A Letter from our President

It was a great thrill to present our 46 scholars at our Annual Scholars Luncheon in November and to announce that we were giving $236,000 toward their research and studies in the fields of science, engineering and medicine. The need has never been greater to further the education of our United States scientists. In this world of global economics and politics, it is innovation and information that will keep our country in the forefront.

ARCS is the only organization of volunteer women addressing the gap that continues to grow between us and other nations in educating scientists for the future. ARCS can be an important link too, in connecting our present scholars to our alumni scholars. (We are soon to be 50 years old!) This enables them to find others who are established leaders in their fields and who can help our graduates find ways to introduce their research and ideas to make a greater impact.

We were able to raise our returning scholars’ rewards to $6000 and hope that by next year, our chapter’s 15th anniversary, we can bring all of our awards to $6000. These outstanding young people, who make great sacrifices to pursue their advanced degrees deserve our support and continue to make us proud.

Our National organization is planning a 50th anniversary celebration in 2007-08. The National Annual Meeting (NAM) in 2007 will be in Atlanta so we will get to launch our year long celebration. This year it will be in Chicago and all are encouraged to attend.

I have just returned from a National meeting in San Francisco, one of our earliest established chapters, who reported their endowment is now at 3 million. You can see we have room to grow. Endowment and membership were the central subjects discussed and our March meeting in Phoenix is going to be exclusively on membership. Fortunately, Atlanta has a very energetic and vibrant membership. Obviously, we have a long way to go on growing our endowment but we are making strides.

Our chapter had a wonderful field trip to Georgia Tech in November and hopes to have another trip before spring. We all have our Philadelphia retreat to look forward to in April which promises to be both educational and fun. The trip is almost full so make your plans now.

As we look forward to the coming year, we will assess our impact and plan ways to gather additional data to measure it as we approach our 15th year. Our chapter is healthy and full of dedicated women who are committed to our mission. I think we are making a difference in a very important way.

I wish everyone a productive and happy New Year.

- Teed M. Poe
January Annual Meeting at the Swan Coach House

by Stephanie Reeves

Approximately 50 women met on January 18th at the Swan Coach House for ARCS annual winter meeting and luncheon. The event was chaired by Lee Suddath. Guest speaker was Camille Uhlir, ARCS national president, from Seattle. According to Ms. Uhlir, simply stated, ARCS is a “national organization of women dedicated to raising money for scholarships.” The National organization is asking each chapter to raise $10,000 which will be graciously matched by fellow ARCS member, Pat Beckman, of San Diego, in order to reach our goal of $1,000,000 in the national endowment. Income from Endowment helps to develop new chapters.

ARCS now has 14 chapters nationwide. Ms. Uhlir complimented the Atlanta Chapter on their newsletter and their interesting field trips.

Anne Boyd, Frannie Graves, Sally Jobe, Cathey Millichap, and Joan Goodhew were approved to serve on the nominating committee during the brief business meeting conducted by President Teed Poe. Round table discussions were held by the membership to begin assessment of our membership and scholarship funding of the Atlanta chapter.

Our congratulations to Lisa Bankoff who was introduced by Kay Weiss as the new 2006 ARCS Light. The annual ARCS Light award recognizes a member who continues to serve and make significant contributions to ARCS. Congratulations, Lisa!

Evening at Georgia Tech College of Computing

by Gracia Conn

About 45 ARCS members had the privilege of attending the Educational tour at the Georgia Tech College of Computing in the new Technology Square Research Building (TSRB). We were greeted by Dr. Rich DeMillo, the John P. Imlay, Jr. Dean of Computing and Distinguished Professor of Computing at Georgia Tech and Mary Alice Isele, Director of Development for the College of Computing.

The group toured the Borg Lab, a world leader in social and urban robotics, where scientists study the behavior of social creatures such as ants and honey bees and then translate it into human environments, such as cities. One of the graduate students demonstrated behavior responses between a human and a robot.

