

# ARCS

## ARCS PITTSBURGH NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021-22

### President's Letter

Dear ARCS Foundation Pittsburgh Members,

**H**appy holidays! As we look towards a new year and wonder how this one has passed so quickly, it's common to take stock. For a second time, we look back at a year that offered continuing challenges at a time when we were hoping that we'd be able to return to normality. For ARCS Foundation Pittsburgh, "normal" would mean an in-person Donor Appreciation event hosted by one of our two university partners and in-person programs where we're able to hear about cutting-edge research going on in our region.

Feeling somewhat like Charlie Brown looking hopefully as Lucy holds onto the football, I maintain hope that we'll soon be able to start inching back towards some of those things that we miss. In May, we're holding an in-person, outdoor event at the Tent at Schenley Plaza that will bring members and scholars together. Before then, we will have some opportunities to get together via Zoom and participate in at least one virtual program highlighting some promising scientific research. (More details on these events elsewhere in this newsletter.)

**“Even while restricted to the virtual world, it's easy to see that our scholars are still some of the best and brightest. The quality of their research has not been diminished by the pandemic nor has their need for or appreciation of our support.”**

jobs are necessary to support our mission and keep ARCS Pittsburgh chugging along. We're taking a long-term approach as more members commit to endowed awards, a legacy which ensures that we continue to support scholars into the distant future.

Even while restricted to the virtual world, it's easy to see that our scholars are still some of the best and brightest. The quality of their research has not been diminished by the pandemic nor has their need for or appreciation of our support. While none of us needed convincing, the pandemic has demonstrated the desperate need for the kind of research our scholars are working on now as graduate students and the research they will conduct over the course of their careers.

### Carol Stockman, PhD

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## Something to Remember You By

Jeanne Berdik, Endowment Committee Chair

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At an October 26 dinner hosted by the University of Pittsburgh to honor current Pitt Endowment Donors and to encourage other ARCS Foundation members to become Endowment partners, I likened the establishment of our endowment funds for ARCS Pittsburgh to the creation of our personal retirement funds.

Just as we all develop plans to replace our personal income when we are no longer working, an organization needs to plan for the loss of some annual income sources as people move away or move on. It is a sad fact that a significant percentage of our original members in 2003 are no longer part of the organization. This normal transition in membership is to be expected and we certainly celebrate all the new members who have made a commitment to support the advancement of scientific research in America and specifically in Pittsburgh. Until we created the Endowment initiative in 2018-19, however, we operated based solely on annual income from our current members. No matter what your previous commitment to the mission might have been – if you left us so did that source of scholar support. This kind of “hand to mouth” approach doesn’t work for each of us in our personal lives and it is not a smart way to run a railroad or any other organization!

Since 2018, we have established five endowed awards at Carnegie Mellon and one at Pitt. These six endowments

involve 13 of our members and total \$690,000. In follow-up to the October dinner at Pitt, we are finalizing an additional 4-way partnership on an endowment and have offers from two other members for 3/4 of a second one. Finalization of these pending commitments in the next few months will bring us to a total of **8 Endowments – 5 at CMU and 3 at Pitt for a**

**total of \$920,000 and at least 20 of our members.** For those non-math-oriented folks, that’s very close to a million dollars in perpetual scholar support and approximately 1/5 of our membership!!!

Partnering in the creation of an Endowment is straightforward. And we need a partner or two **RIGHT now** to complete the proposed endowment at Pitt. If you are intrigued by the idea of leaving a legacy while simultaneously helping to create a “retirement fund” for ARCS Pittsburgh, we can match you with other partners to establish a complete Endowed Award based on the amount you are comfortable pledging per year over a five-year period. It’s the ultimate jigsaw puzzle!!! We hope many of you will be part of it.

*Note: Pitt has posted its own article lauding ARCS Pittsburgh and explaining more about the partnership. You can see the article and*

*more photos at <https://www.giveto.pitt.edu/s/1729/18/interior-giving.aspx?sid=1729&gid=2&pgid=5096&cid=13856&ecid=13856&cid=0&calpgid=2135&calcid=3585>*



*Megan Kazakoff, ARCS Pittsburgh's first endowed scholar at Pitt, speaking about how her ARCS Scholar Award has expanded her learning opportunities.*

*Photo by University of Pittsburgh, reprinted with permission.*

*Endowment donors Paul & Carol Stockman, Linda Burke, Anne & Jack Crawford, and Becky & Tom McGough with their endowed scholar, Megan Kazakoff. Photo by University of Pittsburgh, reprinted with permission.*





## Our 1st-year Scholars at Work and Play

They Studied at Universities Across The Country

14





## We're Coming Together

### Nationally....

ARCS National will be putting on two ARCS Forward Zooms in coming months. The speakers are ARCS Scholars, and the moderators are members of different chapters. ARCS National will send out Zoom links closer to the times, but mark your calendars now for these interesting sessions.

#### **February 15, 2022 12:00 Noon ET Machine Learning and Algorithms**

Jadie Adams - Utah Chapter  
Nick Heller - Minnesota Chapter  
Biraj Pandey - Seattle Chapter  
Moderator - Rebecca McNeilly - Metro Washington

#### **May 10, 2022 12:00 Noon ET Neurological Diseases**

Amanda McQuade - Orange County Chapter  
Chantel Charlebois - Utah Chapter  
Moderator - Kathern Plenge - Phoenix

### Via Social Media....

We have platforms set up on all social media now. Currently we are re-posting interesting content from ARCS National, but we would love to start getting content from ARCS Pittsburgh scholars and members. Below are our account names on each platform. Check them out and start posting and "liking" and sharing:

Instagram: [@arcsfoundationpgh](https://www.instagram.com/arcsfoundationpgh)

Twitter: [@ARCSpgh](https://twitter.com/ARCSpgh)

Facebook: [@ARCSpgh](https://www.facebook.com/ARCSpgh)

LinkedIn: [ARCS Foundation Pittsburgh Chapter](https://www.linkedin.com/company/arcs-foundation-pittsburgh-chapter)

### And—best of all—IN PERSON!

**Save the date for our first in-person event in two years, scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, at 5:00 PM—a get-together for our ARCS Scholars and members in the tent at beautiful Schenley Plaza in Oakland,** where we can be safely out of doors but also under cover in case of rain. More details to follow!



**Also upcoming throughout 2022:** Pam Meadowcraft and Kathy Testoni are working on a partnership with Eye and Ear Institute that would include presentations on vision restoration and on interdisciplinary work to achieve positive outcomes for head and neck cancer patients and tours of the creates Labs at Eye and Ear Hospital and the to-be-opened UPMC Vision and Rehabilitation Tower at Mercy Hospital.

