

Oyez, oyez, oyez: ARCS/MWC presidential transition underway! Learn about upcoming plans!

## Capital Edition



### ARCS/Metro Washington Chapter (MWC) Summer 2017 Newsletter

#### Messages from ARCS/MWC 2015-17 Co-Presidents Jane Riddle and Angela Philips-Diaz and ARCS/MWC 2017-19 President Patty Sparrell



Dear MWC Members,

Thank you to all who attended and supported our two most recent chapter events: the Spring Celebration & Eagle Award Presentation and our Annual Meeting. The Spring Celebration, hosted by George Washington University, was a great and successful event. The Science and Engineering hall was the perfect setting to honor our two impressive Eagle Awardees—Ms. Marilynn Hewson and Dr. Marcia McNutt. We chose to honor two awardees this year in recognition of the start of our chapter's 50th Anniversary. Ms. Hewson, Chairwoman, President and CEO of Lockheed Martin, represented our Industry partners and Dr. McNutt, President of the National Academy of Sciences, represented our Academic partners. Both these honorees are strong supporters of STEM education at all levels and encourage others to do so as well!

During our Annual meeting, we hosted an educational Cyber Security Panel. The panel was moderated by Duncan Sparrell (Patty Sparrell's husband) and included the following panelists: Danny Kim, ACRS - Lockheed Martin Scholar; Dr. Eric Berger, Georgetown University Professor; Juanita Koilpillia, CEO & founder of Waverley Labs; and Dr. Barbara George, Executive Director, Washington Cyber Roundtable. The discussion was lively and informative and all our members and guests walked away with a better appreciation of the challenges facing our government and how to better protect our own data. We also elected our incoming ARCS/MWC Board of Directors at the meeting. Our incoming president, Patty Sparrell, is going to make our chapter even better and I hope that all MWC members will support her in her new role, as you all generously supported me. It has truly been an honor to serve as the ARCS/MWC Co-President with Angela Philips-Diaz. I have enjoyed helping grow our chapter membership and maintain our level of university sponsorship. I look forward to serving in other capacities on the board over the coming years. Sincerely, Jane



Dear MWC Members,

Over the 2016-17 ARCS year, Science and Engineering Advisory Council (SEAC) members actively participated in regular conference calls and face-to face meetings in conjunction with the ARCS National Board (NB). ARCS National leadership assigned the SEAC two topics to consider and assess in support of the ARCS Mission: 1) Develop methods to engage with ARCS Alumni to sustain scholar identity and affinity to the

organization; and 2) Assess importance to ARCS and the U.S. STEM-focused workforce to add funding to research undergrads and terminal master degrees in addition to the primary funding of PhDs. These topics stimulated dynamic and in-depth discourse among the SEAC members, resulting in a set of recommendations on each topic submitted to the NB in formal white papers (posted on ARCS National website). The concluding recommendation for both issues is that the decision point and the motivation and methodology to expand scholar and university relations must occur at the Chapter level. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have suggestions or ideas related to the SEAC recommendations.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as the MWC Co-President with Jane for the past two years. Thank you for giving me this opportunity! Sincerely, Angela



Hello ARCS Members,

I'm very enthusiastic about taking on the role of President of ARCS/MWC. As a recently retired executive with ExxonMobil, I find the mission of ARCS to be very compelling. And I must admit, the women I've met while being a member the last two years have more than doubled my "female friends list"! Everyone is so friendly and committed to the mission - what a great combination.

We've been busy since I assumed office:

- I attended the ARCS NB meeting in Denver. I met my presidential peers and am excited about exchanging successes and challenges with them as we all become stronger by supporting each other. I also stood proud as Karen Finkbinder was awarded the ARCS Light honor representing MWC.
- I've been working with Andi Purple (NB Chair and MWC member) and Lorraine Nordlinger (MWC member and Chair of 2018 All Members Conference (AMC)) in supporting the wonderful honor our chapter has in hosting the AMC. In addition to visiting the Supreme Court (hosted by MWC member Mary Kennedy) and celebrating our 50th Anniversary, we have the pleasure of sharing this celebration with our peers in the other 15 Chapters. What a fantastic opportunity!
- I met with two of our newest chapter members - Sharon Gross and Ann Stern. Please reach out to them and extend a warm welcome!
- We held the Joint Board meeting in June - the outgoing officers provided "orientation" to the incoming officers and I think we're off to a strong start. Based on survey feedback from each of you, we've added several social activities to next year's calendar that I think you will find attractive and fun. We also have a number of ideas for invited speakers and we will be changing the "look and feel" of the MWC newsletter - look for the "new format" this fall.
- Finally, later this month, we'll be issuing scholar awards to our 5 partner universities (Georgetown, George Washington University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland, and University of Virginia). As a result of your generosity and that of our corporate and foundation donors, we are able to award 14 graduate awards (including 2 funded by the endowment) and at least 4 undergraduate awards for the 2017-18 academic year. Thank you all very much!!

