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Newsletter of ARCS® Foundation
Atlanta Chapter
Spring 2026

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. Founded by Mary O'Connor, our Atlanta Chapter was incorporated in 1992.

From the President's Desk:

Our Spring has been full!

Just look at all we've been up to these past few months:

Participating in site visits to each of our academic partner institutions, representing ARCS® Foundation at the American Chemical Society national conference in Atlanta in order to connect with ARCS scholars and scholar alums, attending two amazing Educational Events at SCAD/Atlanta and the Public Safety Training Center, enjoying a very successful May Annual Membership meeting where we heard from a panel of UGA scholars on regenerative medicine, traveling to a fun and enlightening Retreat to the Windy City in April, spending an afternoon with our Georgia Tech scholars sharing pizza and good conversation and, most recently, a luncheon honoring our long-standing members who for over 30 years have supported ARCS Atlanta's mission to support the best and brightest scholars! Whew!



[Continue reading](#)

Gathering with Georgia Tech Scholars:

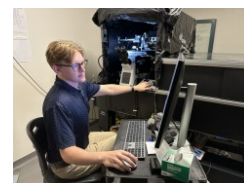
On April 19, 2026, Georgia Tech scholars and several ARCS Atlanta members met for an impromptu gathering at Antico Pizza. Pictured here are Herz Global Impact Scholar Maya Levitan and ARCS Atlanta Chapter President Frances Swensson.



[Click to learn more](#)

ARCS Scholar Nathan Taylor:

Nancy Chambers shared that 2025-2026 has been an action-packed year for ARCS Atlanta Scholar Nathan Taylor. After getting married in June, Nathan received the news that he had been selected as an ARCS Scholar at Georgia Tech which he said was "an amazing way to kick off the academic year!"



[Delve deeper](#)

ARCS Scholar Simone Wien:

It was an hour of pure brilliance! On Monday, March 30, 2026, former ARCS Atlanta Scholar Simone Wien defended her dissertation before a panel of experts. Her dissertation was titled **Reproductive health policy evaluation: study design considerations for operationalizing exposures, defining endpoints, and communicating findings.**



[*Read more about Simone's dissertation*](#)

Scholar Alum Dr. Michael Davis:

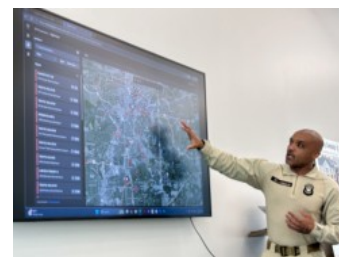
On April 14, 2026, ARCS Atlanta Scholar Alum, Dr. Michael Davis participated in a brilliant ARCS Forward event with current ARCS San Diego Scholar Brandon Vogt. Dr. Michael Davis is Director of the Children's Heart Research and Outcomes Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. He is also a Professor and Associate Chair of Biomedical Engineering at Emory University.



[*Click to read more*](#)

Atlanta Chapter Visits the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center:

The Atlanta Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) is a premier law enforcement training institution that provides comprehensive training. The Center allows sworn officers, civilian responders, firefighters, EMS and E-911 staff to train locally and collaboratively.



[*Find out more about the visit*](#)

Triennial Society Luncheon:

On Thursday, May 21, Mary O'Connor, founding member of ARCS Atlanta, hosted a luncheon at the Piedmont Driving Club for those who have been members of the ARCS Atlanta chapter for at least 30 years, admirably named the Triennial Society.



[*Read more about the Triennial Society Luncheon*](#)

Membership Update:

ARCS Atlanta New Members

At the 2026 Annual Meeting, the membership approved the addition of nine new members. All these women have amazing backgrounds and are committed to the ARCS mission of advancing science in Georgia. We hope everyone will welcome our new members and join us as we celebrate them at our Fall cocktail party. Susan Anderson, Suzanne Donner, Joan Lorden, Kelli Carroll, Dr. Barbara Zehnbauer, Stacy Chick, Ashely Westphal, Dr. Tamika Lesege, and Sarah Ebersole make up the class of 2026.



[*Learn more about our new members*](#)

Retreat to Chicago:

Our Retreat to Chicago was full of science and information and fluctuating spring weather.

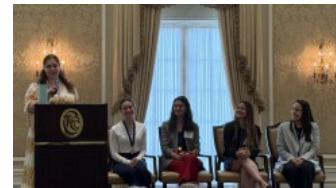
We began with an opening dinner and architectural talk at the iconic Drake Hotel, which was our headquarters for this trip. During dinner, Jane Lepauw detailed the story of Benjamin Marshall, the Chicago-based architect who designed the Drake Hotel and other buildings in and around Chicago. We spent our three days in Chicago experiencing some well-known locations as well as some of the city's unknown spots.



