Ceremonies and the dedicated Committee members. See the photo gallery on pages 4 and 5 for event highlights.

By Sharon Flores

The twelfth annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon on November 13, 2003, was a grand celebration of the accomplishments of 42 outstanding science and engineering students from Emory, Georgia Tech, Morehouse and the University of Georgia. The ARCS Atlanta Chapter was proud to donate a total of $200,000 to these talented and deserving students.

Highlights of the Luncheon included: 1) A new venue for the Medallion Ceremony. The special presentations were held on the 50th floor of the 191 Peachtree Building in the King & Spalding event space with a spectacular 180° view of the city; 2) Keynote Address by Dr. Ralph C. Merkle, Director of the Georgia Tech Information Security Center and internationally recognized for his award-winning work in the field of cryptography; 3) Addition of the College of Computing at Georgia Tech and the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory to the departments that receive Fellowships; 4) First-time recognition of the MONARCS, leading donors who have contributed to the Atlanta Chapter throughout our young history with a cumulative gift of $25,000 or more. Recognized contributors were Marcia and John Donnell, Georgia-Pacific Foundation, Graves Foundation, Imlay Foundation, James R. Kuse Foundation and the Zeist Foundation; and 5) Presentation of the inaugural Keystone Award to Ray Christman and the Federal Home Loan Bank for their vision and support of the annual Scholar’s Luncheon.

Luncheon attendance was the highest ever with 368 guests, and the net profit was $7,736.68! Special thanks are extended to Leslie McLeod, Vice Chair, Bill Liss, Master of Ceremonies and the dedicated Committee members. See the photo gallery on pages 4 and 5 for event highlights.

Dr. Ralph Merkle addressed 368 attendees at the Scholars Luncheon at the Ritz Carlton Downtown. The Atlanta Chapter donated $200,000 to 42 students.

Winter Education at Federal Reserve on February 25

In the bleak midwinter, Atlanta members will be treated to a very special luncheon, lecture and tour of the Federal Reserve Bank on February 25. This exciting event will feature a video presentation of world currency markets, remarks by President Jack Guynn, an overview of the functions of the Federal Reserve by luncheon speaker Patrick Barron, guided tours of the facility and a special tour of the bank’s fabulous art collection curated by Atlanta’s High Museum of Art.

For reservations contact Eileen Christman at 404-760-0076 or eileen_c@bellsouth.net by February 18. Note that vehicles are subject to search under government security policies and photo identification is required for admittance. Shown below, the Fed’s Midtown facility:
A Message from National Board President Judith Miller

Your National Board is working hard to meet the goals we have set and to eliminate our financial shortfall at the operating level. We continue to work on new sources of income. Our mission at the national level is very clear: 1) To provide leadership, guidance and support to the chapters; 2) To develop new chapters; 3) To maintain chapter compliance in meeting national standards of excellence; 4) To develop and maintain state-of-the-art technology for effective communication, and; 5) To maintain a strong national organization capable of achieving ARCS' goals. To accomplish this, we must be financially sound. The National Board has been blessed with a second grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This grant is exclusively for new chapter development.

Your National Board has a very exciting annual meeting planned for June 3 – 5 in Las Vegas. We have two science panels that will definitely energize you and give you a plethora of ideas to take back to your chapters. Please make it your goal to attend — you will not want to miss this meeting. Thank you for the work you are doing to keep the ARCS mission vital and a reality for our wonderful scholars.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Paula Lawton Bevington

By Clare Whitfield

Well, I knew she was impressive. Years ago when I worked at Emory, Dr. Jim Laney, Emory’s president, chose her to be chairman of Emory’s Friends of Music. I saw her in action as a calm, totally competent, no-nonsense leader. I knew she was a lawyer and a magna cum laude graduate of Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame. I had no idea, however, of all the other organizations she headed. Not only was she co-owner and Sr VP of Servidyne Systems, an energy engineering company, but she had been president or chair of the Junior League of Atlanta (1980), Atlanta Legal Aid Society (1984), Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross (1986), Village of St. Joseph (1984-86), Georgia Council for International Visitors (1989), Georgia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (1989), UNICEF-Atlanta (1994-96) and the Yale Club of Georgia (1996).

I was really impressed when she was elected the first woman president of the downtown Rotary Club of Atlanta in 1999, because the guys in my Rotary Club couldn’t even remember my name and treated me politely like a creature from outer space. The amazing thing about Paula is that on top of all her community leadership activities, with her husband Milt she raised eight, get that, eight children.

