



ARCS Pittsburgh: Board Brief

August 2016:

With our awards to our partner universities this year, to date ARCS Pittsburgh has committed more than \$1.6 million to 113 outstanding Ph.D. scholars in our region.

August 2016 Board Meeting: Setting goals for our new year.

Our Scholars: Get to Know Them! Attend CMU's Donor Appreciation Event September 28.

Our new Finance Director, Linda Thier, continues the strong financial leadership of her recent predecessors, Angie Maher and Missy Unkovic, orienting all board members to our budget and financial projections for the year. Our scholar awards are made each January, so that our partner universities (Pitt and CMU this January) can attract the best-and-the-brightest Ph.D. students to their nationally ranked research programs for the following fall. The awards, \$15,000 over three years for each eligible scholar, are "in the bank" years prior to determining how many scholars we can fund. Thus, we never commit to more awards than we absolutely can fund. But without replenishing the fund, the number of scholars we can support diminishes. This year we have a goal of growing membership to 120 members, securing 6 new Named Award Member-Donors, and pursuing one new corporate Named Award. If we meet these goals, we will replenish our Scholar Fund and be able to continue to support about 30 scholars each year.

Thus, we encourage all of our members from last year and former members to renew membership before 12/31/16, engage with our scholars and other members, and enjoy the benefits of our programs.



By April 2016, our ARCS scholars reported that they were already demonstrating science achievements. Of our 31 scholars, several have already contributed to publications in respected science journals. They report this with enthusiasm, "I just got my first article published this year!"

Nearly all report receiving additional financial awards and prestigious recognition. Nearly one-third received a National Science Foundation Fellowship (NSF) or honorable mention. NSF Fellows receive a three-year annual stipend of \$34,000 along with tuition funds. NSF has a long history of funding outstanding scholars who have gone on to being our country's future science leaders. Other ARCS scholars from last year received similar fellowships, such as the National Defense and Science and Engineering Fellowship. We have a Presidential Fellowship student, two Steinbrenner Institute Fellows, one National Academy of Science Ambassador, a Microsoft Graduate Women's Scholar, an Asia Rice Foundation Scholar. One of our students reported already receiving a patent.

One scholar, who considered going pro in table tennis, continues to impress on a local team. Several are avid gardeners, beer brew-masters (giving workshops at their universities) or musicians (one is a free-lance French Horn player).

Our well-rounded scholars are rapidly becoming science-leaders. Use this year to get to know more about their areas of research as well as about them as people. Attend the Donor Appreciation Event and meet them all: September 28, 6:00pm-8:00pm Posner Center Lobby CMU. **RSVP before September 19 to Dani Henderson, CMU, assistant director donor relations, dhenders@andrew.cmu.edu, 412.268.4014.**

Membership: Our membership committee (Linda Burke, Chair) has held two membership events, one at Linda's home and the other at Carol Heppner's. These events are a great way for a small group of prospective members (4-8) to get to know more members of ARCS, more about ARCS and to meet with scholars (both events had 2 scholars) in a comfortable home setting. Both times those in attendance signed on to become new members! PLEASE consider holding a membership event at your home. Linda and the committee (including the whole board) are eager to help and make it fun for you and your friends/colleagues. Contact Linda if you would like more information: **Linda Burke, 412.688.8411, tfb5650@aol.com.**

University Relations: Karen Slevin, Chair, reported that this year we will begin looking into expanding the approved programs/departments in which new scholars may be considered. The process requires that a program/department be top ranked in the country in research, meet other qualifications, plus is approved by the science advisors of our national organization, ARCS National. We have at least two ARCS Pittsburgh members who are eager to see research areas of their special interest begin to be considered. If you have special attachment to areas of science research, you may want to become more involved with ARCS Pittsburgh.

Programs: Victoria Wellstead, a new member of ARCS, has jumped right into a leadership role by serving as our Program Chair. The events that she has scheduled or is working on are:

October 13, 2017: Villages of Shadyside Clubhouse, 6:00pm-8:00pm presentation by Dr. Rich McGough, Chief of musculoskeletal oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, on osseointegration (the functional connection between living bone and the surface of a load-bearing artificial implant). Dr. McGough's work on mind-controlled prosthetics is groundbreaking for those who lose limbs due to cancer. With his work, the robotic arm attaches to an implant inserted directly into the bone and nerve reassignment surgery then allows brain signals to direct motion. Be sure to rsvp when you get your Paperless Post invitation.

November 2016: Presentation by a Pitt Professor on a technology subject.

February 2017: Uber tour (to be confirmed)

March 2017: Dr. Francis Hillman, Director of the Cancer Center Integrative Oncology will present on her research and practice of Holistic Cancer Treatment, managing mind, body, and spirit to improve symptoms and quality of life.

April 4, 2017: Scholar Celebration at the Priory. **PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

May 2017: Tour of the new Frick Environmental Center. The new center is opening in September to much anticipation. The building was engineered to meet the highest standards of sustainability (the Living Building Challenge and Platinum certification for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Solar panels will power all electrical systems; it will use 40% less energy than other buildings of its size in this region; and it will filter and treat all wastewater onsite. Come and enjoy this gorgeous addition to Frick Park.

IMPORTANT DATES

For those members who at the April Scholar Celebration 2016 Auction bid on and won tickets to the special event, *Music, Appetizers and Wine Pairings*, September 18, Sunday, 3:00pm at Pam Meadowcroft's home. Michelle Heusser, ARCS Scholar, neuroscientist and musician, will provide a concert in the garden.

September 28, 6:00pm-8:00pm. Donor Appreciation Event hosted by CMU. Posner Center. Join us for good food, great presentation by the new dean and memorable presentations by our scholars. Call or email Dani Henderson, dhenders@andrew.cmu.edu, 412.268.4104

The program dates are above.

May 18, 2017. Annual Members Meeting.