

ARChiveS E-Zine

ARCS Atlanta Chapter Newsletter

Volume No. V, Issue No. 3

May, 2004

Upcoming events:

- 5/18 Annual Meeting
- 6/3-5 National Meeting, Las Vegas
- 6/9 Board Meeting and Orientation
- 9/22 Board Meeting
- 9/26 Fall Cocktail Party honoring New Members
- 10/27 Board Meeting
- 11/18 Scholar's Luncheon Downtown Ritz Carlton

Inside this issue:

- Member Spotlight 2
- Field Trip to Federal Reserve 2
- President's Letter 3
- New Members 3
- Boston Photo Gallery 4,5
- Scholar Sightings 6,7
- ARCS Atlanta 2003 Donors 8

2004 Field Trip to Boston Attended by 45 from Atlanta

By *Janie Wilson*

Forty-five chapter members and spouses traveled to Boston on Thursday, April 23 and spent a few wonderful days exploring the scientific, historic and cultural sites of this enchanting city. Our first evening we enjoyed food and fellowship in the Grand Café of our hotel, the Fairmont Copley Plaza, the "Grand Dame" of Boston located in the Back Bay of historic Copley Square. Friday morning found us at Longwood Medical Center to visit Dr. Dennis Selkoe, the Vincent and Stella Coates Professor of Neurologic Diseases at Harvard Medical School and Co-Director for The Center for Neurologic Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is world renown for his studies and research in Alzheimer's Disease (AD). Dr. Selkoe personally gave us a tour of the New Research Building, Library and his research labs, followed by a talk on his latest research in AD. We had lunch at the MIT Faculty Club on campus and then met with Dr. Robert Langer, the Kenneth J. Germeshausen Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at

MIT and "one of history's most prolific inventors in medicine." After touring the labs, he spoke about his research with degradable polymers, which he and his scientific team are seeking to use as agents for drug delivery, regeneration of human tissue - such as skin and cartilage - and other functions. Dr. Daniel Anderson, a member of Langer's research lab, then gave a presentation on the drug delivery system. At the end of our busy first day, we enjoyed dinner and a grand view of Boston Harbor at the Harvard Club, Downtown. On Saturday we visited the Harvard Museum of Natural History with private guided tours of the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants. These "glass flowers," fabricated from 1886-1936 by Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka in Hosterwitz, Germany, are remarkably life-like models of over 800 species for the teaching of botany. After touring the rest of the museum, we proceeded to Cambridge to the offices of Graham Gund Architects. John Prokos, architect for our own Fernbank Museum of Natural History, gave a PowerPoint



Brenda Moseley in Dr. Robert Langer's lab at MIT.

presentation of educational buildings they have designed that address contemporary issues from energy efficiency and technology integration to the comforts of natural lighting and open "congregation" space. The afternoon was free for sightseeing and shopping. We then topped off our Boston visit that evening at the Museum of Fine Arts' 28th annual "Art in Bloom" Preview Party. 86 New England Garden Clubs and Floral Designers had created glorious floral displays throughout the galleries. In addition to the immense permanent collections, we enjoyed a special exhibit of "Gauguin - Tahiti." We saw, we learned, we ate. What a great trip! **Left: Part of our group outside the MIT Faculty Club** See pages 4 and 5 for more photographs from Boston.





Congratulations to Amy Lance, named a 2004 "Woman of Distinction," presented to 10 women recognized for exceptional work in enhancing the health and well being of children.



Las Vegas is the sight for the 2004 ARCS National Annual Meeting to be held June 3-5.



ARCS connection to Atlanta Fed: Sue Wield's husband John is the former Chairman of the Atlanta region of the Federal Reserve Bank.

Member Spotlight: ARCS Light 2004 Betty Feezor

By *Clare Whitfield*

Why is the Atlanta ARCS Chapter light years ahead of other ARCS chapters in its use of computer technology? The answer is simple: because of the contributions of ARCS Light Betty Feezor, our In-house computer and internet whiz...fulfilling the vision of a series of farsighted ARCS presidents.