She is currently chairman of the Justice Center of Atlanta and chairman of the Board of Counselors at the Carter Center. And she raised over a million dollars as chair of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society in 2001. In January 2003, she took over as VP of Development of SciTrek, Georgia’s museum of science and technology. Paula saw SciTrek as an opportunity to nourish and support children’s interest in science and technology. She embraced SciTrek’s mission to ignite a love of learning and a confidence in the ability to learn, especially in children of difficult backgrounds. This month, Paula will accept a new challenge as the first Director of Development at the Marcus Institute, a comprehensive resource center for disabled children and adolescents. The Marcus Institute treats a long list of seemingly intractable disorders including autism, cerebral palsy, feeding disorders, learning disabilities, neurological and severe behavior disorders, and fetal alcohol syndrome. Paula is excited about the wonderful progress the Marcus Institute makes with children with these heart-breaking conditions.

And this amazing lady was a founding member of the Atlanta ARCS Foundation. She comes to meetings. She looks like a normal person. I’m impressed!
From the President’s Desk

By Janie Wilson

I don’t know about you all, but I’m still trying to clean up my desk from last year and January has started with a bang! We just had a terrific Board/General Membership meeting at Piedmont Park. It was a gorgeous winter day and Magnolia Hall, a converted horse “barn,” was welcoming with a warm blaze in what we learned was the original fireplace for forging horseshoes. Our thanks to Kathy Berry for arranging for us to be there and to Cathey Millichap for coordinating the meeting. We had a record turnout and great discussions about issues affecting our chapter. Your Board will work hard to consider all comments and implement actions.

In this issue you may take note of our past accomplishments - like the very successful Scholars’ Luncheon, and our future plans – such as our field trip to The Federal Reserve, Atlanta and chapter retreat to Boston. As I said, there’s a lot going on, so be sure mark your calendars. Several important committees will be meeting these next few months, including Nominating and Membership. If you’re interested in serving on the Board next year (don’t be shy), please contact Sally Hinkle. And if you would like to sponsor a new member, call Jeanne Berry. The sooner the better in both cases.

Have you ever tried to describe ARCS in 100 words or less? Try the description in the right hand column below.

See you in February at the Fed!

National Meeting in Las Vegas June 3-6

“The ARCS Connection” is the theme for the 2004 ARCS National Meeting to be held at Turnberry Place Stirling Club in Las Vegas June 3-6. On June 3, National Board Committee Meetings will be held with the theme “Connecting to the National Board”. On Friday, there will be panel discussions led by top scientists for “Connecting with ARCS Members”. The highlight of the day will be a luncheon honoring ARCS Lights from each chapter. Installation of Officers will be held Saturday for “Connecting to the Annual Meeting”. Plans are currently underway to organize some special activities for all Atlanta members who will be attending. Look for more information in mail from National.

Pow-Wow at Piedmont Park

Some 60 members - a record turnout - met at beautiful Magnolia Hall in Piedmont Park on January 21, for our annual Board & General Membership Meeting. Debbie McCown, Executive Director of the Piedmont Park Conservancy, kicked off the meeting with a brief history of our 100-year old park and an overview of Conservancy projects. Reports were given on our February field trip, new membership, Scholars Luncheon, By-Law changes, Nominating, our Boston retreat, funds development and newsletter. Ted Poe then announced this year’s ARCS Light, Betty Feezor. The Board also voted Mary O’Connor, our founder who is locating permanently to D.C., an Honorary Member. After other business, the Board Meeting was adjourned and round-table discussions addressed the subjects of Associate and Active Membership, a “wish” list of services the National Board could provide, funding and scholarship growth, and our RSVP problem. Lively discussion ensued with clear consensus on some issues, such as leaving the Active Member cap at 115 and Associate Membership open with no cap, reviewing both again on a regular basis. Other issues will be pursued by the Board, including setting up a Task Force on funding and scholarship distribution. Thanks for your participation!
The Keystone Award was commissioned to salute a corporation, foundation or individual whose efforts have consistently contributed in a substantial manner to further the educational mission of the ARCS Foundation, Atlanta Chapter. The inaugural Keystone Award was presented to Mr. Ray Christman, President, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta for their vision and support of the annual Scholars’ Luncheon. Ray is pictured here with the specially commissioned Frabel crystal award featuring a key.

