Welcome New Members

Sponsored by Elsie Gould and Frannie Graves, Mary Alice Isele Blane is Director of Development and Communications for the College of Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive. She is married to W. J. Blane. For 20 years, Mary Alice has worked as a Director of Development; with the Episcopal Media Center, then Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School, Special Olympics Georgia and now with GA Tech. Included in her many skills are planning and program development, capital campaign management, major gift strategy and solicitation. Her fund-raising and communication skills will be an asset to ARCS.

Joanne Chesler Gross, sponsored by Pat Leake and Debbie Liss, is an active community volunteer with skills in fund raising and public relations and works as a consultant in public affairs. She has a BA from Emory University and an MA from Georgia State, and is currently writing a book on physics. Her husband, Dr. Alexander S. Gross, is a cosmetic surgeon at The Georgia Dermatology Center and Medical Day Spa. Currently Joanne serves on the board of Visiting Nurse/Hospice of Atlanta and is a member of Atlanta Symphony Associates and Corps de Ballet for the Atlanta Ballet. Joanne will be a great asset to our PR efforts, funds development and writing for the newsletter.

Betts Culp Love, sponsored by Sherry B. Lundeen, Jan Bennett and Gay Love is an active community leader who believes in education and understands that financial support of our gifted scholars enhances our national scientific community. A graduate of Clemson University, Betts is married to Dennis McLawhorn Love, President and CEO of Printpack, Inc. Betts is a dedicated individual who has been strongly committed to Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Hospice Atlanta, Westminster Schools and other local organizations. She works extremely well as a project leader as well as in subordinate roles. Her expertise is in the area of funds development.

Sharon Quaintance

See page 3 for Sharon’s and Debbie’s bios

Debbie Shelton
As I step down as your President, I am filled with awe at what our chapter accomplishes each year and how much fun it is to work with our members. I have had the most outstanding board and I cannot imagine doing this job without each and every one of you on my team. I hope that every volunteer in ARCS is proud of our scholars and what they are contributing to the world of science. When they announce their fields of study and research each year, I feel that all of us are a part of what they have accomplished. Investing in education is one of the best avenues we can take to ensure that our citizens will have the best possible chance to give to the next generation a better platform from which to start. And it closes the gap between the haves and the have-nots. As the saying goes, the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you may not expect to sit. We plant every year for the future when we support our scholars.

Our chapter has been busy this spring nominating and approving our new slate of officers. We have selected five new outstanding members to join our chapter. Our admissions process has been applauded at the National level and reviewed by other chapters. We had a spring field trip to Fernbank to learn and sample wine and coffees grown in many different parts of the world and had a chance to visit the History of Chocolate Exhibit. Our biannual retreat to Philadelphia proved to be a wonderful three days of learning, exploring and fun planned by our chair persons, Kitty Hawks, Ginny Plummer and Debby Robbins.

Our University of Georgia scholars in the department of Biomedical and Health Sciences will soon find their department relocated to the newly dedicated Paul C. Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences. It is a wonderful new building where 275 researchers will work in fields as diverse as tropical disease and biostatistics. The Center has been hailed by many academic and business leaders as a major step for Georgia’s future in the world of biotechnology. I hope many of you saw the media coverage of this special event.

ARCS members were also invited to attend a presentation by our Morehouse seniors of their scientific research. They were participating in the Mapp symposium held each year at Morehouse and competing for top prizes in this arena. They showed great poise and scientific understanding in their presentations. We were pleased to be a part of this event and proud of our “Morehouse Men.”

Our chapter has made a donation to the National Endowment Campaign just recently in order to attain the match being offered by one of the members of the National Board. Because we want to build our own endowment we decided to join with two other chapters in order to reach the amount needed for the matching donation.

Next year will be the beginning of the 50th year of ARCS and our 15th anniversary. The National Annual Meeting is to be held in Atlanta which is an exciting way to launch this celebration. It is with great pride that I turn over the gavel to Jan Bennett to usher in these significant events in the history of ARCS. I have a wonderful sense of satisfaction for what we as a chapter and national organization contribute to our communities. It has been such a privilege to lead the Atlanta chapter in the support of our scholars and their important work. Happy 15th Anniversary and many more.
Mention any major city in the Northeast U.S. to Lisa Bankoff and she’ll say, “I’ve lived there.” The daughter of a corporate steel manager, Lisa was born in Pittsburgh, lived in numerous large cities throughout the northeast, attended four years of high school in three different schools, attended Salem College in Winston Salem, North Carolina, and graduated as a legal assistant from New York University. Lisa came to Atlanta to work as a legal assistant at the King & Spalding Law Firm; however her real motivation for coming here was her interest in white-water kayaking. She trained on the Chattahoochee and in 1976 qualified to go to the Olympics in Montreal, but due to some political maneuvers kayaking was eliminated from the Olympics that year.

