahs at pictures and graphics, and more questions than could be covered. He expressed great optimism for and encouragement of the students coming into his field, although he was deeply concerned about the implications of declining government funding for NASA and related research.

The Luncheon Committee did an outstanding job again this year. Floral table centerpieces arranged and donated by Fresh Market were lovely, and \$340 was raised in selling them. Marguerite Peele printed the invitations and program again this year, and Jim Fitts was again on the job as the official photographer. The Invocation by Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus of The Temple was especially moving. And Mary Snitch, our National President, was in town for the occasion – how wonderful!!



Sherry Lundeen, ARCS National President Mary Snitch, ARCS Atlanta Chapter President-Elect, Kay Weiss

ARCS Members and Guests at Scholars Luncheon, November 9th at the Ritz Carlton, Downtown



Tish Mills, Corrie Johnson, Terrie Jones, Pam Jenkins, Tina Reese Blich

“From the Bottom of My Heart, Thank You!”

As President of ARCS Atlanta Chapter and on behalf of the membership I receive many thank you notes from our scholars. I thought it would be nice to share some of their thoughts with you who make these awards possible.

“Words cannot express what your support has meant to me. The ARCS members believed in me when all I had was a bucket of dreams! Since then, the fantasy has been realized and I’m so excited about the great promise the future holds and I have you to thank for it!” Megan McManus UGA

Heather Mitchell of Emory writes: “As a recipient of the ARCS award I am able to attend a professional meeting which will enhance my knowledge and give me the opportunity to make valuable connections in my field of sleep medicine. This award allows me to fulfill both personal and professional goals.”

Frank Conyers a Senior Biology Major at Morehouse, says our generous gift has allowed him to cut back hours working to help pay tuition freeing him

to spend more time on school work and in the research lab. “I want to thank you for your generosity, for your kindness and for helping in the pursuit of my dreams.” Having spent time performing stem cell research at Morehouse and GA Tech, Frank has also spent summers at Harvard Medical School performing cardiovascular muscle function research. He plans to pursue an MD/PhD after graduating. Tracey Westeyn from GA Tech writes that her award has allowed her to “purchase new equipment that is key to the completion of my thesis as well as providing financial support to test my system.”

And finally, Carly Jordan of UGA states it completely: “I genuinely appreciate your support of myself and so many other graduate researchers on our paths to become scientists. I hope that you will be proud of my future success, knowing that you played an important role in my development.”

Our luncheon was a celebration of the best and brightest! We provide not only financial support to these 35



Sherry Lundeen, ARCS Atlanta President.

scholars but encourage the development of a supremely talented core of scientists! As an ARCS member you should be very proud of the contribution we are making. “From the bottom of my heart, thank you!”

2009-2010 ARCS ATLANTA NEW MEMBERS

ARCS Atlanta extends a warm welcome to its new members, all outstanding women and community leaders. The Membership Committee did a wonderful job in presenting this, the class of 2009-2010, as follows:

Yetty Arp - Sponsor: Pat Leake; Co-Sponsor: Lisa Bankoff.

Yetty has had a 40 year career in commercial real estate as a broker and property manager with Southeast Commercial Properties. In the Atlanta community her involvement includes volunteer work with some of Atlanta's premiere institutions and organizations including Children's Health Care of Atlanta, Oglethorpe University, Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health, Lovett School, The Atlanta Ballet, and the Atlanta Symphony Associates. Her leadership skills are derived from her diverse experiences as a board member, committee chairman, president, executive committee member and fundraising project chairman coordinating the efforts of the public sector as well as volunteers. Yetty is married to Dr. Charles Arp.

Sara Jean Burke - Sponsor: Janie Wilson; Co-Sponsor: Joanie Michaels.

Sara Jean has previously chaired the Southeastern Flower Show, Egleston's Children's Christmas Parade, and the Festival of Trees. She is currently on the Children's Health Care Community Board where she is involved with the Annual Fund Campaign. She is a board member of Teach for America, and is the leader of Christ The King Ladies' Bible Study. Sara Jean and her husband, Fred, (whose businesses have involved Technology) have endowed a program at their alma mater - Mississippi State University -- to fund a Study Abroad Program for MSU students.

Jennifer Cannon - Sponsor: Ginny Plummer; Co-Sponsor: Kathy Harmon.

