



ARCS-PITTSBURGH NEWSLETTER

www.arcsfoundation.org/pittsburgh

Winter 2010

Advancing Science in America®

The 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. The Pittsburgh Chapter has the additional focus of increasing the number of doctoral scholars pursuing advanced scientific study and research in the Western Pennsylvania region.

The Pittsburgh Chapter

The Pittsburgh Chapter, chartered in 2003, is one of the newest of the 17 chapters. In a very short time, the Chapter has already made a sizable financial commitment to its first two partner universities, Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. A third partnership with Penn State University is now underway with funding that began in the fall of 2010.

Scholar Orientation

On September 11, Kathy Testoni, University Relations Scholar Liaison, and her husband Lou hosted an ARCS scholar orientation/picnic in their idyllic backyard for first-year scholars. ARCS began the orientation program last year to educate the scholars about the ARCS mission, scholar expectations and, most importantly, to build community among the ARCS scholars.



Millie Ryan, Carol Stockman, Kathy Testoni, Maureen Young and Marilyn Bruschi introduced the scholars to their responsibilities to ARCS beyond what their individual academic advisors had already told them. Scholars already knew:

- They enter with at least a 3.5 GPA and maintain it.
- They are full time graduate students
- They remain on a PhD track
- They are US citizens

"Then we tell them what to expect from ARCS," said Millie, who added, "We always feed the students when we gather them together. Kathy and Lou made sausages with pepper and onions, I did the cupcakes and the rest of the committee filled in with their own specialties."

Millie explained that two must-attend events for the scholars are 1) the Donor Relations event in September, when all ARCS members meet them, and 2) the Scholar Showcase in March, when third-year scholars display their work boards/posters. Beyond those two events, scholars are strongly encouraged to participate in Tech Council activities that Maureen Young plans, and the Thank-You-Note Party

planned around a meal after the first of the year.

Millie also distributed materials to the scholars such as the scholar biographical profile; a calendar of what they need to do and when; instructions on how to register on the national web site; where their checks will be sent in Fall and Spring; a list of first, second and third year scholars; and a trifold describing ARCS.

"We brought zip lock bags and sent scholars away with goodies," concluded Millie, adding, "Even more importantly, they left knowing new colleagues and friends whose goals were the same - to make a difference in the advancement of science in America."



Donor Appreciation Reception



On September 22nd, President and Mrs. Cohon graciously hosted the 2010 Donor Appreciation Reception at Carnegie Mellon University's University Center. The

pre-event tour of the University Center Mural was a big hit! Everyone seemed to enjoy the new format, which allowed us to spend more time talking on a one-on-one basis with our scholars.



Special thanks to CMU, Debbie Meyers and Susan Tate Hiser for making this event enjoyable and successful.



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Board of Directors
2010-2011**

- Carol Stockman, *President*
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- Kathy Testoni
- Missy Unkovic
- Maureen Young
- Janet Wood

*Either Ex Officio or appointed and, therefore, are not elected by the membership

**Communications
Committee
2010-2011**

- Chair: Debbie Scully
- Co-Chair: Ann Fromm-Cotton

Committee Members

- Carol Heppner
- Debbi Linhart

*A special thanks to
Kellie Anderson and Pitt for
printing this newsletter.*

Message from the Chapter President

Dear Members,

As I'm sure you will agree, we've had a fantastic program year thus far. (Kudos to Janet Wood and Carol Anderson.) We started off with our Donor Appreciation Event in September that was graciously hosted by President and Mrs. Cohon. Among the highlights of this always enjoyable event was the opportunity to hear Chase Butler and Prince Awuah, two of our third-year scholars, speak about what receiving an ARCS Scholar Award has meant to them. In addition to the financial support, for which they were grateful, they each also spoke about what it means to know that there is a community of 155 ladies who recognize the importance of their research and are genuinely interested in what they are doing.