When the Internet was still quite new, Betty taught us how to send email and do on-line searches in training sessions at the Georgia Power Company's training facility downtown. With her encouragement, most ARCS members are now technology literate. We do everything from meeting announcements and RSVPs to complicated committee assignments on-line. In addition, we distribute our ARCS newsletter electronically, not only to our members, but to our scholars, universities and to the ARCS national board. Our professional audio-visual presentations at the Scholars Luncheons as well as many of our announcement letters are also the result of Betty's com-

puter talents. The great-looking format of our ARCS newsletter is another of Betty's contributions to our chapter. She's the one who chose the Microsoft Publisher software and knows how to use it. How did Betty get to be such a computer whiz? She has degrees in computer science and mathematics from Duke University. Her first job after graduation was with MSA, the software company managed by Bill Graves and John Imlay. She has spent her professional career with high tech public companies, specializing in investor relations and corporate

finance. Computers are not Betty's only interest. She is an accomplished rosarian and often provides roses from her garden for ARCS events. Betty also breeds and exhibits Dalmatian show dogs. Her dogs have been shown in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog show at Madison Square Garden and you may have seen her walking them in her Peachtree Battle neighborhood. Her Dals have their own web site:

www.spotted-dogs.com.

Photo below: Betty with her litter of eleven Dalmatian puppies . Photo by Advanced Photography.



February Field Trip to the Federal Reserve Bank

By *Clare Whitfield*

It's nice to be surrounded by stacks and stacks of money. That's what ARCS members found on February 25, 2004, when we visited the Federal Reserve Bank in downtown Atlanta. That isn't all we found. We had a delectable luncheon and heard presentations by Federal Reserve President, Jack Guinn, and First Vice President Patrick K. Barron. Then we visited the spacious and elegant Federal Reserve boardroom to watch an excellent video that

explained in layman's terms what the Federal Reserve does.

Thomas W. Southall, Curator of Photography at the High Museum, guided us on a tour of the Federal Reserve's art collection. Especially striking was the collection of marvelous photographs by Ilia Varcev, the Bulgarian born, Czechoslovakian raised, Atlanta transplant (20 plus years) who had been commissioned by the Federal Reserve to document the construction of the building. We were given interesting

tours of the building by Federal Reserve staff, and that's when we saw all those stacks of money. We owe a debt of gratitude to Ray Christman, Eileen's husband, for arranging this unique opportunity for ARCS members to see the inner workings and the outer magnificence of the Federal Reserve Bank.

From the President's Desk

As I sit here at my computer, which is *smoking* with the attempt to tie up ARCS business, I can hardly believe that my term as your president is coming to a close. It's been a uplifting two years of work, friendship and good times. I owe each of you a sincere thank you

for your gifts of time, energy and support to fulfill our mission and promise to our wonderful scholars. I have also greatly appreciated your countless good ideas and kind words. Our chapter will be in most capable hands when your new president, Teed Poe, takes the

reins, and I know that she will have the same great women (plus eleven new!) standing behind her to ease the load. So, thank a million ...for everything!

Janie Wilson
President



Janie Wilson gives a briefing at the ARCS National Board Meeting in Washington, DC.

