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ARCS® Foundation Atlanta Chapter

Volume No. XVII Issue 2

Winter 2016

Achievement Rewards for College Scientists

ARCS® Foundation advances science and technology in the United States by providing financial awards to academically outstanding U.S. citizens studying to complete degrees in science, engineering and medical research.

Upcoming Events

- March 2
UGA Educational Event
- March 14
Book Club
- March 30
Donor Appreciation Event at Emory
- April 20-24
Charlottesville Retreat
- May 11
Annual Meeting and Luncheon
- June 8
Old Board/New Board Meeting
- November 17
Scholar Awards Luncheon

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ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter Awards \$345,000 to 48 Scholars at Annual Celebration



Jane Dolinger, President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta and Dr. Nael McCarty, Keynote Speaker at the 2015 Scholar Awards Luncheon

The Atlanta Chapter of ARCS Foundation honored 48 outstanding young scientists with scholar awards totaling \$345,000 at its 24th annual ARCS Scholar Awards Luncheon on Thursday, November 19th at the Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta. ARCS Foundation Atlanta provides scholar awards to outstanding students at Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College, and University of Georgia. The Atlanta Chapter was pleased that Lynne M. O. Brickner, President ARCS Foundation, Inc., was able to join the celebration of this year's scholars.

Keynote speaker for the event was Nael A. McCarty, Ph.D., Marcus Professor of Cystic

Fibrosis Division of Pulmonology, Allergy/Immunology, Cystic Fibrosis, and Sleep Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine Director, Emory+Children's Cystic Fibrosis Center of Excellence. Dr. McCarty moved the audience with pictures of children afflicted with CF and descriptions of its impact on the daily lives of the patients and their family members as they age and the disease progresses. Thanks to new drugs under development and other recent therapies, the life expectancy for people with CF is increasing. Bill Liss from WXIA-TV moderated the question and answer session following Dr. McCarty's presentation.

Due to the generosity of local corporations, foundations, individuals, and the Atlanta Chapter ARCS Foundation membership, a cumulative total of almost \$4.2 million dollars has been presented to more than 400 scholars since the Atlanta Chapter's inception in 1992. Jane Dolinger, President of the Atlanta Chapter, was pleased to announce that for the first time Atlanta Chapter Scholar Alumni joined together to co-sponsor an ARCS Scholar Alumni Award for the 2015-2016 academic year. It is hoped that, going forward, additional members of this select group will step up to fund more awards for the students following in their footsteps.

Save the date:
March 30, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Donor Appreciation Event hosted by
Dr. Jim Wagner,
President of Emory University
All donors at Century level and
above will be invited.

Women After All: Sex, Evolution, and the End of Male Supremacy
ARCS Book Club scientific book selection for 2016. Noted author, physician, anthropologist, and distinguished Emory professor, **Melvin Konner**, will come speak to us about his controversial new book. **Read the book and join the discussion at 10:00 a.m. March 14th at Clare Whitfield's house - 1635 Heatherwood Drive, Decatur, GA 30033**

From the President's Desk



President Jane Dolinger

The highlight of our year is always the annual Scholar Awards Luncheon and the 2015 luncheon was no exception. Through the hard work of our Funds Development committee and the generosity of our donors, members, and friends, 48 academically outstanding scholars in science, engineering, and medical research from Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College, and the University of Georgia were honored and received a total of \$345,000 in awards. As we heard about their research, one couldn't help but be inspired by their dedication and passion in their studies which reaffirms for all of us that they are an excellent return on our investment.

I want to thank and to congratulate Corrie Johnson, SAL Chair, and her entire committee who worked tirelessly over this past year to make our annual luncheon a memorable day for our ARCS Scholars and for ARCS Foundation Atlanta.

We are off to an exciting start for 2016. The January meeting and luncheon was a huge success at 103 West. The highlight of the meeting is always the announcement of ARCS Light 2016 and I extend my heartiest congratulations to Peg Cooley! The honor is so well deserved as we all know how much Peg has contributed to our Chapter over the years. Her dedication and commitment is an inspiration to all of us and we thank her for making us a better Chapter because of her work. In addition, Dr. Rich DeMillo's presentation about his book, "Revolution in Higher Education: How a Small Bank of Innovators will make College Accessible and Affordable" was, indeed, eye opening, thought provoking, and stimulated conversation about the revolution in higher education even after the luncheon was over.