An avid cyclist, Lisa has ridden the Silver Comet Trail all the way to Alabama and back. She also enjoys downhill skiing and scuba-diving.

Lisa’s first date with her husband of 31 years was soon after she took a group of King & Spalding attorneys on a weekend kayak outing. Six weeks later she and Joe, a King & Spalding partner were engaged to be married. Lisa and Joe have a son, Chris, 25, who is a video special effects artist for Reel FX Studios in Dallas, Texas. He can be credited with designing the opening of the movie “The Wild” as well as the Gatorade ads that we see on television. Their daughter, Margaret, is a senior in communication studies at the University of San Diego.

For 25 years, Lisa’s major focus as a volunteer has been at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. She has volunteered in about every capacity there.

In 1997, Mary O’Connor sponsored Lisa’s ARCS membership. Lisa was flattered to be asked to join such a group of tremendous women. She has served as vice president of education, communications secretary, chairman of database and directory, and newsletter publisher. As communications secretary, Lisa was instrumental in moving us from a “telephone tree” system of communication to the current electronics email system.

Congratulations to Lisa Bankoff for being selected our 2006 ARCS Light.

New Member Bios—continued

Sharon Swenson Quaintance, sponsored by Lisa Bankoff and Liz Troy, is co-founder and CEO of LawdocsXpress, Inc., whose firm provides online legal secretarial services. Sharon holds a BA degree from the University of Southern California and an MBA from Loyola Marymount University. Her husband, Thomas E. Quaintance, is a retired entrepreneur. Sharon has created a successful technology company and is active with the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Westminster School and USC Alumni Club. Now that her daughter will soon be going to college, she is interested in becoming more active in the non-profit world. Her software, fundraising and meeting planning skills will be of benefit to our organization.

Jane Huffard and Joanie Michaels sponsored Deborah Jackson Shelton who has been a community volunteer since she was a teenager. A graduate of Hollins College, Debbie is married to Charles Bascom Shelton III, an Investment Banker with Nancy Creek Capital. A 20 year resident of Atlanta, Debbie is a local representative for Carlisle clothing. Currently she serves on the Board of Directors of the Alliance Theatre and the Visiting Nurse Health System and is Vice President of the Board of Governors of the Alliance Française D’Atlanta. We welcome Debbie and her many skills.

ARCS Atlanta extends a warm welcome to five new members to our chapter.

The New Members Committee was chaired by Ginny Plummer and Elizabeth Spiegel.
Twenty four ARCS members and their spouses or guests attended the retreat which was headquartered at the Park Hyatt in downtown Philadelphia. Cocktails and dinner were held at the Hyatt on Thursday evening for all.

Friday morning we were met by our guide for a bus tour of the city of Philadelphia. We ended the city tour at the University of Pennsylvania for 3 different presentations: Dr. Dawn Bonnell spoke to us about “nanotechnology” and its growing relevance in today’s world, Dr. Dan Weintraub spoke about dementia and its medication and therapies, and Dr. David Oslin spoke about Personalized Medicine—particularly genetic markers and addiction. Thank you to Jan Bennett and Phyllis Rodbell who were instrumental in helping put this program together. From the University of Pennsylvania we traveled by bus to the Philadelphia Art Museum where an Andrew Wyeth collection was on exhibit, as well as other special exhibits, and their permanent collection of the museum. Cocktails and dinner were held at the Acorn Club, the oldest women’s club in the United States.

Saturday we traveled by our tour bus to the Constitution Center where a special Ben Franklin exhibit was on display. From there we journeyed to the Franklin Institute, a renowned science museum with many hands-on exhibits including a giant walk-through heart. The bus then drove us to the suburb of Marion to see that incredible art collection at the Barnes Museum. Dinner was held later at the Moshulu, a converted tall ship which is now a restaurant with views of the Schuylkill River and the Philadelphia skyline. Sunday morning offered an optional guided walking tour of Society Hill.

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Debby Robbins, Kitty Hawks, and Ginny Plummer, Philadelphia Trip

“Waiting for the bus” Where do we go from here?