I hope you are as enthusiastic about the upcoming year as I am! If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to send me a note and I'll follow-up with you. Respectfully, Patty Sparrell

**Look for emails with details for:**

\*Winter Meeting and Speaker Series

**Save the date:**

August 15, 2017	<b>NEW:</b> August field trip - Johns Hopkins University Wilmer Eye Institute (see article below)
September 16, 2017	Fall Meeting and Social (and announcement about 2017-18 ARCS Light)
September 30, 2017	<b>NEW:</b> MWC Cocktail Class (see article below)
October 12, 2017	Scholar Awards Reception
October 27, 2017	Decorating Fall Cookies
December 10, 2017	Holiday Party
April 25-28, 2018	ARCS/MWC 50th Anniversary and the 2018 All Members Conference (see article below)

## Membership News and Notes

### Annual Membership Renewal

The MWC May General Meeting was the kick-off of the 2017-18 membership renewal cycle. Members may access their renewal form, update roster information, and select committees on which they would like to serve all through their ARCS online account. Please take the opportunity to access the website to ensure you are able to login. If you need help obtaining your username or password, please contact Danielle Robinson. Your ARCS account is a great resource for all the latest news and events from our Chapter and National throughout the year.

Please complete your renewal by July 31 to ensure your information is up to date for the printing of our 2017-18 Roster. If you prefer to complete your renewal via mail/paper forms, please use the forms sent to you at the end of June. Thank you!

### Welcome New and Returning Members!

It is with great pleasure that MWC welcomes our newest members who bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm vital to our organization!

#### New Members

Sharon Gross

Ann Stern

#### Sponsor

Jane Riddle

Mary Kennedy

We are also happy to welcome Mary Snitch back to MWC from the Atlanta Chapter. Mary has been an active contributor and leader across ARCS and we are excited to have her return.

## Development Dispatch



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the central mission of our organization by personally funding a Named Scholar; securing corporate donors; serving on the Development Committee; contributing to the endowment, Fund-a-Scholar, and other campaigns; and recruiting new members and partners for our chapter! This year we estimate our chapter will have raised

approximately \$294,000 with over 95 corporations, foundations, and individuals contributing to our STEM mission.

All members, not just those formally serving on the Development Committee, have a role in building U.S. competitiveness and aiding advancement in science and technology. Would you like to have your own Named Scholar this new development cycle? Or support one with a group of ARCS members or other friends? If you are interested in this idea, let's have lunch to discuss!

Do you know anybody that runs or works for a company that relies on outstanding scientists/researchers to do their good work? Might you be willing to contact them with Development materials and ask for their support? If any of these ideas appeal to you or you have thoughts on the topic that you would like to share, please contact Lorraine Nordlinger, VP Development.

## National Board Meeting



Newly elected MWC President, Patty Sparrell, attended the ARCS National Board Meeting in June with other outgoing and incoming Board members, as well as the Council of Presidents. Patty says the primary focus of the meeting was to provide a year-end summary, roll out the simplified organizational structure, elect the new officers, and recognize exemplary service at both the national and chapter level.

Interesting ARCS National statistics were presented:

- Current membership in the 16 chapters totals 1336 members (June 2016) and over \$4.8 million was distributed to 640 scholars (93% grad; 7% undergrad) at 51 approved institutions.
- Since ARCS started in 1958, 17,241 ARCS awards have been presented to 9572 scholars totaling over \$105 million!!
- The combined endowment balances total \$26.8 million.

Multiple common concerns were voiced and shared across the chapters: membership recruitment, engagement and retention, leadership cultivation and development, sustainability of chapter operations, and ARCS Scholar Alumni support and engagement. Patty says that she looks forward to partnering with her President colleagues to share and address experiences across the chapters with the expectation that we will all get stronger together.

