



# ARCS Pittsburgh: Board Brief

## June 2016

### ARCS Pittsburgh April -June Events.



**April 12:** The Scholar Celebration doubled the number of attendees over last year with our focus on ALL our scholars, all of whom were prepared to talk about their research in engaging ways, as

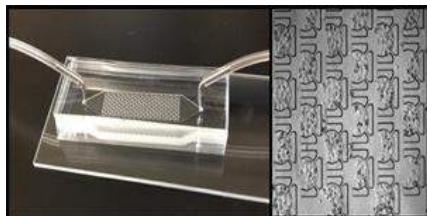
members moved from table to table to get to know them; a new

venue: the Priory Grand Hall with fabulous food; a unique auction: dining events that feature our scholars. The live auction (with Lou Testoni and Paul Stockman in the photo) featured a Gourmet Dinner on the River (and will include

scholars that conduct research on our water). The event provided us with another half-scholar-award. We're setting our goals even higher for 2017.



**May 5:** Dr. Lans Taylor, Director of the Drug Discovery Institute, University of Pittsburgh, gave an evening lecture on the "liver chips" that they have developed (photo



to left). We were wowed by the rapid advance of this very new technology. These silicon chips mimic the structure and function of the liver so these are used, instead of animal models, for discovering more effective drugs, more rapidly, and at a lower cost.



**June 8:** The Co-Director of the Institute for Energy Innovation and the Senior Project Manager of Campus Design gave us a lecture, tour and inside view of CMU's just opened Scott Hall, a world-class research facility. The Institute focuses on finding

### June Board Meeting



June is the last meeting of our fiscal year where we welcome our new board members and say goodbye to those whose terms ended. Our very capable leadership team for the 2016-2017 FY is:

#### Officers:

Co-Presidents: Pam Meadowcroft and Kathy Testoni

Director of Finance: Linda Thier

Treasurer: Charlotte Beukema

Secretary: Jeannette Wholey

#### Directors:

Asst. Treasurer: Carol Heppner

Communications: Kate Freed

Donor Relations: Millie Ryan

Fund Development: Missy Unkovic

Membership: Linda Burke

Nominating: Annie Rivers

Planning: Barbara Granito

Programs: Victoria Wellstead Murphy

Scholar Relations: Leslie Dunn

University Relations: Karen Sartin Slevin

Additional Leadership Non-Voting Positions (co-chairs, event chairs, and university liaisons)

Parliamentarian: Linda Burke

Scholar Celebration: Bev Elliot and Debbie Beck

Communications: Debra Alward and Ann Fromm

Membership: Arlene Sokolow

Penn State Liaisons: Sue Breedlove and Thea Stover

Programs: Kim Gordon Tucker

University Relations: Sarah Jones

Website Data Administrator: Beth Wainwright and Content

Administrator: Debbie Scully

solutions to the world's energy challenges. Their community outreach can be found at [energybite.org](http://energybite.org), where in a couple of minutes questions such as, "Should I buy a battery for my home?" are answered. The building also houses the Biomedical Engineering Department and has the cleanest "clean room" in the world (state of the art for nanotechnology fabrication). The building itself is a minor miracle of engineering.

## *Highlights from the Board...*

**Finance:** Our FY 2016-2017 Budget discussion yielded two major points: 1) Our income for this year will be significantly down over the last two years because we have not secured large corporate pledges as we did those years (and pledges must be taken into income in the year that the pledge is made even though the scholar awards are given out over a three-year cycle). Our focus for the coming year will be to strengthen our Scholar Fund with additional members, encourage current members to become Named Award members, and pursue an additional corporate Named Award. 2) To help strengthen our Scholar Fund we have increased the minimum required donation to \$475. Additional reasons for the increase include: We have not increased the minimum for 13 years; our dues to ARCS National have increased; we need to strengthen our "infrastructure" (programs, communications, scholar and university relations, donor relations, fund development) to assure membership engagement and growth and increased corporate giving; and our members have said the benefits of an ARCS membership is worth increased investment.

**Membership:** All of our members are "women philanthropists" – no matter at what level our members donate,

100% of their funds are tax-deductible and \$0 go to University overhead. Even before the beginning of our membership year, July 1, we already have 6 committed new members, each attracted by the mission and the fact that their donations give them a big bang for the buck. We plan on growing our membership to 120 this year and will have a few cultivation events in the coming weeks, so please be sure to open your emails from ARCS Pittsburgh and from Paperless Post. **Please** share with your friends and colleagues what makes ARCS special for you. If you have prospective members and would like more information email or call Linda Burke, Membership Chair: 412.688.8411, [tfb5650@aol.com](mailto:tfb5650@aol.com).

**Planning:** At our May 24 Planning and All-Members Annual Meeting (Schenley Café with wine and appetizers) members helped us better understand what members value in ARCS (Intellectual/Learning; Philanthropy/Mission; Social Enjoyment) and the steps we could take this year to enhance that value. Our members value life-long learning, unique access to resources on what's occurring in science/technology in Pittsburgh. Members would like to see more non-university programs such as tours of local corporations, nonprofits and government venues. Our

members also highly value ARCS as a women-only philanthropic group supporting science discovery at local universities. We understand that our unrestricted giving fills a special niche for our scholars (filling a niche not covered by federal and foundation funding) and has an impact, both on scientific discovery and on individual researchers. Our members said the benefits of an ARCS membership is worth increased investment. Members can view the full report by going to [www.arcsfoundation.org](http://www.arcsfoundation.org)

**Communications:** The ARCS Pittsburgh 2015-2016 Executive Summary Report (for a much broader audience than ever before) is being developed and should be ready for distribution in the fall.

**ARCS National:** The online survey results that many of our members completed have been released to each chapter. ARCS Pittsburgh was a prominent participant in this national survey. To read the full report (50+page!), go to our website and login. Over the coming months we will briefly feature interesting results. ARCS National passed a new strategic plan that has implications for greater visibility and fundraising. ARCS Pittsburgh has been actively involved in helping to refine the plan and its implementation.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

We try to give you as much lead time as possible, so you can attend ALL of our very special member events. Please open your emails that come from us and from Paperless Post for more details.

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**July 1-30, 2016:** MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. We had good feedback on our online renewal process last year and will be sending out to all current members instructions on renewing online this year. It's easy – go to [arcsfoundation.com](http://arcsfoundation.com), enter your login information. If you need assistance, call or email Beth Wainwright, Data Administrator, 412.781.1717, [bethwainwright@gmail.com](mailto:bethwainwright@gmail.com).

**3<sup>rd</sup> week in July and August 23, 2016:** Membership Cultivation Events evenings at host-members' homes. PLEASE submit names of friends who may be interested in finding out more about ARCS to Linda Burke, Membership Chair, 412.688.8411, [tfb5650@aol.com](mailto:tfb5650@aol.com).

**September 20 or 21, 2016:** Donor Appreciation Event hosted by CMU (dates/times to be determined)

**April 4, 2017:** Scholar Celebration (to be confirmed).

**May 18, 2017:** evening All-Members Annual Meeting.