Welcome New Members: Class of 2004

Jane Fix Dolinger has lived in Atlanta for eight years. Her volunteer activities have centered around Make A Wish Foundation, the Symphony Show House and the Alliance Theater. She has a Masters in Education, and Partnership for Excellence in Education is her husband, Steven's, company. Sponsors: **Liz Troy** and **Pat Leake**. **Pamela Short Jenkins** has extensive accounting experience, especially as Vice President of Internal Auditing for The Home Depot, Inc. Pam is currently V.P. of Internal Operations for the Atlanta Jr. League and the 2004 Symphony Ball Chairman. Her husband Frank is a retired physician. Sponsors: **Sharon Flores**, **Leslie McLeod**. **Sherry Bond Lundeen** is a native Atlantan, with a nursing degree. She is very active in the Atlanta Jr. League and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Board. She has been President of Egleston Auxiliary, and Festival of Trees Chairman. Her husband, John, is President of Coro Realty Advisors. Sponsors: **Kristen Whatley**, **Elsie Gould**. **Rhonda Martin**, or Ronnie, has returned to the Atlanta area, and brings with her an interest in education. She has been a high school math teacher and tutor and has a Masters in Operations Research from Georgia

Tech. Her husband, Rich De Millo, is Dean of the College of Computing at Ga. Tech. Sponsors: **Lisa Bankoff**, **Janie Wilson**. **Anne Morgan** has been Director of Development for the Atlanta Opera, Emory Business School and Fernbank, and Director of External Affairs at the High Museum. She is now the Executive Director of the Ovarian Cancer Institute. Her husband, James F. Kelley, is General Counsel for Ga. Pacific. Sponsors: **Jan Bennett**, **Sue Wieland**. **Kay Matthews O'Connor** is a graduate of the University of Georgia. She has served Holy Spirit Catholic Church where she currently is a Stephen's Minister. In the past, she has been active in the Atlanta Jr. League, President of the Ivy Garden Club, and worked in accounting at Uniglobetravel. **Lynne Land** and **K Maier** are her sponsors. **Stephanie Reeves** has a Masters in Education from Georgia State, with Teacher of the Year Award. She was on St. Luke's Vestry, the Board of Telltale Theater, and is co-owner of Edgar-Reeves Decorative Lighting. Her husband, William, is a Partner in Spencer-Stuart Executive Placement Group. Sponsors: **Eileen Christman** and **Cathy Millichap**. **Anne Morse Shearer** was the first President of Callanwold Guild and is a fund raiser for Egleston and

Festival of Trees. She chaired Tuxedo Park Twigs and the 2003 Crystal Ball, and was Queen of Carnival of the Beaux Arts Ball. Her husband is Sr. Partner with Powell, Goldstein, Frazer and Murphy. Sponsors: **Reg Bridges** and **Linda Mauldin**. **Eileen Hodges Small's** daughter is an ARCS Fellow at Emory. Eileen has been active with the Children's Museum, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Westminster Schools, Southeastern Flower Show as well as President of Planters Garden Club. Husband Jeff, is President of Lantrac Properties. Sponsors: **Caroline Gilham**, **Mugsy Kirchner**. **Patricia Harris Stephenson**, better known as Deede, has recently been deeply involved in the ASA Show House. She taught at First Montessori School for 20 years and was selected as one of ten early education teachers in the U.S. She has been involved in Make a Wish Foundation. Sponsors: **Sandy Cotterman**, **Carla Fackler**. **Claudia Rainer Werder** was President of the Young Matrons Circle for Tallulah Falls School and worked on Atlanta Golf Classics and Doug Sanders Scholarship Benefits. Her sister-in-law is Kathy Rainer and her retired husband Bob works with Ga. Tech in the Plasma Arc Torch Project. Sponsors: **Mot Dinos** and **Trudy Huger**.

Special thanks to Jeanne Berry for chairing the 2004 Membership Committee and for collecting the biographies (article to the left).



Jane Dolinger is one of eleven new members in the ARCS Atlanta Class of 2004.



Sarah Whithead selected the University of Georgia for its outstanding research opportunities.



Dr. Dennis Selkoe, who hosted us at Harvard, will be featured in the "Scientific American Frontiers" series with Alan Alda on PBS television.



In his spare time, Frank West interns at Cornell and practices dressage.

