

# ARCS

## ARCS PITTSBURGH EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2016-2017

### Message from the Co-Presidents

We have loved leading this dedicated group of over 100 women philanthropists as they help to strengthen science and technology in America. As an all-volunteer organization, ARCS Pittsburgh relies solely on the passion and commitment of its members to achieve our goals, and they always deliver. This year was no different—we funded 31 scholars, we learned about topics as varied as green buildings and the science of restoring rare frescos (in Pittsburgh!), and we had a great time at our social events.

“The honor of an ARCS Award is very important, and the scholars love the interaction, friendship and connection to Pittsburgh that come with it.”

**Alberta M. Sbragia, PhD**  
Vice Provost for  
Graduate Studies  
University of Pittsburgh

In the face of shrinking federal funding for scientific research, the fifteen ARCS chapters across the county maintain their staunch commitment to raise unrestricted dollars to support the next generation of breakthroughs that can change the world for the better.

We can't wait for the next year, and will strive for even more funding, more learning and more fun!

***Yours in ARCS,***

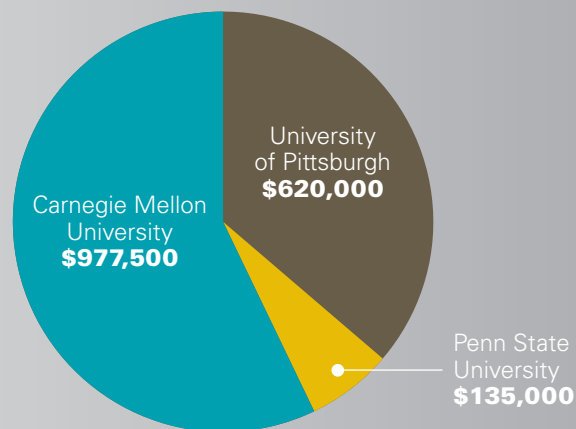
**Pamela Meadowcroft** and  
**Kathy Testoni**

### Mission and History

**ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Foundation** advances science and technology in the United States by providing financial awards to academically outstanding U.S. citizens completing degrees in science, engineering, and medical research.

**The Pittsburgh Chapter** began in November 2002, with 15 women committed to the mission. An initial relationship was established with Carnegie Mellon University College of Engineering. In 2007, a partnership was established with the University of Pittsburgh first with the School of Medicine and then the Bioengineering Department within the Swanson School of Engineering. Support for both schools has since expanded into other areas with great success.

Amount committed through  
fiscal year 2019-2020  
for scholar awards by  
university: **\$1,732,500**



## 2016-2017 Donors

ARCS Foundation-Pittsburgh greatly appreciates the generosity of all our donors. The following listing reflects support in 2016-2017.

### ARCS NAMED AWARD DONORS

Many individuals, foundations and corporations contributed full or partial funding to sponsor a three-year \$15,000 Named Award for a scholar.

### FULL SCHOLAR AWARDS

Alicia Avery and Virgil D. Gligor  
Chapter Award in honor of Jeanne Berdik  
Chapter Award in honor of Jerry and Maureen Cohon  
Susan and Roy Dorrance  
Sheila and Milton Fine through The Fine Foundation  
Leslie and Hans Fleischner  
Lockheed Martin Corporation  
PPG Industries  
The Roche Foundation  
Catharine and John Ryan in honor of Jeanne Berdik

### HALF AWARDS

Jeanne and Dick Berdik  
Linda and Timothy Burke, Jr.  
Ann Fromm and Bill Payne  
Susan and Michael Harter  
Becky and Tom McGough

Susan and Chris Pappas  
Missy and John Unkovic

### THIRD AWARDS

Karen Auclair  
Charlotte and Henry Beukema  
Sue and Mark Breedlove  
Leslie Dunn  
Kate Freed and Jack Brice  
Carol and Richard Heppner  
Sarah and Craig Jones  
Jennifer and James Martin  
Pamela Meadowcroft and James G. Holland  
Margaret V. Ragni, MD and Fredrick L. Porkolab, MD  
Millie and Gary Ryan  
Carol and Paul Stockman  
Thea and Dick Stover  
Kathleen M. and Louis Testoni  
Elizabeth T. Wainwright  
Janet Wood  
Maureen Young

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE DONORS (\$1,500+)

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Annie Rivers  
Mary Ann Templeton