Before Thanksgiving, we had a great program at CMU's Human-Computer Interaction Institute. After Justine Cassell (the Director of the Institute) gave a very engaging talk about the purpose of the Institute, we also had the pleasure of listening to Stephen Oney, another third-year ARCS Scholar. Stephen spoke about his research to develop a more user-friendly programming language. Programs where we're able to hear one of our scholars speak are always particularly compelling because it's so exciting to hear about the future that they are helping to create. It's because of this vision of the future that we all support the ARCS Foundation. Similarly, our financial commitment to our ARCS scholars represents an investment in this future. So, I'd like to thank you once again for making that commitment.

In March, we will have our Scholar Showcase. This promises to be a wonderful evening where we will have a more in-depth opportunity to hear about our scholars' research projects in a convivial setting. The evening is being designed to appeal to a broader audience and we are hoping to sell tickets to a number of other individuals, in addition to our members. Anyone who is fascinated by scientific and technological advances should have a great time. Carol Caroselli and Arlene Sokolow have recently sent out letters about the Host Committee for this event. Please give serious consideration to joining the Host Committee for this event. We can all help by coming up with lists of names of friends who might enjoy receiving an invitation. (Also, we are always looking for ARCS members who would like to be more actively involved in the organization!)

If you haven't already, you will soon receive my year-end appeal letter. Please give it careful consideration as you plan your year-end charitable giving. Our fundraising has lagged behind our goals this year. We would hate to have to scale back our scholar support. At the minimum \$400 contribution level (of which \$100 goes to national and chapter dues), it takes 50 members to create one three-year scholar award. Therefore, we rely heavily on additional member donations to fund our scholar awards.

Finally, I would like to wish each of you a wonderful and joyous holiday season with your families and loved ones.

Carol Stockman, President

Al Fresco Lunches

On July 21 last summer, Carol Stockman hosted an *al fresco* lunch for ARCS scholars and members to get to know one another, and on August 25, Barbara Granito hosted another.

"They were relaxed and informal get-togethers in gorgeous homes," said Charlotte Beukema, then program co-chair, who added that both lunches occurred at East End locations easily accessible to the scholars.

ARCS members brought their own

lunches, and the hostesses provided desserts as well as beverages such as iced tea, lemonade and sparkling waters.

By the end of one of the *al frescos*, two scholars had discovered that they lived within three blocks of each other – a small example of collegiality the luncheons are meant to promote.





Get to Know Our First-Year Scholars

Please welcome our twelve first-year ARCS scholars. They come from all over the United States and represent a diversity of scientific interests and extra-curricular activities.

Carnegie Mellon University



STEPHEN SPAGNOL from Wexford, PA
B.S., Pennsylvania State University
Department of Chemical Engineering
Research: Genome-scale metabolic modeling and engineering
Interests: Pittsburgh sports, friends and reading



MICHAEL McCANN from St. Joseph, MI
B.S., University of Michigan
Department of Biomedical Engineering
Research: Computational neural engineering
Interests: video games, cooking and guitar



ANDREW DeYOUNG from Murrysville, PA
B.S., Carnegie Mellon University
Department of Chemistry
Research: Physical chemistry
Interests: classic movies and reading



MANYA SLEEPER from Portland, ME
B.A., Dartmouth College
School of Computer Science
Research: usable security and privacy
Interests: cooking, reading, kayaking and hiking



JASON TSAY from Plano, TX
B.E., University of Texas at Austin
School of Computer Science
Research: software architecture and pervasive computing
Interests: martial arts, cooking and movies

University of Pittsburgh



MEGAN JAMIOLKOWSKI from Pittsburgh, PA
B.S., The Catholic University of America
Department of Bioengineering
Research: cardiovascular system biocompatibility with a focus on platelet activation
Interests: music, movies and reading



TYLER TARR from Adrian, PA
B.S., University of Pittsburgh
Center for Neuroscience
Research: presynaptic nicotine acetylcholine receptors at the neuromuscular junction
Interests: sports and having fun



KATHERINE HARRIS from Akron, IN
B.S., Purdue University
School of Medicine
Research: host pathogen interaction in microbiology and immunology
Interests: reading, camping, hiking and cooking