Scholar Sighting: Sarah Whithead

By Anne Boyd

Can science be in your genes? While that is not the subject of Sarah Whithead's research, it's possible that her love of genetics and its importance for research into human development has been passed on by her mother who is in the health field. Originally planning to go into medicine, Sarah turned to genetic research while at Miami of Ohio University. With multiple honors and a desire to contribute meaningful research to the study of SMA (spinal muscular atrophy), she was courted by many PhD programs. She chose UGA after a visit, impressed by the beautiful campus, the active college town and the weather — as well as the outstanding research opportunities.

SMA is one of the leading genetic causes of death in infants, with an incidence of 1 in 6000 live births. This autosomal recessive disease is characterized by progressive wasting of muscles due to the loss of spinal motoneurons. The gene linked to SMA is SMN (survival of motor neurons). Because SMN is an essential gene necessary for life, the primary focus in SMA research is determining the normal cellular function of SMN for potential treatment of SMA. With a NIH grant, Sarah has approximately one more year to complete her research and degree. By working continuously, she will finish in 5 years compared to most graduates' 7 years.

The ARCS scholarship allowed

Sarah to purchase a computer and to participate in a SMA conference in Chicago last summer where she met children born with SMA. She said this intensified her passion for her research as she met the parents who would have benefited from the work she is doing. Another important discovery at UGA for Sarah was David Finch who she will marry in June. ARCS can be very proud of scholars like Sarah and look forward to the contributions she will make in science.

Scholar Sighting: Franklin D. West III

By Clare Whitfield

On his parents' ten-acre farm near Augusta, most mornings these days you can find Frank West mounted on his Percheron, practicing dressage. He says he's trying to get back to competition level during the break from his semester-early graduation from Morehouse and the beginning of graduate school at the University of Georgia in August. When Frank is not practicing dressage, you might find him tending to his nine fish tanks. "I'm a fish fanatic," says Frank. "I'm breeding African cichlids. You know, they protect their young by carrying their eggs and hatchlings in their mouths." No, I didn't know. "Even their brothers and sisters care for the baby cichlids in huge family networks." As the child of a military man, Frank attended DOD schools

on military bases in Italy, Japan, and Okinawa. However, when his dad came to Augusta, Frank attended A. R. Johnson, a magnet school specializing in health science and engineering.

There, in his junior and senior years, he spent two hours every day as an intern in ten-week rotations with doctors at the Medical College of Georgia and with veterinarians, doing what he loves best: working with animals.

Frank says he chose Morehouse because it gets more African-American kids into medical school than any other college. He had also heard of Morehouse's great biology department. During summers while at Morehouse, Frank interned at Cornell's research station on the coast of Maine. There he was able to study invertebrates and ecology. His summer

internship at Princeton under primatologist Dr. Jeanne Altman led to a trip to Kenya over Christmas break to study how wet and dry seasons affect the stress levels in yellow baboons.

Frank is excited at the prospect of doing his graduate research in the lab of Dr. Steve Stice at the University of Georgia (This is the lab ARCS members visited where we saw the cloning process and cloned calves.) He is particularly interested in the possibility of cloning species of animals that are almost extinct. To give me an example, Frank said, "There are now fewer than 50 living Florida panthers, so few that there is inbreeding which further weakens them." Frank plans to learn how to keep such endangered species from going extinct through genetic cloning.

Scholar Sighting: Kimberley T. Hill

Kimberley Hill's grandmother has diabetes. She must have daily insulin injections. Growing up in Moreland, Georgia near her grandmother, Kimberley learned first-hand how difficult it is to deliver life-saving medication to a diabetes patient.

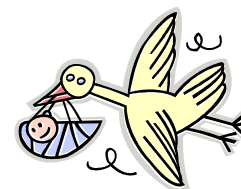
This explains, in part, why Kimberley has pursued Pharmacokinetics as her PhD research field. As Kimberley explained to me one afternoon at the University of Georgia, "Pharmacokinetics is the study of the distribution, absorption, metabolism and elimination of drugs in the body." She said, "I want to find ways to deliver drugs such as insulin so that you don't need to inject them. I want to find a way for insulin to be taken by mouth."