The new slate of officers was inducted and exemplary service was acknowledged. Going forward, ARCS/MWC is still well represented at the National Level: Andi Purple is the newly elected President, Jackie Hensen continues as Chair of Audit Committee, and Lorraine Nordlinger continues as the Chair of the April 2018 All Members Conference to be held in Washington, DC (separate article). Angela Philips Diaz was recognized for her exemplary service as member as well as Chair of the SEAC since its establishment in 2009. Karen Finkbiner was recognized as the MWC ARCS Light recipient for this year (separate article).

The next National Board meeting will be held September 14-16 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Metro-Washington Chapter Endowment Funds Two Scholars

Toni Schierling reports that ARCS/Endowment will fund two outstanding fellows for the 2017-18 academic year, one from the ARCS Main Endowment account and one from the Hesse account.



Jennifer Hays graduated from the College of William and Mary with a degree in Physics. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in biophysics at the University of Virginia where she was a Commonwealth Fellow (2014-15) and was awarded an NIH Biophysics Training Grant for the last two years. She researches bacterial pathogens and their ability to evade the human immune response by having proteins that are structurally flexible and/or highly tolerant of mutations, thus preventing recognition by immune cells. However, these proteins are also able to engage receptors on non-immune cells and trigger infection. A systematic approach to refining these flexible receptor-ligand complexes would (1) help elucidate the fundamental physical principles of receptor-ligand binding and (2) promote better drug design for infectious disease. The ARCS Endowment will provide critical support to pursue her chosen research and present at conferences. She can obtain supercomputing time for her research from the NSF but the ARCS fellowship would provide critical financial resources beyond computing time.



Our Hesse fellow, Zachary Eldredge, graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BS in Physics and a BA in Math. He is working towards a doctorate in Physics on quantum information theory in cancer research at the University of Maryland. There has been immense interest in the benefits of quantum information processing in recent years:

- In computing, it could allow for quick simulation of complex chemical processes.
- In communications, it could allow for provably secure messages, where no eavesdropper could listen.
- In sensing, it could allow complicated measurements like those involved in medical imaging to be made very accurately.

ARCS/MWC support will allow him to continue pursuing important and timely research without fear of losing current funding. In addition, since his field has a diverse reach across universities and industry, attending conferences and workshops to stay abreast of developments is vital. ARCS funding will enable him to continue working on new and interesting ways to show his work to his colleagues and the public.

## Two ORNL Internships for ARCS/MWC Scholars

Toni Schierling, working with Dr. Brent Park of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL), is pleased to announce two internships at the laboratory. The internships will pair our ARCS Fellows with ORNL mentors who have similar research interests. They will collaborate with the student's university research professor. The student can either pursue part of his/her current research or a different interest but the research must be completed in a four-week period and presented in a report. The fellow may choose to work at ORNL or his/her university where he/she can travel to collaborate with his ORNL mentor during the four-week period. In either case, funds are available to cover expenses and a stipend for the four-week period. A one-day visit by each student's university professor is also included for the collaboration. The Physics and Biophysics Fellows are also extended the same one-day visit to ORNL. This is a tremendous opportunity to not only network with other scientists but to also experience the cutting-edge research at one of the U.S. National Laboratories.

The Fellows selected are:



**Abhay Goyal,  
Georgetown University**



**Gabriel Wong,  
University of Virginia**

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

### **\*\*\* The Wilmer Eye Institute Tour \*\*\***

ARCS/MWC members have been invited to tour the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD, on Tuesday, **August 15** (arrival time 9:45 am).

We will tour the Center for Nanomedicine and the Center of Excellence for Ophthalmic Surgical Education and Training. Dr Peter McDonnell, Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of The Wilmer Eye Institute, will join us for lunch.

Please keep an eye out for the upcoming email invitation and RSVP quickly since attendance will be limited to 20 people!