Bill Liss and friends

Debby Robbins, Kitty Hawks, and Ginny Plummer, Philadelphia Trip

John and Jane Huffard

Kathy and Dale Harmon

Debbie Liss

Barrett and Kitty Hawks

Mike and Marguerite York

Al & Ginny Plummer and Anne Boyd

David and Connie Dimling

David and Anne Boyd

Babette and Bill Tipping

Kay Weiss, Kathy and Dennis Berry and Buddy Weiss

Carol and Martin Teem
Field Trip to Fernbank
by Anita Kern

On March 29 a few of our ARCS members gathered at Fernbank Museum of Natural History to learn about Latin American wines and coffees from the owners of Java Vino who brought coffee from their coffee plantation in Nicaragua. After sampling a variety of wines, hors d'oeuvres and coffee we explored the History of Chocolate exhibition. The exhibit started in Central America where the Maya were the first to use the cacao bean to grind into a bitter frothy drink mixed with cinnamon, chili and peppers. The Aztec were the next to get involved with chocolate and required it as a "tax" from their neighbors. Artifacts on display showed us that only royalty in these early societies could afford the exquisite drink. After the Spanish arrived, chocolate made its way to Europe where it eventually was combined with sugar! It continued to be used as only a drink until years later when scientists figured out how to convert it to the solid form we enjoy today.

Of course, after tasting the wines and coffees, there were plenty of chocolates to sample for those of us with a sweet tooth. A few of our group even selected some wines and chocolates for "later" tasting at home.

ARCS Members Visit Morehouse
by Stephanie Reeves

On April 18th several ARCS members attended Morehouse College’s Eighteenth Annual Frederick Mapp Science and Mathematics symposium kickoff. We were welcomed by Dr. J. K. Haynes, Dean of Science and Mathematics, who told us that Morehouse places serious emphasis on research, the best tool possible for developing necessary problem solving and critical thinking skills; their focus is not just getting into the right graduate school. We then heard six outstanding and impressive students present the results of their recent research projects.
New Members’ Luncheon and Annual Meeting
By Gracia Conn

The ARCS New Members Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting was held on May 17th in the ballroom of the Capital City Country Club. President Teed Poe welcomed the group and gave special recognition to the scholars who were present. Ginny Plummer, Vice President for Membership, introduced our five new members and our 2006 ARCS Light, Lisa Bankoff, was introduced by Kay Weiss, our 2005 ARCS Light. All were congratulated and warmly welcomed.

After a brief business meeting and lunch Deede Stephen- son, University Relations co-chair, presented the guest speaker, Dr. Richard L. Suplita. Richard, was an ARCS scholar sponsored by Stites & Harbin and T. Neal Jernigan.

A native of Fairmont, West Virginia, he completed his BA in Psychology at West Virginia University and his master’s and doctorate in Psychology from the University of Georgia. His doctoral research was spent in the neuroscience laboratory of Dr. Andrea Hohmann and he is currently employed by the University of Georgia Department of Psychology as a full time lecturer.

Richard’s topic was based on his doctoral research project which has been to examine the central nervous system’s ‘sites of action’ of the endogenous cannabinoid system which is the body’s own system for reducing or eliminating pain induced by stress.

Formerly an electrician, this multi-talented person’s favorite activities include mountain biking, trout fishing, hiking, archery, sports cars and running road races. A member of the US Marine Corps Reserves since 1995, he is currently training for the Marine Corp Marathon in Washington DC in October. Richard is married to Dr. Carla Price and has two daughters, Annabel and Lydia.

Before adjourning the meeting, outgoing President Teed Poe introduced the retiring Board members and thanked them for their commitment to ARCS. The 2006-2007 officers and committee chairs were presented.

Newly elected president, Jan Bennett, indicated that her focus points for the upcoming year are to: Raise the scholarship levels to $6,000 while planning strategies to increase our endowment fund; Continue to enhance the visibility of ARCS and the important work that we do; and Host the 2007 NAM in Atlanta to kick off the 50th anniversary year for the ARCS Foundation.

The luncheon was chaired by Anne Shearer, Reg Bridges and Linda Mauldin.
ARCS Members’ News

Special Thanks

Thanks, Teed Poe, for “giving your all” as ARCS Atlanta’s president for the past 2 years and to all the Board members who are completing their terms of office.

2006 ARCS NAM Meets in Chicago

ARCS Foundation members representing fourteen chapters from across the country gathered in Chicago for the National Annual Meeting, June 1-3. Mayor Richard Daley proclaimed June 1, ARCS Foundation Day in Chicago!! The theme for the 2006 NAM was “Investing Today in Tomorrow’s Scientists and Engineers!” In addition to business meetings, the weekend included a tour of the Argonne National Laboratory, remarks by Nobel Prize winning physicist Dr. Leon Lederman and boat tours of the Chicago river.

Congratulations!

Sue and John Wieland, named WABE’s May Lexus Leader of the Arts.

Frank and Elizabeth Martin, Leslie and Hugh McLeod await Chicago boat tour departure