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE DONORS (\$1,000+)

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Cynthia Cooley  
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Cecile Springer  
Linda Thier  
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Caroline Wentling

### CUM LAUDE DONORS (\$600+)

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Margaret Joy  
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Judith Matheny  
Carol McCague  
Janice Meade  
Elizabeth Mertz  
Carol Moyer  
Loraine Murphey  
Joan Nilson  
Connie Phillips  
Susan Portnoy  
Lucy Rawson  
Merrilee Salmon  
Debbie Scully  
Diana Senan  
Joan Stephans  
Maria Townsend  
Victoria Wellstead Murphy  
Audrey Zerkovic

### Scholar Alumnae Members

Emily Elliott  
Jeanne VanBriesen

### Scholar Celebration

Special thanks to Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for their sponsorship of the 2017 Scholar Celebration.

## The road from Rotator Cuff Research to a Job

**Matt Miller's** new work is vital. Just after receiving his PhD in bioengineering at Pitt, he accepted a job teaching Physics to a new generation of high school students.

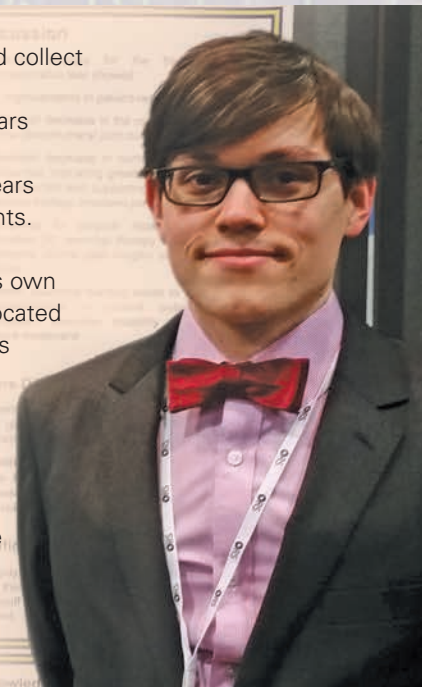
"I discovered that I liked the teaching part of my PhD work even more than the research part," said Matt, who just moved to Nashua, New Hampshire. "And I liked Worcester Academy because they focus on active, hands-on learning, which students need to learn for college."

During five years at Pitt in Dr. Rich Debski's lab, Matt researched rotator cuff shoulder injuries and which ones would rip further. Their approach was three-pronged:

- Study patients with rotator cuff injuries and collect data from before and after PT.
- Manipulate cadaver tissue to see which tears would grow.
- Create computer models to predict how tears would increase, based on those experiments.

They learned which tear would do well on its own and which required PT. They learned that if located in the center of the tendon, the tear was less likely to grow, but if located toward the front edge, it had a greater risk of growing.

"ARCS money helped me so much," Matt said. "It allowed me to go to conferences that accepted my abstracts. One conference focused on 'active teaching,' which really helped me determine my future."



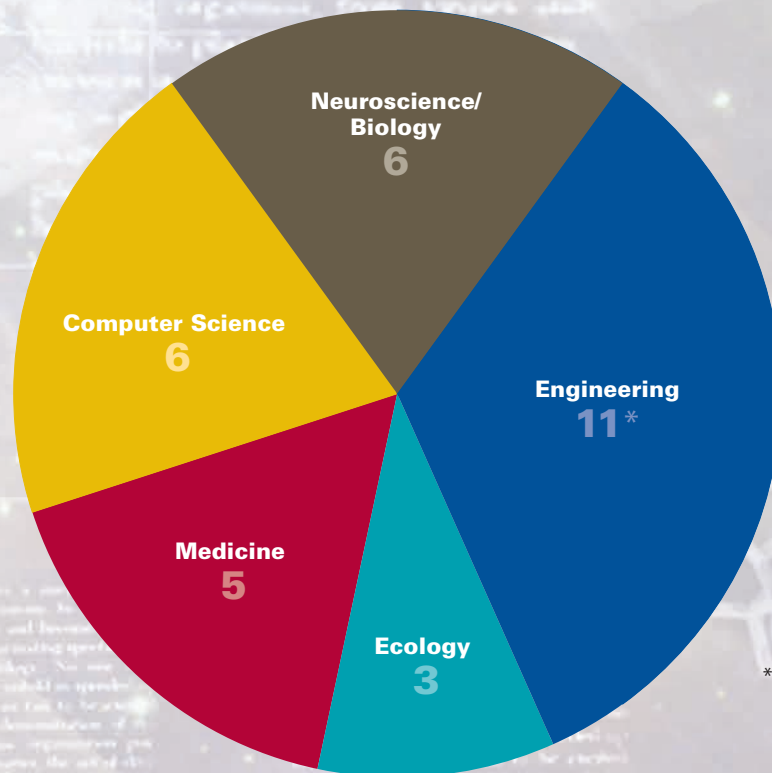
## Total number of students supported since 2002