3 Presidents (left): Dr. Michael Adams, University of Georgia; Janie Wilson, ARCS Atlanta; Dr. Walter Massey, Morehouse College; with Luncheon Chair Sharon Flores

Above, students line up for awards presentation in Ritz Carlton ballroom with elegant table settings by Kathy Rainer

(Left) Speaker Dr. Ralph Merkle taking questions from Moderator Bill Liss

Above, students await presentation of medallions on ribbons at the King and Spalding Conference Center on the 50th floor of 191 Peachtree. Thanks to Lisa and Joe Bankoff for arranging this sensational venue. Spouses enjoying the festivities (left to right below): Buddy Weiss, Joe Bankoff and Keith Cooley

$1,096,000 Cumulative Atlanta Awards • 1992 Through 2003 •
Marking over $1 million in scholarship funding in our twelve year history, we recognized a special group of donors, who have cumulatively given $25,000 or more to support ARCS scholarships. Janie Wilson (top) presented plaques to our MONARCS (left to right): Marcia and John Donnell; Betty Feezor for Frannie and Bill Graves, Graves Foundation, Tamara Nash for the Georgia Pacific Foundation; Shirley Kuse, James R. Kuse Foundation; Ada Lee Correll for the Zeist Foundation; and Paula and Jere Imlay for the Imlay Foundation.

University of Georgia Fellows
Below, 2004 Luncheon Chair Leslie McLeod with 2003 Chair Sharon Flores

University of Georgia Fellows
Below, 2004 Luncheon Chair Leslie McLeod with 2003 Chair Sharon Flores

(Left) Beven Livingston, Emory University, receives the Jean S. Brumley Memorial ARCS Fellowship. (Right) The Patsy and Jere Drummond ARCS Fellowship is presented to Matthew S. Allen of Georgia Tech.

(Left) James R. Luedtke receives the Hansen Family Fellowship from Betsy and Harald. (Right) Reg Bridges (top) and Lisa Bankoff applaud 42 outstanding scholars

Cheryl Dixon presenting the David M. Dixon Scholarship to Omoruyi O. Osula

Master of Ceremonies, WXIA’s Bill Liss

Georgia Institute of Technology Fellows

$200,000 Fellowships & Scholarships • Awards to 42 Students
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Betsy Hansen

By Clare Whitfield

Did you know that we have a novelist in our Atlanta ARCS group? While the rest of us were having our second cup of coffee, Betsy Hansen was poring over the lore of her North Carolina family. Using a novelist’s alchemy, she was turning into fiction both the positive and the negative aspects of the lives and personalities of grandparents, aunts and cousins.

Working quietly in her basement office, early in the morning before anyone else was awake, Betsy Hansen developed her plot lines, crafted her sentences, and drew on the fears and mysteries of her childhood to create her first novel, Portals.

Betsy says she had wanted to be a writer from earliest childhood. She loved books and poetry, and she was fascinated by the stories she heard at family gatherings. She started collecting these family memories, asking relatives to write them down and send them to her. Then, when she lived in Durham, N.C. in the 1960’s, Betsy was enrolled in a creative writing class taught by novelist Nina Webb that she attended for two years. Two themes emerged as she toiled in her basement office. One was the theme of strong women, wisdom figures who impart knowledge. The other was an examination of good and evil and the realization that all people are capable of both.

Now Betsy is feted as a published author and is invited to make presentations about the process of novel writing. And she has ideas swirling in her head for book number two.

SCHOLAR SIGHTING: Chanley Small

Meet the happy scholar: Chanley Small the mother of three adorable children whose photos and art work adorn her office wall in the epidemiology department of the Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health. She also has a couple of great research projects, a congenial and encouraging thesis advisor, a supportive husband, and a subject that should interest us all.

Chanley is exploring the effects of environmental toxins on reproductive health. Like many of us, she has wondered whether increases in breast cancer or decreases in fertility are related to exposures in our environment. Unlike us, she quit her job and went back to graduate school so she could become engaged in sophisticated research to tease out answers to questions like this. Specifically, she is studying how a gene called “CYP17” affects women’s estrogen levels. This is one step in understanding the mechanism through which environmental exposures might turn the gene “on,” “up,” or “off.”

To learn about CYP17 Chanley was responsible for finding a small grant to pay for the lab work necessary to determine the version of CYP17 each woman had (CYP17 comes in three versions or “genotypes”) and measure the amount of estrogen in their blood. No funding was in sight. Guess where she finally found it? She’s using our ARCS fellowship grant of $5,000. ARCS dollars are being used directly to fund Chanley’s CYP17 research project.

Chanley’s other project sounds really fascinating. By accident, for nine months back in 1973, fire retardant got mixed into cattle feed in Michigan. Preliminary evidence suggested that mothers who ate beef from those cattle passed dangerous chemicals, including the gender-bending PBB, on to their children in utero and in their breast milk. Their daughters, now in their 30s, may have suffered hormonal changes because of that exposure. Have they produced more than the normal number of miscarriages? Are their menstrual cycles wildly out-of whack? Chanley’s team will take advantage of this unique and bizarre situation to study the gender-bending effects of the chemical PBB on mothers and children.

