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Summer 2012

### From the President's Desk



**President Gracia Conn**

July 15, 2012

As I begin my term as president of ARCS Foundation Atlanta I want to thank Kay Weiss, 2010-2012 President, for her superb job leading us into our 20<sup>th</sup> year as a chapter. In 1990, our founder, Mary O'Connor, was introduced to ARCS Foundation, an organization founded by a group of female philanthro-

pists in Los Angeles who saw the need to encourage and advance the study of science, engineering and medical research. Mary presented its potential to our Atlanta founding members who invited 20 others as charter members. In 1992, the Atlanta chapter incorporated and raised funds to financially assist outstanding college students in the science fields. That year, the first Scholar Awards Luncheon was held and three scholars from Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology and Morehouse College were each awarded \$5,000.

Our founding members included the president Mary O'Connor, Kathy Ashe, Beth Barnett, Paula Bevington, Patsy Drummond, Fran- nie Graves, Kitty Hawks, Gay Love, Michelle Nordin, Carol Teem, Clare Whitfield, Sue Wieland, Carol Kranig, and Mary Gellerstedt. We look forward to honoring

these women at the Fall Cocktail Party on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

In June, I attended the National Annual Meeting of ARCS Foundation (NAM) in Denver, Colorado. The eight Atlanta women who currently sit on the NAM Board were in attendance.

As we enter our 21<sup>st</sup> year, it is my privilege to be working with such a talented and enthusiastic group of women volunteers who work diligently to provide scholar awards for bright science scholars. The next decade will present us with the continuing challenge of raising funds for our young scholars. Thank you to all of our corporate and member contributors who so loyally continue to give gifts, both large and small, to this incredible organization.

-Gracia

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 12	Board Meeting
Sept. 30	Fall Cocktail Party
Oct. 23	Education Event Lockheed Martin
Nov. 14	Scholar Awards Luncheon