**“The ARCS Award is both a recruiting tool for top students and a reward for those who earn it.”**

### **Bob Frederking**

*Associate Dean for Doctoral Programs, School of Computer Science  
Carnegie Mellon University*



## Scholars by Field of Study 2016-2017

\* 5 regular engineering  
6 bioengineering

## Peer Presents: A Learning Tool? A Gift? Or Both

“We’ve built a peer feedback system,” said **Amy Shannon**, third year ARCS scholar at CMU, “a web page that uses a Facebook-like system for interactive learning.” Called Peer Presents, it allows a student talking to other students about his or her work to receive live feedback for later review. The presenter can even list questions for the listeners to guide that feedback.

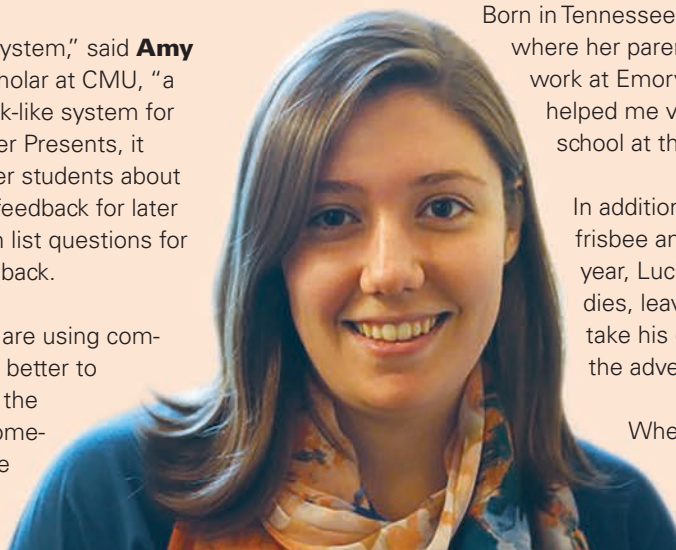
“The students in the audience are using computers anyway,” said Amy. “It’s better to have them actively engaged in the presenter’s work than doing something else. The presenters were

already using index cards, so the digital system makes that part easier, too. Even the task of reading student handwriting is gone.”

Born in Tennessee, Amy grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, where her parents still live, and did her undergraduate work at Emory University in Atlanta. “ARCS money helped me visit my parents, and my fiancé in med school at the University of Kentucky,” Amy said.

In addition to Peer Presents, Amy plays ultimate frisbee and produces an annual student play. This year, *Lucky Stiff* relates the story of a man who dies, leaving directions in his will that his nephew take his dead body on a grand adventure. On stage, the adventure unfolds.

When she finishes her PhD, Amy hopes to become a faculty member herself.



**OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017**

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Missy Unkovic

Beth Wainwright

Victoria Wellstead Murphy



“Membership in ARCS is a unique opportunity to invest in future American leadership in science and technology. In addition, ARCS is a wonderful social network and its educational programs keep members engaged.”

**Victoria Wellstead Murphy**  
Member since 2015

**Of Special Note**

Congratulations to Jeanne VanBriesen, Ph.D., P.E., on her induction into the 2016 ARCS Alumni Hall of Fame.

The Alumni Hall of Fame honors ARCS Scholar Alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of science and to increase our nation’s scientific competitiveness. Now a member of ARCS Pittsburgh, Jeanne has conducted important research on water quality that impacts local, state, national, and international policy and engineering practices. She says of her award:

*“ARCS Foundation had a profound effect on my graduate career and my confidence. Knowing that an organization like ARCS recognized my potential and now wants to reward the years of effort I have put into science has strengthened my resolve to work on critical problems and make a difference in the world.”*

**Financial Summary 2016-2017**