Jenny earned a M.A.T. degree at Emory University and has many years of teaching experience. She was selected one of four out of 2000 district elementary school teachers to participate in a state wide program with the Georgia Department of Education with the responsibility of developing testing instruments for the evaluation of performance skills of first year teachers. She was in charge of this program for the next 4 years until she resigned to start her family. Jenny has held leadership positions in the Junior League, the Georgia Council of International Visitors, the Southeastern Flower Show, Planters Garden Club and many other organizations. She has had much experience as treasurer of several organizations including the Palo Alto, California, Junior League, her garden club and bridge groups here in Atlanta.

Haidee Ballenger Courson

Haidee is a former ARCS member originally sponsored in 2000 by Anita Kern and Marcia Donnell. She recently returned to Atlanta after a 6 year period of corporate relocations and is requesting reinstatement in the Atlanta ARCS Chapter.

Haidee was born and raised in Spartanburg, SC. Her career includes thirteen years of manufacturing, research and development and sales experience with Milliken & Co. and ten years in marketing and sales with Wegman Associates. Haidee co-chaired the opening of Fernbank Museum, she was Board Chair for the Aids Research Consortium of Atlanta, and she served as board member of My Turn Now, an agency that assists in the adoption of special needs children. She is currently involved with the Colonial Dames of South Carolina, the Algonquin Book Club, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the Heart Association and Atlanta Charity Clays. Haidee is married to Gardner.

Lee Doyle - Sponsor: Anne Easterly; Co-Sponsor: Gracia Conn.

Lee has devoted most of her professional life to education - first as a high school teacher, then followed a stellar career with BellSouth. As Director of Corporate Affairs she spear-headed executive education for BellSouth managers and created nationally recognized partnerships between industry and public school teachers. She has generously given her time and talent as a Trustee for her alma mater, Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. She is a Leadership Atlanta Alumna and is currently on the Catholic Charities Board, serving as Board Chair.

Beth Finerty - Sponsor: Anita Kern; Co-Sponsor: Brooke Weinmann.

With ARCS mission of providing scholarships for outstanding science and engineering students to advance the intellectual welfare of the public, there can be no person better qualified to help us achieve this than Beth. As director and CEO of Skyland Trail, Beth has grown the "start up" mental health treatment program in a single facility to a nationally recognized leader with multiple campuses and a reputation for groundbreaking innovation. Beth has just completed an \$11.5 million campaign for Phase I & 2 capital enhancements and programming to serve adults with serious mental illness. Beth has completed both Leadership Atlanta and Leadership Georgia. She has held positions on the boards of the Atlanta Business Leaders Initiative and Emory Board of Visitors. She is married to David Martin, President and CEO of Vein-innovations.

Lou Glenn - Sponsor: Shearon Glover; Co-Sponsor: Jan Bennett.

Lou has been a tremendous volunteer for many organizations in Atlanta, including Children's Healthcare, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Junior League and Emory University and many others. Lou is a member of the Scottish Rite Board of Trustees and is on the Emory Winship Cancer Institute's Board of Advisors. In March of this year, Lou, and her husband, Tom, were honored at the Emory Winship Cancer Institute Gala. Lou and Tom are very supportive of the ARCS mission having sponsored a Scholar for the past 3 years - a true testimony to their commitment to ARCS.

2009-2010 ARCS Atlanta New Members

Sally McDaniel - Sponsor: Deborah Liss; Co-Sponsor: Debbie Shelton.

Sally is a trainer and consultant with a major focus on work with Not for Profit agencies. Her clients have included Aid Atlanta, MACAD, Camp Sunshine, Northwest Georgia Girl Scout Council, the Atlanta International Art Museum, Outstanding Atlanta, and Spelman College. In her capacity as consultant at Spelman, she was employed as the Event Consultant for the inaugurations of Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole and Dr. Audrey F. Manley as presidents of the institution, and for the visit of Nelson Mandela, among other events. Sally is an active leader in the Atlanta community currently serving on the board of The Atlanta Girls' School, The High Museum of Art as Secretary of the board, Georgia Women of Achievement, Public Leadership Education Network, and the Atlanta Opera. Sally has received numerous honors and awards for her volunteer and community work including being cited as an Image Maker by the Professional Women's Directory. She is a graduate of Mount Vernon College and Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. Sally and her husband, Allen, are long time residents of Atlanta.