ARCS Atlanta now has a permanent address:
P.O. Box 52124
Atlanta GA 30355
SCHOLAR SIGHTING: Jim Luedtke

By Libba Pickert

Jim Luedtke, a second year ARCS scholar, is working on his Ph.D. in the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department at Georgia Tech. He is from a small town in central Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 2001. His vivid blue eyes sparkle with enthusiasm when he describes his work and his plans for the future.

Jim’s general area of study is Operations Research - applying mathematical techniques to solve real world problems. O.R. is also defined as the science of decision making to improve quality and efficiency. Jim is in a research group known as SETRA (security and efficiency in transportation) that is studying the impact of security inspections by U.S. Customs at different points in the supply chain when international shipping is involved. For example, when goods are shipped from China to the U.S., some of the goods are now inspected randomly by U.S. Customs in Singapore before being loaded on a ship bound for California. The randomness of the inspections makes the shipping schedule uncertain and impacts cost, efficiency, and planning for the final manufacturer in the U.S. Jim’s individual research is studying where these security inspections should be done in order to maximize efficiency and minimize cost and how to deal with the element of randomness in the inspections. His research will produce, he hopes, a mathematical model that will be useful for companies that must rely on international shipping of goods in a threatening world in which random security inspections are required.

On June 19, Jim plans to marry Leigh Gavin in her hometown near Madison, Wisconsin. They met as students at the University of Wisconsin, and Leigh is currently teaching third grade at Arkwright Elementary School in the Atlanta Public School System as part of the Teach America Program.

Jim also has a brother who has four months left on a tour of duty in Iraq, and is stationed near Tikrit. The brother’s national guard unit was called up just six months after he was married. Jim asked me to express to ARCS his deep gratitude for the scholarship. It enables him to devote his time to his research and studies.

SCHOLAR SIGHTING: Patrick Yaner

If you saw Patrick Yaner swing dancing with his girl at the Marriott at Perimeter Mall, you probably wouldn’t guess what he’s thinking about most of the time. What really turns him on is thinking about all the little things that are easy for human beings to do but about which computers are clueless. Like swing dancing. Or like drawing a simple picture of a face. What really motivates Patrick is to teach computers to do what we do without even thinking.

Patrick is especially interested in visual stuff. Like teaching a computer to draw conclusions from comparing visual phenomena. He had a really interesting job at the National Library of Medicine along this line. His team was trying to design a system to help health practitioners in developing countries diagnose cervical cancer. It would work this way. The practitioner would email a description of the patient’s cervix to a computer that could immediately email back a set of corresponding slides of cervixes that matched that description and included their correct diagnoses. The practitioner could then compare these slides with his patient to make a diagnosis.

Patrick says that one of the most challenging tasks of the Ph.D. candidate is to come up with a really good question to work on for your dissertation. The hard part is to define your question in such a way that you can tackle it scientifically and get results. That’s the stage he’s in right now, working hard to define the right question for fruitful research. When he needs a change of pace, he goes swing dancing.

The deadline for applications for new members is March 12.

Contact Jeanne Berry for forms at jeanneberry@bellsouth.net

We need that superwoman you know!

Patrick Yaner, Ph.D. Candidate, College of Computing at Georgia Tech.
Chapter Retreat to Boston April 22-25: Space Still Available

We will begin our weekend with a “welcome” cocktail reception and dinner at the Fairmont on Thursday evening. On Friday we will visit Dr. Dennis J Selkoe, known worldwide for his accomplishments in the study of Alzheimer’s disease. Following lunch at the MIT Faculty Club, we will meet with Dr Robert S. Langer at MIT who has been recognized as one of the 25 most important individuals in biotechnology in the world. Dinner will be at the newly renovated Harvard Club Downtown (view Boston from the 38th floor!). Saturday begins with a guided tour of The Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models at the Museum of Natural History. Next, we will meet with John Prokos at Graham Gund Architects for a talk about architecture in Boston. Your lunchtime and afternoon will be free for sightseeing or shopping! We will attend one of the winter events of Boston Saturday evening…the Art In Bloom preview party at the Museum of Fine Arts. Garden clubs and top floral designers design arrangements to complement specific works of art in the museum.

The “Grande Dame” of Boston, the Fairmont Copley Plaza, (1-800-441-1414) is the staging area for our Boston trip! Just renovated, it is located in the Back Bay on historic Copley Square. We will receive a 30% discount on our rooms. Cost is $450 per person (excluding airfare, hotel, and some meals). Spaces ARE available! Send your deposit of $100, payable to ARCS Foundation, to Liz Troy, 7815 Tintern Trace, Duluth, Ga. 30097 Contacts: Elsie Gould 404 255-2830 or Anita Kern 404 929-6361