[*Continue reading*](#)

May 2026 ARCS Atlanta Annual Meeting:

The 2026 ARCS Foundation Atlanta Chapter Annual Meeting was held at The Cherokee Town Club on May 6th. The meeting was called to order by Frances Swensson, President, promptly at 10:15 am.



[Click to read more](#)

Future ARCS Atlanta Member:

We are excited to celebrate the arrival of a future ARCS Atlanta member: Evelyn Hadlee Deeter, daughter of Jamie and Nathan Deeter. Jamie has been an ARCS member since 2023 and currently serves on the ARCS Board.



[Click to see the birth announcement](#)

The SCAD Experience:

ARCS Atlanta Explores Creativity, Innovation, and Applied AI

On March 25, forty ARCS Atlanta members enjoyed a private SCAD Experience at SCAD Atlanta, touring the university's thriving Midtown campus in two groups before gathering for a SCAD-hosted luncheon. The visit offered an inspiring look at why SCAD is now ranked Number 1 in the U.S. for Creative Careers and how its programs align closely with the ARCS mission of supporting scientific and technological excellence.



[Click to read more](#)

National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology Visits Georgia:

In March, The State of Georgia had the privilege of hosting commissioners and staff from the [National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology \(NSCEB\)](#) across several sites in Georgia as part of the Commission's **Biotech Across America Roadshow**.



[Click to read more](#)

Welcome ARCS Atlanta 2026-2027 Board of Directors



ARCS Foundation Atlanta chapter is honored to announce our 2026-2027 Board of Directors. We would like to send a special thank you to these women for their dedicated service to our chapter. The 2026-2027 Board of Directors will begin their roles on July 1, 2026. ARCS Atlanta would like to express our gratitude to the women who served on the 2025-2026 Board of Directors.

2026-2027 ARCS Atlanta Board of Directors

Executive Board

President Frances Swensson

President Elect Ann Taylor*

VP Administration Betsy Kazazian

VP Communications Leslie Petter*

VP Education Ellen Adair Wyche

VP Finance/Treasurer Eileen Higgins

VP Funds Development Maggie Joslin

VP MembershipCarolynn Cooper

Co-VP University Relations Ashley Cornelison & Margaret Turk

Recording Secretary Laura Gruber*

Committee Chairs

Assistant Treasurers Lyn Asbill & Janis Henry*

Directory Erin Boorn*

Internal Communications Chair Pace Parsons

Name Tags Chair Kristin Gibbs

Newsletter Editor Anne Gieryn

Newsletter Publisher Jamie Deeter

Public Relations Chair Joanne Chesler Gross

Public Webpage Chair Meredith Carpenter*

2028 Retreat Co-Chairs Patty Reid* & Mary Watson*

Scholar Alumni Chair Mary Jo Peed

2026 Scholar Awards Celebration Chair Angelle Hamilton*

Scholar Awards Celebration Chair Elect Suzanne Sullivan*

Scholars Chairs Meg Heyer & Suzy Wasserman

Social Media Chair Erin Dasher*

Speakers Chair s Barbara Bing Pliner

Special Events Chair Betts Love*

Special Events Chair Elect Suzette Brading*

Website Chair Pat Leake

Website Chair Elect Sallie Topfl

Appointed by the President:

Assistant to the President Lee Doyle

Nominating Chair Kristin Gibbs*

Parliamentarian Maureen Lobb

Appointed by the Endowment Committee:

Endowment Fund Chair Lisa Bankoff

*Indicates new person for the position

ARCS® FOUNDATION ATLANTA CALENDAR:

Old Board/New Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 10 AM

Host: Patty Reid

Funds Development Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 2:00 PM

Funds Development Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 2:00 PM

Funds Development Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 2:00 PM

Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 10:00 AM

Host: Suzanne Sullivan

New Member Orientation

Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 12:00 PM

Host:Carolynn Cooper

Fall Cocktail Party

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Host: Suzette Brading

Funds Development Meeting

October 13, 2026, 2:00 PM

Board Meeting (Hybrid or Zoom)

October 14, 2026, 4:00 PM

Scholar Awards Celebration

Wednesday, November 11, 2026, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Piedmont Driving Club

Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 9, 2026, 10:00 AM

Host: Leslie Petter

Connect with ARCS Atlanta on
social media:



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