ANNY CACERES from New York, NY
B.S., SUNY at Buffalo
School of Medicine
Research: pathology and treatment of overactive bladder, interstitial cystitis/painful bladder syndrome and chronic pain in general
Interests: cooking, movies, bowling and pool



Continued on page 4



Participating University Fun Facts

CMU

Established: 1900
 Type: Private University
 President: Jared L. Cohon
 Faculty: 1,368
 Undergraduates: 5,705
 Postgraduates: 5,265
 Campus: Urban
 Athletics: NCAA Division III
 Nickname: Tartans
 Mascot: Scottie Dog
 Motto: "My heart is in the work." Andrew Carnegie

PITT

Established: 1787
 Type: State-related
 Chancellor: Mark Nordenberg
 Faculty: 4,686
 Undergraduates: 18,031
 Postgraduates: 10,297
 Campus: Urban
 Athletics: NCAA Division I
 Nickname: Panthers
 Mascot: Roc the Panther
 Motto: *Truth and Virtue*

PENN STATE University Park

Established: 1855
 Type: State-related
 President: Graham Spanier
 Faculty: 8,626
 Undergraduate: 38,630
 Postgraduates: 6,202
 Athletics: NCAA Division I, Big Ten Conference
 Nickname: Nittany Lions
 Motto: *Making Life Better*

First Year Scholars continued:

Penn State University



WHITNEY COLE from Crestwood, KY
 B.S., Murray State University
 College of Engineering, Graduate Program in Acoustics
Research: Acoustics
 Interests: volleyball, tennis, scuba diving and clarinet



DENISE M. FINNEY from Erie, PA
 B.A., Hiram College
 Department of Biology
Research: Ecology
 Interests: cooking, gardening, yoga and hiking



MEREDITH HANLON from Huntingdon, PA
 B.S., Allegheny College
 Department of Biology
Research: Plant Biology
 Interests: swimming, biking and cooking



"Hot Tickets"

One of ARCS goals for our scholars is to help them see what Pittsburgh has to offer, and even to encourage them to live in our wonderful city as they continue their careers. Most students cannot afford our major league sporting events or cultural events. Now we have a way to let them take advantage of our own unused event tickets.

If you can't use your ticket(s), email Kathy Dee and she will send out an email blast to the scholars that certain "Hot Tickets" are available. If a scholar can use them, he or she will contact you directly and arrange to get them. With enough advance notice, you might mail them to the scholar. On short notice, you and the scholar can arrange to meet, or you can arrange for the scholar to pick them up. Once a scholar has claimed a ticket(s), please email Kathy Dee so she can let the others know the ticket(s) has been promised.

Contact Information: Kathy Dee email KathyDee28@aol.com or phone 412-243-5333. Please include:

- Your phone number and
- The name of the "Hot Ticket" event and its date



ARCS National News

The ARCS National board meeting was held in St. Louis on October 6-9. The Pittsburgh Chapter has four representatives on the national board: Jeanne Berdik (unable to attend due to a case of pneumonia), President-Elect, Mary Ann Templeton, VP Finance, Beth Wainwright, VP New Chapter Development and Carol Stockman as Pittsburgh Chapter President.

Some highlights from the meeting include the following:

- A branding campaign is underway. This is intended to help us raise the profile of the ARCS Foundation.
- The National Annual Meeting will be held in Amelia Island, Florida on June 1-4, 2011
- The process of revamping the website is underway.

The President's meetings are always very energizing. They are an opportunity to get new ideas about member recruitment and retention, fund development and to hear how other chapters handle the various issues we are all facing in this tough economic climate. "The meetings have also given me an opportunity to appreciate how the Pittsburgh Chapter is in the forefront of the chapters in many ways, which stands as a testament to the thoughtfulness and hard work of all the Pittsburgh Chapter Presidents and board members who have come before me," said Carol Stockman, Pittsburgh Chapter President.

Welcome To Our New Members

We encourage our current members to think of women with whom they work, play or volunteer who might be interested in learning about ARCS. If you have someone in mind, please contact Annie Rivers at 724-327-8712 or Doris Calian at 412-784-0944 for more information. The following is a list of our new members and where they live, so please introduce yourself the next time you are at an event.