Leslie Petter - Sponsor: Deede Stephenson; Co-Sponsor: Liz Troy

Leslie has been very involved with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and is currently on the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Community Engagement Council. She was president of the Atlanta Symphony Associates 2006-2008 and is currently on the Atlanta Symphony Associates Board of Directors. She chaired the Decorators' Show House and Gardens in 2005. Leslie has long been interested in the ARCS Foundation. She has attended several of our luncheons and embraces our mission. Leslie and her husband, Skip, have lived in Atlanta for 18 years.

Karen Young - Sponsor: Ada Lee Correll; Co-Sponsor: Kathryn Graves.

Karen and her husband, Michael Young, moved to Atlanta in October, 2008, when Mike took over the reins of Grady Hospital. Karen has immersed herself in learning about metropolitan Atlanta and has already joined the Advisory Board of the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. As a Registered Nurse, Karen worked in the health care industry for over 35 years. Before coming to Atlanta, she was a member of the Lancaster, PA, Junior League, and a member of the United Auxiliaries to The Lancaster General Hospital, functioning in several board positions and performing numerous fundraising functions. She was on the Board of Directors, and then the Board of Trustees for The YWCA of Lancaster. Her absolute best volunteer experience was joining a group of volunteers to raise money for "handicapping" the home of an Army Ranger who had lost both legs and an arm to an IED in Iraq. Since Karen has moved to Atlanta, she continues to work for The Vacanti Company evaluating medically related legal cases.

ARCS Annual Fall Cocktail Party to Welcome New Members

Enjoying the ARCS Atlanta Chapter tradition of a cocktail party to welcome new members, on Sunday, October 18th over 130 gathered at the beautiful home of member Barbara Williams and her husband, Dr. Byron Williams, in Brookhaven. Their lovely and welcoming home is a haven indeed. Leslie McLeod and Kristen Gibbs with the help of A Peach of a Party, created a welcoming and warm evening on a blustery night in Atlanta. The cool, crisp autumn night kept people close to the wonderful outdoor fire, or huddled close to the bar and buffet, beautifully presented under the arbor. As the evening cooled, the indoor scene heated up, the din of conversation and laughter appropriately loud as usual among

this extremely copasetic group. Barbara commented to the editor, that she and her husband were only too happy to welcome one and all and she was so touched to have received so many thank you notes. She also mentioned how fun it was to meet a number of husbands of members whom she hadn't met before, and had great conversations. Thank you so much, Barbara and Byron, for your gracious hospitality and thank you to all the members who were there - not least of all to mention that almost all of the new members with their spouses were able to attend, which was wonderful and after all the focus of this welcoming event. Leslie and Kristen, just a terrific gathering, thank you.

National News!

At the national board meeting Oct 1-3 in Denver, members voted to grant charters to Utah and Minnesota, the 15th and 16th chapters of ARCS Foundation, Inc. Cecelia Foxley, former Utah commissioner of higher education, is president of the 60 member Utah chapter, which will fund graduate scholar awards in the 2010-2011 academic year at the University of Utah College of Engineering. Jennifer Edstrom is the president of the Minnesota chapter, funding graduate scholars at the University of Minnesota beginning academic year 2011-2012. Welcome to our newest chapters!

2009 Scholar Award Donors

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Website News

Atlanta ARCS members should be aware that there are two ARCS websites available for our use: the public website and the Members-Only Intranet. Each has a unique address and, as would be expected, the members-only site is password protected.

The public site provides information about the ARCS National Organization (arcsfoundation.org) and all of the ARCS Chapters, including the Atlanta Chapter (arcsfoundation.org/atlanta). The National portion of the public website announces the recent CASE Award and provides back-

ground information about ARCS, the need for our efforts, and how to make donations. The Atlanta portion of the public website includes similar information specific to the Atlanta chapter as well as listings of the schools supported, donors, executive board, committee chairs, and new members, and a current calendar of events. There is also a link to our latest newsletter. This site provides a high-level snapshot that may be of interest to potential donors, members, schools, and scholars.