Celebration 2017 is in kickoff mode as we begin our year of celebrating our 25th anniversary. On March 2, there will be a members' education/celebratory event at the University of Georgia. There will be Scholar presentations and a chance to interact with our UGA Scholars. In addition, to honor and to celebrate as we approach our 25th anniversary, UGA President Morehead and Provost Whitten are hosting a lunch for us. Please save March 2 for this event and look for details to follow. There will be many opportunities for you to be involved over the year-long celebration, so stay tuned for information from our event Co-Chairs, Ginny Plummer and Susan Higley.

Peg Cooley named 2016 ARCS Light

An unsung hero who has undertaken several of our most important jobs to keep ARCS Foundation Atlanta going strong is **Peg Cooley**, the newly named 2016 ARCS Light. A member since 2002, Peg has supported our mission both financially and with her time and talents since early in her membership. She has held numerous board positions including Recording Secretary, VP Communications, Scholar Relations Chair, VP University Relations, Nominating Committee Chair, and Co-chair of our Chapter Retreat. Peg and her husband are MONARCS and among our Chapter's top donors. In addition, even though she moved out of town, she stepped up to help with one of the most constantly demanding jobs we have—that of Internal Communications Chair. She's the one who sends us the emails that keep us all on track. The previous Atlanta Chapter's ARCS Lights voted unanimously to give her the acclaim she so richly deserves.



2015 ARCS Light Ronnie Martin and 2016 ARCS Light Peg Cooley

Atlanta Chapter Visits Emory Brain Health Center



On October 26, 2015, over 50 ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter members and guests met at the Emory Brain Health Center where Dr. Mark Rapaport, Chief of Psychiatric Services, welcomed the group, thanked ARCS Foundation Atlanta for its support of Emory University scholars, and introduced Dr. Helen Mayberg, Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology, and Radiology. It has been 10 years since the first deep brain stimulation (DBS) implant to treat depression. Dr. Mayberg led the Canadian research team that developed this novel intervention for patients with treatment resistant depression. The research has made steady progress over the past decade with clues emerging as to who is most likely to benefit from the treatment and refinement of the technique to optimize outcome. Dr. Mayberg now heads a multidisciplinary depression research program that is dedicated to the study of brain circuits in depression and the effects of various treatments.

Following the lecture, lunch, and an extended Q&A session, ARCS Foundation members toured the Brain Health Center, an innovative collaboration where the Departments of Psychiatry and Neurology have co-located to provide comprehensive, coordinated family-centered care. The Center seeks to prevent brain disorders and transform care through continued innovation and learning, research and partnerships.

Update from Funds Development

Luncheon Highlights

This year we were delighted to welcome three new MONARCS: Sara Jean and Fred Burke, Pat and Nolan Leake, and The Ritz Carlton, Atlanta. At the close of the Scholar Awards Luncheon, three donors of named scholars renewed their pledges and two other guests have invited us to work on a proposal for new funding. The SAL continues to be a wonderful vehicle for introducing ARCS Foundation to prospective donors.

Financials

Currently, we are poised for sponsoring even more scholars in the future. As of print time, we have received donations of \$84,425 and \$88,250 in pledges, for a total of \$172, 675. This amount represents 44% of last year's total donations. And we have our best member months right ahead of us. Please recall that we did not send solicitation letters in November of 2015. Thus, please give serious consideration to a donation above your \$600 dues so that you can be a Century donor.

Our fundraising theme for this year is "16 more in 2016".

We have a goal to increase our Century level of giving and above from 51 active members to 67. To be a Century donor, a member gives \$1000 above our \$600 dues. If we are successful, we will have 59% of our active members giving at the Century or above level!! Wouldn't that be a great way to begin our celebration of our 25th anniversary?

On March 30, President Jim Wagner will host a reception on the Emory campus.

Donor Event Chair, Anne Easterly, reports that the Emory staff led by Katie Busch has been wonderful to work with. All donors at Century level and above will be invited as well as our Emory scholars. We are delighted to have Dr. Michael Zwick, an ARCS Foundation alumnus, now on the faculty at Emory, to offer remarks. Save the date emails will be sent in February with formal invitations to follow.

If you have any suggestions for potential donors, please contact Lee Doyle or Mitzi Hill so that we can pursue your leads.

2015 ARCS Foundation Atlanta Scholar Awards



Corrie Johnson, Chair of the Scholar Awards Luncheon Committee 2015, and Patty Reid, Chair-Elect



Jones Award - Libby Jones and Scholar Elizabeth Nadelman, Georgia Tech



Foster/Robitaille Award -Marie Foster, Scholar Elizabeth Littauer, Emory University, and Nancy Robitaille



Dick Award - Sylvia Dick, Scholar Lydia Anderson, University of Georgia, and Bruce Dick



Judy Schmidt, Cindy Widner Wall, and Elizabeth Spiegel



Lynne M. O. Brickner, President, ARCS Foundation, Inc., Dr. Bruce Harris, Director, The Roche Foundation and Nancy Chambers

2015 ARCS Foundation Atlanta Scholar Awards



Ritz-Carlton Award - Carla-Risha Wright, Ritz-Carlton, and Scholar Amir Hobson, Morehouse College. This year, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter welcomes the Ritz-Carlton as a MONARC, a donor who has given cumulative gifts of \$25,000 or more.