Dione Graswick of *Pittsburgh*
Cynthia Hallahan of *Fox Chapel*
Judith Matheny of *Fox Chapel*
Janice Meade of *Franklin Park*
Deb Pepe of *McKeesport*
Lise Woodard of *Shadyside*



Scholar Showcase Event

On March 30, 2011, the ARCS scholar showcase event will take place at the Twentieth Century Club. Not only has the event been changed from the fall to the spring, but there has also been a change in format. Going from a lengthy, formal sit-down dinner, to a two-hour cocktail/hors d'oeuvres reception, will not only streamline the evening, but will give our members and guests more time to interact with our students.

During the 6:00-8:00 p.m. time period, third year scholars will showcase their projects on poster boards. Guests will be able to move about in a free-flow fashion and spend time with, and speak to, the students about their experiments. The evening will conclude with brief remarks from our president and our first ARCS scholar, Elizabeth Gilmore.

We hope many of you will consider becoming host committee members for this very special evening.

Arlene Sokolow and Carol Caroselli

ARCS Foundation Pittsburgh Donors

CORPORATION and FOUNDATION DONORS OF FULL SCHOLAR AWARDS

The BNY Mellon Charitable Foundation
The Fine Foundation
The Gookin Family Foundation
The Henderson Family Fund of the
Pittsburgh Foundation (II)
The Highmont Foundation
The MSA Charitable Foundation
PPG Industries Foundation (II)
Westinghouse Electric Company (II)

INDIVIDUAL DONORS OF FULL SCHOLAR AWARDS

G. Patricia Beckman
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Leslie & Hans Fleischner (II)
Carol and Richard Heppner
John T. Ryan III and Catherine M. Ryan
in honor of their daughter, Maureen
Emily Ryan

DONORS OF HALF AWARDS

Jeanne and Dick Berdik (II)
Linda Beerbower Burke and Timothy F.
Burke, Jr.
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Bettyanne and James C.
Huntington, Jr.
Margaret P. Joy
Deborah W. Linhart
Millie and Gary Ryan
Kathleen M. and Louis L. Testoni

DONORS OF THIRD AWARDS

Mary Lou Bennett
Charlotte and Henry Beukema
Cynthia Carrow and James Kyper
Mimi Barash Coppersmith
Barbara and David Heitzenroder
Susan T. B. Kendall**
Carol and James McCague
Barbara R. Palmer
Margaret V. Ragni, MD and
Frederick L. Porkolab, MD
Carol and Paul Stockman**
Elizabeth T. Wainwright**
Sara and Tom Woodward**

The ARCS Foundation appreciates the generosity of those who have contributed to support our Scholars!

(II) Indicates a second award

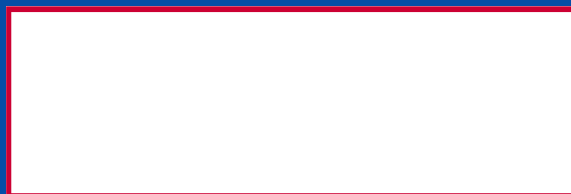
**Indicates a contribution to the Scholar Award Fund in addition to a Named Award



Additional information on the ARCS Foundation may be found at www.arcsfoundation.org/national or www.arcsfoundation.org/pittsburgh

Please address questions to:

ARCS Foundation, Inc.
Pittsburgh Chapter
P.O. Box 9117
Pittsburgh, PA 15224 or email
Pittsburgh@arcsfoundation.org



Hold the Dates-Upcoming Events

January 12, 2011 – Art Conservation Lecture, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

February 10, 2011 – Wii Game Therapy, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

March 30, 2011 – ARCS Scholar Showcase, Twentieth Century Club, 6:30 p.m.

May 3, 2011 – Annual Meeting, Longue Vue Club, 11:30 a.m.

More details for each event will be forthcoming via email. We look forward to seeing you.



Carnegie Mellon