The members-only site represents the corporate memory of the organization. It includes general information, chapter records, annual reports, meeting minutes, treasurers' reports, and information about communica-

tions and marketing, finance, funds development, governance, long range plans, organization charts, handbooks, logos, membership, sample documents, scholars, and university relations. It also includes contact data so that ARCS members can access complete information on members of their own chapter as well as e-mail addresses for members of other Chapters. It is recommended that ARCS members take advantage of this resource when starting new tasks so that they can build upon the efforts of others, something which is very important for an all volunteer organization such as ARCS. NOTE that your Membership Handbook contains the required username and password to access the members-only site, as well as these websites under "Additional Addresses" in the front section.

ARCS SCHOLAR AWARDS LUNCHEON at The Ritz Carlton, Downtown



From left: **Emory Ph.D. candidates and ARCS Scholars** Terrence Michael Wright, Jr., neuroscience; William Seth Childers, chemistry; Aaron Thornton, chemistry; Joseph Sabatino, Jr., immunology; Kathryn Anderson, epidemiology; Krista Yorita Christensen, epidemiology; Heather Mitchell, pharmacology; Morna A. Ikeda, genetics and molecular biology; and Sheri Lense, inorganic chemistry.

ARCS Scholars and Ph.D. candidates at Georgia Tech are from left: Jonathan Hurff, civil engineering; Jonathan Clausen, mechanical engineering; Aaron Enes, mechanical engineering; Adam O'Neill, computer science; Tracy Westeyn, computer science; Alisa Holley-Young, earth and atmospheric science; Dan Steffy, industrial and systems engineering; Daniel Dadush, industrial and systems engineering; Alejandro Toriello, industrial and systems engineering; Janine Johnson, mechanical engineering and Ryan Austin, mechanical engineering.



ARCS Morehouse Scholars are (from left) **Warren Chancellor**, senior mathematics major; **David Roberts**, senior biology major; **Osemelu Aburime**, senior biology major; **Frank Conyers**, junior biology major; **David Hill**, senior physics major; **Bobby Wilson**, senior mathematics major; **Kenneth Lyons, Jr.**, junior chemistry major and **William D. Shipman III**, senior biology major.



University of Georgia Ph.D. candidates and ARCS Scholars are (from left) Benjamin Austin, psychology; Elizabeth Rahn, neuroscience; Megan McCormick, clinical psychology; Michael Stramiello, neuroscience; Caryn Hale, biochemistry and molecular biology; Meagan McManus, pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences; and Carly Jordan, cellular biology.



Fernbank Gold Exhibit Educational Tour

Despite the rain and dreary weather outside, ARCS members and friends basked in the warmth, light, and glow of GOLD, the current exhibit at the Fernbank Museum, as they gathered on October 27th for the fall education event. Jim Breedlove, Fernbank's VP for External Affairs, welcomed the group and gave an enlightening history of Fernbank (did you know the property has been known as Fernbank since 1900?) and described the breadth of Fernbank's program offerings which include over 750 educational programs for Atlanta area school children each year.

Dr. Bobbi Hoffman, curator with Fernbank, spoke on Anthropology and Archeology and previewed some of the exciting programs being conducted at Fernbank. She also gave fascinating 'behind the scenes' description of the traveling block-buster GOLD exhibit.

Participants then took self-directed tours of Reflections of Culture and the GOLD exhibits. Each exhibit has well crafted information boards and each is filled with awe-inspiring artifacts. After lunch several members saw the IMAX feature film on the life and work of Vincent Van Gogh.



Achievement Rewards for College Scientists

ARCS Atlanta Chapter

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Outstanding Educational Programs!

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming educational events. On Jan. 12th at 10:30 AM we will gather at Tech High, the only Atlanta Public School System charter school with an emphasis on teaching science, technology, engineering and math to high school students. We will be given a tour of the campus along with an overview of the history, accomplishments and the unique approaches Tech High uses to provide quality scientific teaching and inspiration to our city's young people.

Watch your email for further details. Members only please.

Also new in 2010 is the Atlanta chapter Book Club. In February we will sit down with Frans de Waal, Emory University Professor of Psychology and Director of Living Links Center, Yerkes Primate Center, to discuss his book *The Age of Empathy*. This book was chosen as a preview to our final program: Tour of the Yerkes Field Station which is scheduled in the spring. The book may be purchased online at Amazon or check with your nearest book store. Further information will follow.