*and . . .*

<p><b>April 25-28, 2018 2018 All Members Conference</b></p>	<p><b>September 30, 2017 MWC Cocktail Class</b></p>
<p>Join us for the 2018 ARCS Foundation All Member Conference (AMC) at the Willard Continental Hotel In Washington, DC, April 25-28, 2018!</p> <p>Renew/make new friendships and network with ARCS Members from all the chapters across the country to learn best practices for your role within our chapter as we explore Scientific Innovation for the Next Generation.</p> <p>Highlights include:            *Thursday evening dinner (April 26th) at the U.S. Supreme Court with a presentation by Justice Kennedy.            *A la carte registration for MWC members and their guests.            *MWC 50th Anniversary Celebration and Eagle Award Presentation Friday evening (April 27th).            *Dynamic speakers presenting scientific innovations.            *Development opportunities.</p>	<p>The Activities Committee will host a cocktail night for MWC members at The Wisdom on Sept 30th, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The cost is \$30.00 per person.</p> <p>Wisdom is one of the top cocktail bars in the D.C. area. Due to space limitations, the first 20 to RSVP and pay may attend. Wisdom staff will provide an overview about different liquors and participants will be able to try a few cocktails created by one of D.C.'s best mixologists. This is a great opportunity to meet new MWC friends and perhaps develop a custom MWC cocktail!</p> <p>If this event proves popular (and who doesn't like cocktails!!), something similar will be planned for the spring. Please review the website for more information about Wisdom and the cocktail class.  <a href="https://www.dcwisdom.com/">https://www.dcwisdom.com/</a></p>

\*University partner, scientific and cultural tour options.

\*Fun, friendship and a role in building U.S. competitiveness by aiding advancement in science and technology.

\*Registration will open in early January 2018.

To help with the AMC, including speaker identification, tours, the hospitality suite, MWC history displays, development/ sponsorship, and more, contact Lorraine Nordlinger at [MWCVPDevelopment@arcsfoundation.org](mailto:MWCVPDevelopment@arcsfoundation.org).

To help with the Friday evening MWC Celebration and Eagle Award Presentation, please contact MWC Activities coordinators Skyler Potter and Melissa Rhoads at [MWCVPActivities@arcsfoundation.org](mailto:MWCVPActivities@arcsfoundation.org).

Information on payment and parking and RSVP's will be sent out via email.

Questions or comments? Please contact Melissa Rhoads and Skyler Potter at [MWCVPActivities@arcsfoundation.org](mailto:MWCVPActivities@arcsfoundation.org).

## Please register by August 5th for ARCS/MWC Bridge Groups

Do you like to play bridge? Would you like to get to know other ARCS members better?

The goal for the ARCS/MWC Bridge season is to have a Marathon group, a ladies social group, and a couples or pairs group. In order to set up the different groups, we need members and friends to sign up to play.

The groups will begin play in September and anyone who is interested needs to register to play by August 5, 2017. The cost to play in a group for the year is \$75.00 for ARCS members (or pairs) and \$100.00 for non-members. All the money paid for playing bridge goes directly to ARCS/MWC.

We would also like to have one or two events for all bridge players during the year. If you would be willing to host a bridge event at your home or club, please let Karen know now. You will be reimbursed for your expenses and Karen will take care of reservations and supplies.

Contact Karen Magley (check directory) for more information and registration forms by Saturday, August 5th.





## Pictures from ARCS/MWC 2017 Spring Celebration and Eagle Award



## MWC ARCS Light 2016-17

Karen Finkbiner was presented with the Metro Washington ARCS Light award by National President, Lynne Brickner, at the June National Board Meeting. Karen joined MWC in 1996 and has always been a key member of the chapter and a delight to work with. Prior to MWC, she was a member of the Los Angeles Chapter since 1994.



In 2004, she was named an ARCS Angel. Throughout the years, she has served on many Standing Committees including the Nominating, Special Events, Activities, and the Silent Auction Committees. In 2011-12, she co-chaired the Benefit Gala. In 2012-13, she served as Secretary on the Board of Directors. Most recently she served as co-president with Lynn Dillon and Sally Burns.

She is known by her sunny disposition, her cheerful smile, and her calm and pleasant ways. We know her by her willingness to always actively participate throughout the years in ways that fulfill the many needs of our Chapter. She has also been known to turn her attention to learning to play the piano. Karen is recognized for her desire to step in when needed and to be helpful in every situation.

Let's all congratulate Karen upon receiving this well deserved award!



### Pictures from May 2017 General Meeting



## Membership Social

Many thanks to Doris Pierson for hosting our May Membership "Fun"raiser/Cookie Class in her home on May 25! It was a treat to see our members' creative talents as they decorated some festive patriotic cookies for Memorial Day, and a great way to introduce some prospective new members to our chapter. Plans are in the works for another cookie class on October 27, 2017, with a fall theme. So get your cookie-cutters ready!



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Questions?

Please contact Elli Nesbitt, MWC Newsletter Editor ([enesbitt1@verizon.net](mailto:enesbitt1@verizon.net)).

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