A second part of the tour included a campus bus ride past the new Christopher W. Klaus Advanced Computing Building to The Aware Home, a real home used to address the challenges facing the future of domestic technologies. The center is researching ways to improve social communication between extended family members, everyday home assistants, and memory aids.

The tour ended with a question and answer session. As a special treat each ARCS guest was presented with a jar of honey made by Georgia Tech’s Research bees and a mug with the yellow jacket logo and filled with yellow and white M&M’s. Two special attendees were ARCS scholars Patrick Yaner and Andrea Forte.

Thanks to Anita Kern and Jane Dolinger for arranging this special event.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Carla Fackler  
by Gracia Conn

When I called Carla Fackler to interview her for this newsletter, I informed her that being a newsletter editor was a first for me. Little did I know that Carla has both a B.A. and M.A. in Journalism and has edited newsletters for volunteer organizations throughout Atlanta. Previously, she was an editor for the Office of Public Information at the University of Iowa, her alma mater, and The Trident, a national special interest magazine.

Carla was named October’s Lexus Leader of the Arts by WABE Radio/WPBA-TV, recognizing her distinguished career as a volunteer for the Atlanta Symphony Associates and a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors.

Carla’s first connection with the ASO was in 1987 when our own Jean Brumley, then president of the Atlanta Symphony Associates, recruited her to join the organization as newsletter editor. Carla continued to volunteer with ASA and served as president from 1994-96. During her term, she helped launch the ASO’s first Symphony Celebration, a nationally-recognized, free musical open house; worked with Jay Levine, then ASO Board President and husband of ARCS member Liz Levine, to establish an endowed ASA Chair (principal, second violin); and led the volunteers to their first million dollar fundraising years. In 2000, she chaired the award-winning Atlanta Symphony Ball, “Harmony.” Other ARCS members who have chaired the Symphony Ball are Jean Brumley (originator) Ada Lee Correll, Cathey Millichap, Liz Levine, Frannie Graves, Jane Miles and Elizabeth Spiegel (co-chairs), Jan Bennett, Pat Leake, Debbie Liss, Pam Jenkins and Lisa Bankoff. Pat Leake, Sandy Cotterman and Liz Troy have served as ASA presidents.

When asked if she is a musician, her answer was “No, but I have grown to appreciate good music.” Growing up, the closest thing that she had to music was the last name Schumann.

Pat Leake introduced Carla to ARCS and along with Marcy McTier sponsored her as a new member in 1997. Carla praised ARCS as an essential group of women committed in the advanced education of young scientists. As expected, she has been ARCS Newsletter editor (with Kay Weiss) as well as co-chairing Field Trips with Ada Lee Correll and Special Events with Kathy Rainer.

Carla, who is married to Dr. Carl D. Fackler, an orthopedic surgeon, is a world traveler “out of necessity.” The Fackler’s oldest son and his wife, Martin and Yukari, live in Tokyo, Japan, where he is a reporter for the New York Times. (Martin met Yukari when she was his Japanese instructor at Middlebury’s Summer Language School.) They have two sons, Dylan (7) and Lukas (2) who Carla tries to see as often as possible. Their middle son, Nate, is an English teacher in Istanbul, Turkey, and also plays in the only alternative rock band in the country. Their third son, Ben, is a lawyer in Manhattan.

Sharing the hobby of gardening with Carl fills Carla’s spare time. Their newest endeavor is that of planting Malbec grapes on their acreage near Tiger, Georgia. Maybe we can enjoy some “Carl-Carla” Malbec wine in the future.

Did you know?

- Percent of world’s scientists and engineers by 2010 who will be living in Asia … 90%
- Percent of US college engineer degrees now awarded to foreign nationals … 50%
- Percent of US Patents registered in 2001 by foreign nationals … 50%
ARCS Scholarships Awarded to 46 at Annual Scholars’ Luncheon
by Stephanie Reeves

The annual ARCS Scholarship Awards Luncheon took place November 17th at the Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta. Prior to the luncheon 46 ARCS recipients, along with their families and guests, assembled on the 50th floor of the 191 Building in the offices of the King and Spalding Law Firm. There their sponsors proudly presented these talented young scientists a total of $236,000 in deserving scholarships.