Franklin award - Marilu McCarty and Scholar Patricia Cheung, Emory University



Broscher/Chambers/McDaniel Award - Scholar Anthony Szempruch, University of Georgia, and Terry Broscher



Georgia-Pacific Award - Louise Yeoman, Scholar Dakari Franklin, Morehouse College, and Alicia McCabe



Jane Dolinger, President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter, MONARCS Pat and Nolan Leake, and Lynne M. O. Brickner, President, ARCS Foundation, Inc.



Jane Dolinger, President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter, Lynne M. O. Brickner, President, ARCS Foundation Inc., with MONARCS Fred and Sara Jean Burke

2015 ARCS Foundation Atlanta Scholar Awards



**Emory
University**

**Georgia Institute
of Technology**



**Morehouse
College**

**University of
Georgia**



Here come the MOOCS

Revolution in Higher Education; subject of DeMillo's remarks



Jane Dolinger, President, ARCS Foundation Atlanta, Dr. Richard DeMillo, Luncheon Speaker, and his wife Ronnie Martin.

Dr. Richard A. DeMillo, guest speaker at the Atlanta Chapter ARCS Foundation luncheon January 13, 2016, described a revolution taking place in higher education. Just when colleges and universities are feeling a serious financial pinch, along come MOOCS to the rescue, Massive Open Online Courses. Classrooms of 30 to 100 students have exploded to online classes of thousands. Dr. DeMillo told the story of the pioneers of online education and how their willingness to break with tradition has spawned an unstoppable movement.

At Georgia Tech, AT&T underwrote development of an online Master's Degree program in Computer Science. Starting with a student cohort of 400 in 2000, Georgia Tech now enrolls 3,400 students in this online degree program.

Public universities like Georgia Tech and Georgia State now see MOOCS as a way to make higher education much more accessible and affordable. They see important implications for dealing with inequality and lack of opportunity.

Dr. DeMillo asked an intriguing question: Is it possible that the greatest schools of the future will no longer be the most selective (those that keep people out) but rather those that find ways to be the most inclusive?

Almost 25 and Gaining Momentum

1992 was an interesting year on many fronts. Our Atlanta Braves were in the World Series, Hurricane Andrew hit Florida, Georgia voters legalized a state lottery, and Bill Clinton was elected president. Astronomers confirmed the existence of extrasolar planets, the first popular Web browser was released in the U.S., and the first smart phone, the IBM Simon, was introduced. Against this background, Mary O'Connor and a few like-minded women started the Atlanta Chapter of ARCS Foundation. Their purpose, which remains today, was to keep America competitive by supporting top Georgia scholars as they complete degrees in Science, Engineering and Medical Research.

ARCS Foundation Atlanta has much to celebrate as we approach our 25th Anniversary. Since 1992, our chapter has awarded almost \$4.2 million to outstanding scholars. We have moved from awarding 3 scholar awards totaling \$15,000 in 1992 to 48 scholar awards totaling \$345,000 in 2015. Our membership has grown from 15 Founding and 20 Charter members to 150 Active and Associate members. Our funding source for scholar awards has grown from membership dues in 1992 to membership dues plus contributions from 118 individuals, corporations and foundations.

To commemorate our 25th anniversary in 2016-2017, anniversary co-chairs Susan Higley and Ginny Plummer and their committee are already busy planning and organizing a number of celebratory and educational events. Susan and Ginny welcome your input, suggestions and involvement as the planning progresses

The official kick-off of our Anniversary Celebration will be the 2016 Fall Members Cocktail party. Plans call for adding Anniversary flair to each of our regularly scheduled activities. For example, our partner schools have offered to host members at educational events throughout 2016 and 2017. The idea is to create ways for us to have more significant interaction with our scholars in their own environment. The University of Georgia will host an educational event on March 2. Looking ahead to April 23, 2017, committee members Sylvia Dick and Pat Tuff are creating an anniversary party for members and guests. Mark your calendars now!

Just like in 1992, our anniversary year will be interesting. It will be filled with educational events and celebration as we reflect on our history, celebrate our achievements and look forward to another 25 years of strengthening our Chapter and supporting our scholars while helping keep America competitively strong.





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Newsletter

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