



ARCS Pittsburgh: Board Brief

January 2016 “When you have scientifically illiterate adults, you have undermined the very fabric of what makes a nation wealthy and strong.” Neil DeGrasse Tyson

January 2016 Board Meeting Focus on our Scholars: Since 2004 we have exceeded \$1.6 Million in cumulative awards to over 100 ARCS Pittsburgh Scholars!

At each January board meeting, we determine how many new scholars we can support in the upcoming academic year (fall 2016). Our university partners use the ARCS awards to recruit the best-and-brightest prospective PhD students to their various ARCS approved programs/departments. This year we approved 9 new scholars for the three-year awards, bringing our total supported scholars this fall at CMU to 14, at Pitt to 13, and Penn State 2. With these new awards, our cumulative total commitment to CMU, our first university partner, nears the \$1 Million mark (\$917,500) and Pitt exceeds the half-million mark (\$560,000). We THANK all our donor-members, our corporate supporters, and the many ARCS members whose volunteering makes this all possible!

Our **ARCS Scholar Celebration** (replacing the former Scholar Showcase) will focus on ALL of our scholars and will be a terrific party held at the **Priory, April 12, 2016**. Doors open at 6:00pm for a first-of-its-kind scholar auction. Be alert for your invitations. ARCS friends will also enjoy it this year!



dedicated volunteer Sarah Jones, as well as Susan Farrell, an exceptionally knowledgeable Aviary docent. The birds were particularly frisky, so we saw the enormous 10-foot wingspans of the Aviary’s special condors (larger than eagles). Dr. Pilar Fish, Director of Veterinary Medicine, provided us with a memorable



ARCS Educational Programs

Our National Aviary Behind-the-Scenes tour on a snowy January day was not only well attended, but all agreed it will be on the list of “best” ARCS educational events ever. Our guide included one of our members,



lecture on the Aviary’s avian hospital, the innovations in avian medicine stemming from their research, and the unique role that the National Aviary plays in the United States. Did you ever wonder what happens to geriatric birds? Dr. Pilar and her staff provide a caring retirement location within the avian hospital.

Involving New ARCS Members

Barbara Granito, Planning Committee Chair, will connect each ARCS new member with a board member and this group will plan the Annual Planning Meeting, held each year to solicit input from all members to target priority areas. This year the Planning Meeting will be combined with the Annual Meeting to which ALL members are invited. Don’t miss it this year: May 24, 2016, at the Schenley Café early evening. **It is not too late to become a New Member! Please share with friends and colleagues.**

Finance and Fund Development: Donations from members are slightly up this year (we have more new members this year) but corporate donations are down from prior year. We will be addressing this in the upcoming year. Our dues to ARCS National have increased slightly, which we will also need to address in future budgeting and minimal “dues” (donations) from our donor-members.

Membership: The membership goal for this year has been 120. We have 113 paid members as of the end of January 2016. Since ALL of our members are donors, we prefer to call our members our “donor-members.” Thank you!

University Relations: Chair, Karen Slevin, and our new CMU donor-relations liaison, Dani Henderson, arranged a terrific meeting with the CMU deans involved with ARCS scholars. Pam Meadowcroft, ARCS co-president, joined the group as Karen brought our university partners up to date on our policies and award status and we learned from our partners how the awards are being made, their views on timing and amounts of awards, and ways we can assist each other going into the future. We all agree it was a very successful site visit.

Program-education: May 5, 2016 evening, visit to the Drug Discovery Institute with a lecture by Dr. Lans Taylor, Director. He will describe how his institute’s research using the human liver cell “chip” is revolutionizing drug development for liver diseases. This area of research, using “organs-on-chips,” is in its infancy, but the idea is to recreate the smallest functional unit of an organ in a micro-environment that closely imitates the human body. This new technology may produce a more accurate picture of how drugs will impact the real human organ than currently using animal models. Because this is so innovative, be sure to open your Paperless Post invitation when it arrives, since you won’t want to miss it. The June education program is still evolving and could include a tour of the Sherman and Joyce Bowie Scott Hall (CMU’s new institute for energy innovation) or a tour of the new Energy Innovation Center spectacularly overlooking downtown Pittsburgh.

ARCS National Alumni Hall of Fame: One of our ARCS Members/founders AND a former ARCS Scholar has been selected by ARCS National for induction into the ARCS Alumni Scholar Hall of Fame! Criteria include science innovation; discovery that has potential to improve lives and our economy; peer recognition; leadership in an organization that has significant impact on the U.S. economy; inspiring and/or mentoring future scientists; and promoting greater awareness of the importance of national scientific competitiveness. ARCS chapters nominate candidates citing how the proposed candidate best meets these criteria. The national selection committee agreed that our applicant was the most deserving of this prestigious award: **Jeanne VanBriesen, Ph.D.**, the Duquesne Light Company Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Director of the Center for Water Quality in Urban Environmental Systems (Water QUEST) at Carnegie Mellon University. More will be shared in coming months. We are thrilled for Jeanne and our Chapter. See Jeanne’s career highlights:

<https://www.cmu.edu/cee/people/faculty/vanbriesen.html> and <http://www.cmu.edu/energy/energy-experts/alpha-list/jeanne-vanbriesen.html>

IMPORTANT DATES UPDATES

March 17, 2016, Thursday, 8:30am Board Meeting at CMU’s Mellon Institute

April 12, 2016, Tuesday, doors open 6:00pm, Scholar Celebration, The Priory Grand Hall (free valet parking): Exciting new venue with a novel way of interacting with our scholars! A community-wide event for anyone enthusiastic about cutting edge science and technology. Look for your invitations soon.

May 5, 2016, Thursday evening, Dr. Lans Taylor, Drug Discovery Institute, evening lecture on liver “chip” – using technology for drug discoveries.

May 24, 2016, Tuesday early evening. Planning Meeting and Annual Meeting combined, for ALL members, Schenley Park Visitors Center (Café).

June/summer Tour of CMU’s Scott Hall, center for energy innovation or the Energy Innovation Center on Bedford Ave.