Keynote speaker at the luncheon was Dr. David Satcher, Interim President of Morehouse School of Medicine and former U.S. Surgeon General. Dr. Satcher addressed both domestic and international public health issues with humor and wisdom. He reminded us that the issues in public health encompass anticipation, detection, preparedness and consequence management. All of these, of course, require communication with those involved.

When addressing the question, “Are hospitals safe places?” his immediate response was, “Don’t go there if you don’t have to!” He talked about the huge disparity around the world in quality of healthcare. There is a huge shortage of physicians and he encouraged people to enter the medical and healthcare professions.

When speaking about the timely topic of bird flu, he expressed concern. In many countries people live close to their animals, especially fowl. We don’t know how long it will be before a mutation in the virus will allow the spreading from human to human. Thus far we have on file 20 million avian flu vaccines which may or may not be effective. We are using very old techniques to produce our vaccines and don’t know if they are specific enough for what we may encounter.

of being legalized more quickly, but realizes more funding must be invested and finding those funds is a challenge. He also reminded us that more resources need to be allocated for mental health services.

Dr. Satcher concluded his talk quoting the late John Gardner, “Life is filled with golden opportunities carefully disguised as unsolvable problems.” He challenged us to not be discouraged but to strive to improve man’s condition, and to work daily to exhibit healthy habits in our own lives.

Thank you, Bill Liss, Business, Financial & Consumer Editor, WXIA-TV and husband of ARCS member, Deborah Liss, for moderating the question and answer period. Kudos also to Elizabeth Martin, Kay Weiss, and your very capable committee for giving us a memorable day.
At the ARCS Scholars’ luncheon President Teed Poe presented Carol and Martin Teem, Janie and Chuck Wilson, and Synovus with the MonARCS award. MonARCS are scholarship donors who have contributed a cumulative gift of $25,000 or more. Included in the list of MonARCS are Marcia and John Donnell, Georgia-Pacific Foundation, Inc., Graves Foundation, Betsy and Harald Hansen, Imlay Foundation, Inc., James R. Kuse Foundation, Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc., and the Zeist Foundation, Inc.

**ARCS Facts**

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Scholar Sighting: Christopher Black
by Elsie Gould

Chris Black, Ph.D. candidate in Exercise Physiology at UGA, became interested in exercise science while working on his MS at UGA. He says he receives many “rewards” working with spinal cord injury patients. At UGA and the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, he is examining the use of exercise to improve the health of individuals with spinal cord injury. Chris states that exercise not only improves health, but also improves physical appearance, therefore raising morale and self-esteem!

His ARCS scholarship will help pay student fees and provide him the opportunity to attend a Denver conference this year where he may make a presentation on “the effect of forced generation on muscle injury”.

Chris is a sports enthusiast and in his free time he enjoys golf and all intramural sports. Also, since adopting their basset hound, he and his wife, Lesley, enjoy volunteering together at the Bassett Hound Rescue Group of Georgia.

Chris is looking forward to eventually teaching college level students. With his enthusiasm and special talent for working with people to help make their successes real, he will surely be a favorite professor on any campus!

Reception for Morehouse ARCS Scholars

Dr. Walter E. Massey and wife, ARCS member Shirley Massey, hosted a reception at Davidson House for the nine Morehouse College ARCS scholars in October. Special guests included members of ARCS and professors from the biology and chemistry departments. A delightful evening was spent interacting with students and faculty.

Scholar Sighting: James Whitefield
by Lynn Cornett

James Whitfield is completing his studies in chemistry and mathematics this year at Morehouse College and is applying to graduate schools to study physical chemistry. He is interested in physical chemistry “because it is the field of chemistry that is so mathematically-oriented.”