Insulin, Kimberley told me, is a peptide drug and thus inherently unstable. Kimberley's research centers on how to deliver this life-saving drug in alternative dosage forms. And not only insulin. Numerous new peptide-based drugs have been developed, most of which must presently be injected. So, I asked, what specifically do you do in your research? "Well," said Kimberley, "I inject rats with peptides, take blood samples, and analyze the blood concentration versus time data using computer software." In another phase of her work she uses ultrasonic waves to zap a water-based solution containing peptides, combined with polymers in an oil-based solvent to make tiny spherical particles that encapsulate the peptides. If I understood her

correctly, this is the crucial step in developing alternative peptide-based dosage forms. Because her dissertation research takes most of her waking hours, Kimberley has little time to listen to her favorite music, R&B and contemporary gospel. But over the years she has built a small collection of African masks, spurred on by her boyfriend of eight years, a fellow doctoral candidate at UGA who comes from Nigeria. They have found good African masks at the flea markets in Savannah.



UGA student Kim Hill is studying Pharmacokinetics.



Congratulations to new grandparents:

Kay and Buddy

Weiss (Phoebe

Kay) and Debbie

and Bill Liss (Libby

Isabella).

Scholar Sighting: David Mitchell III

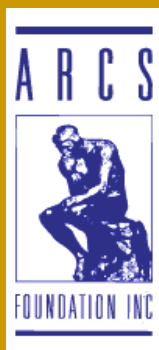
"Oops," he said as we ended the interview. "I've got to get over to the lab to deal with my tomato plants. I've been studying nematodes in tomato plants and I've got to finish writing up my report. I've also got to study for final exams." Graduating senior David Mitchell and I were sitting in a conference room in the handsome Nabrit-Mapp-McBay Hall at Morehouse College. Looking professorial behind his eyeglasses, David talked to me about his love of all things biological. His favorite courses at Morehouse were all in the Biology Department: cell biology, molecular genetics, animal behavior, plant science. Biochemistry, the hardest of them all, was his favorite. David had heard about the outstanding biology department at Morehouse College back in high school in Houston, Texas.

Having attended predominantly white public schools in Houston, the opportunity to get in touch with the black experience also drew him to Morehouse. On top of that, he won a full tuition scholarship. As a Morehouse biology major, David was able to participate in Prostate Cancer research at Indiana University Perdue University Indianapolis two summers in a row. He has had the opportunity to do extensive research at Morehouse School of Medicine as well. "Prostate Cancer is the second most prevalent form of cancer in black men," David told me. "And it is one of the deadliest." His plan is to continue his research on Prostate Cancer in the PhD program at the University of Texas. (Coincidentally, his Houston girlfriend is a grad student there.)

So, what does David do in his (very limited) spare time? It seems that he is an aficionado of Anime, Japanese animated films. He has CDs full of Anime he has downloaded from the Internet that he's been too busy with schoolwork to watch yet. (Maybe after graduation.) He has even helped edit translations from Japanese for sub-titles in English. His other pastime is writing. Presently, he is working on the plot line for a fantasy/ action/ science-fiction novel. And he loves to draw designs of futuristic automobiles.



Graduating Morehouse senior David Mitchell will be entering the PhD program at the University of Texas.



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Save the Date!

November 18, 2004
Scholars Luncheon
Ritz Carlton Downtown

Achievement Rewards for College Scientists

ARCS Atlanta Chapter Newsletter
P.O. Box 52124
Atlanta GA 30355

“Thanks a Million” Scholarship Donors!

As of 2003, our chapter's cumulative scholarship donations passed \$1 million. In addition to the scholarships provided by our membership dues, we have additional support from corporations, foundations and individuals. Most of our donors are multi-year contributors as indicated by number of years following names below. Asterisk denotes \$25,000 cumulative gifts from our MONARCS donors.

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Thanks a million!