He strived to achieve honors in middle and high school because of the influence of his family, including a sister who was a student at the University of Maryland.

He had a very rigorous high school program at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland, that prepared him well for his studies in college. His interest in science and mathematics was inspired by his high school algebra II and trigonometry mathematics teacher and wrestling coach, Mr. McCrae. James attributes his success at Morehouse to a large group of exemplary black PhD’s who have been role models for him and the pursuit of his studies during his undergraduate years.

The study of chemistry and mathematics is not all that occupies his time. James enjoys writing fiction on a variety of subjects and finds time for the challenge of a chess game.
Scholar Sighting: Pamela Bonner
by Reg Bridges

Pam Bonner's grandfather, a
surgeon, shared his love for
science and sports with her.
A native of Portsmouth,
Rhode Island, she entered
the University of Connecti-
cut as a premed student.
However, when she took
Microbiology 101 she knew
that was what she wanted
to pursue and switched her
major. After graduating
Pam was awarded a Presi-
dential Fellowship to study
for a doctorate in Microbi-
ology at the University of
Georgia. She will receive
her Ph. D. on January 20,
2006.

According to Pam, on a day
when nothing in the lab
goes right, or when she gets
frustrated because weeks
and weeks of research
come to a dead end, she still
feels she has the best job in
the world and continues to
love what she is doing. Pam
enjoys the intellectual chal-
lenges of teaching and re-
search almost as much as
she likes the one on one
mentoring of students in the
techniques of scientific re-
search.

To this avid sports fan, a
bad day is when the Boston
Patriots (NFL), the Red
Sox's (MLB) or the Bruin's
(NHL) lose a game!

After graduation Pam will be
going to the University of
Indiana to continue post-
doctoral studies. She is
anxious to begin work on a
new research project there.
We wish Pam the best and
know she will achieve her
goal of becoming a full pro-
fessor at a major research
university.

ARCS Members’ News

Congratulations!

Lisa Bankoff, named
2006 ARCS Light.

Carla Fackler, named
WABE's October Lexus
Leader of the Arts.

Sue and John Wieland,
on the fabulous new
Wieland Pavilion at the
High Museum

Directory Updates

Lee Suddath's - work
number 404-281-3876

Sharon Flore's -
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St. Simons Island, 31522
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Patsy Drummond's
Charlotte phone number -
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cell (404) 218-1080

Special Thanks

Editors’ Gracia Conn and
Stephanie Reeves
wish to thank Betty Feezor
for her years of service as
Publisher of this Newslet-
ter.

Thank you, Pat Leake and
Lisa Bankoff for accepting
the responsibility as
Publishers.

“ARCS’ efforts to
sustain and
encourage young
engineers and
scientists will serve
our nation well.”

Colin L. Powell,
Former Secretary
of State and
General, U.S.
Army, Retired

Reminder—Dues are Due by February 15th

We must know how many openings we will have next year before the Membership Committee can begin to consider new members. If you haven’t already sent in your dues and membership forms please do so right away.

Thank you.
Philadelphia, Here We Come!

Our retreat begins on Thursday, April 27th with cocktails and dinner at our hotel, the Park Hyatt. Day two starts with a brief tour of the city, a visit to University of Pennsylvania with speakers and lunch in Penn’s Ancient History Museum. Afterwards we’ll see the exhibits at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Later, cocktails and dinner at the Acorn Club. Saturday, we will visit the National Constitution Center, the Franklin Institute for a behind the scenes tour and the very special Barnes Museum. Dinner at Moshulu, a converted tall ship, will wind up our visit to Philadelphia. An optional tour of Philadelphia’s Society Hill is available for those willing to extend their trip a bit. To date we have filled, but if you are interested in going, contact Ginny Plummer to see if there have been any cancellations. It’s going to be a terrific trip.

Chaired by Kitty Hawks,
Debby Robbins and Ginny Plummer