## ARCS Atlanta Chapter's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

### Fall Cocktail Party

*Sunday, September 30  
6 to 9 PM*

*Home of Libby and Gary  
Jones  
42 West Brookhaven Drive  
Atlanta 30319*

*Honoring  
Our Founding Members  
and  
Our New Members*

~~~~(More information to follow)~~~~

### Fall Education Event

*Tuesday, October 23  
1:30-3:30 PM*

*Plant Tour  
Lockheed Martin  
Aeronautics Company  
Marietta*

*Limited Space  
(husbands invited)*

### Scholar Awards Luncheon

*Wednesday, November 14  
Ritz-Carlton, Downtown*

*Keynote Speaker  
Daniel L. Barrow, M.D.  
MBNA/Bowman Professor and  
Chairman Department of Neurosurgery at  
Emory University Hospital  
and  
Director, Emory MBNA Stroke Center*

*Sponsored by  
Habif, Arogeti & Wynn, LLP*

## ARCS Retreat to the “Queen City” – Cincinnati, Ohio

ARCS® Foundation Atlanta Chapter members and spouses took a VIP tour of Cincinnati, Ohio, April 26-28. Retreat Co-Chairs **Sally Boice** and **Susan Higley** planned a spectacular tour of the Ohio River city settled in 1788. Headquartered at the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel, an Art Deco architectural gem built in 1931, participants headed off to a full schedule.

**Thursday** -Dinner at *Celestial Steakhouse* in Mt. Adams overlooking the city and Ohio River and a talk by renowned historian Dan Hurley.

**Friday** - *Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden* with a presentation by the Director of Animal Research followed by a tour of CREW (Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife) laboratories led by the Director of Plant Research.  
Lunch at the famed *Skyline Chili* and a walk across the street to Cincinnati’s original ice cream parlor, *Aglamesis Bro’s*, built in 1913.  
*University of Cincinnati Medical Center* for a presentation on care and transportation of wounded soldiers by the Director of the Division of Trauma, Surgical Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery. The C-Stars program at UCMC is one of the leading medical training programs in the world.  
Dinner and docent-guided tour at the *Taft Museum*, 1820’s home of Charles Phelps Taft, brother of President William Howard Taft.

**Saturday** - *Cincinnati Art Museum* for docent-guided tour of art works followed by a tour of the conservation lab. After a box lunch in the Great Hall, off to ice cream at world famous *Graeter’s* in Hyde Park Square. Although it was cold, damp and windy, a few hardy souls took an architectural walking tour of the *Over-the-Rhine* area.  
Farewell dinner at the elegant Queen City Club downtown.



View of the “Queen City” from Celestial Steakhouse on the Ohio River.



Retreat Co-Chairs Susan Higley and Sally Boice join Harry Gilham at the Taft Museum.

**Cocktails and Dinner  
At Celestial Steakhouse**

From left: *President Kay Weiss, Michelle Nordin, Liz Troy / Peg Cooley, Jan Bennett, Susan Higley.*



From left: *Caroline Gilham, Linda Kay McGowan, Harry Gilham / Brooke and Winston Weinmann, John Higley.*



*Photos by Kathy and Dennis Berry, Peg and Keith Cooley and Clare Whitfield.*



Anne and David Boyd enjoy lunch at Cincinnati Art Museum's Great Hall.



Kathy Berry, Susie Deyo and Sherry Lundeen at Celestial Steakhouse



Hardy souls take an architectural walking tour of Over-the-Rhine.



Off to University of Cincinnati Medical Center via Aglamesis Bro's, Cincinnati's original ice cream parlor.

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## Two-Year ARCS Scholar Named Morehouse Valedictorian



ARCS Scholar **Jamaji Nwanji-Enwerem** (pictured with Kathy Berry) was named valedictorian of the **Morehouse College** Class of 2012.

A two-year ARCS Scholar from Concord, North Carolina, Jamaji graduated with a 4.0 GPA and a degree in Biology. He will attend Harvard Medical School to pursue an MD/PhD.

"I aspire to become a professor and researcher," he said. "I whole-

heartedly believe that research is the fuel that allows medicine to advance and I want to be on the cutting-edge of medicine. Moreover, I have always felt an innate responsibility to give back and help others. I feel that teaching is my way of fulfilling that desire." Jamaji spent last summer in Philadelphia working at Merck & Co. in the department of bone biology, providing research support. The summer of 2010 he was named a Wake Forest University Translational Sciences Institute Scholar and conducted research in the emergency medicine department. The summer of 2009 was spent at Duke University as a Summer Research Opportunities Intern conducting research on two candidate genes for Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia.

"From a very early age, my parents taught me the value of hard work and

focus and these lessons have set the tone for my whole life, including my time at Morehouse," Jamaji said. He added that the support from ARCS encouraged him to continue working hard and gave him the motivation to help others.

Jamaji is the eldest son of Sir Pamaji Nwanji-Enwerem, a computer programmer, and Lady Chioma Mwanji-Enwerem, a registered nurse. His younger brother will enter the University of North Carolina this fall as one of 52 Morehead-Cain Scholars, one of the oldest and most prestigious merit scholarship programs in the U.S.

-Kathy Berry

*Editor's Note: Jamaji held the Kathy and Dennis Berry ARCS Scholar Award for two consecutive years.*

## Undergraduate Education Challenged

At ARCS Atlanta's Annual Meeting and Luncheon May 9, **Dr. Richard DeMillo** offered a wake-up call for higher education. Dr. DeMillo, Georgia Tech's Distinguished Professor of Computing and Professor of Management and husband of ARCS Board Member **Ronnie Martin**, discussed the status of undergraduate education in the United States, the focus of his recent book, **Abelard to Apple: The Fate of American Colleges and Universities**.

While Graduate Schools are in good shape, Dr. DeMillo reports that undergraduate education is challenged. Most at risk are the 2,000 – 3,000 public institutions in "The Middle," sandwiched between the 60+ elite mostly private institutions at the top and the "mishmash" of for-profits at the bottom. Eighty percent of the nation's 15 million college students are enrolled at institutions in "The Middle." Dr. DeMillo called for experimentation and risk / new ideas and innovation but warned there are no "quick fixes."

*U.S. colleges have the second lowest undergraduate completion rate in the developed world, second only to Italy.*

*U.S. students have an accumulated debt of \$1 trillion, second only to home mortgages.*

*With the decrease in public funds, tuition at public universities has increased by 8-12% a year.*

*A recent study reported the U.S. has been "under-producing by 1 million graduates a year for the past 20 years."*

*Virtually no new U.S. universities have been established since 1960, while enrollment has quadrupled.*

*India is in the process of creating 37,000 new universities for 300 million new students in the next 10 years.*

ARCS Atlanta Scholar Awards Luncheon emcee **Bill Liss** was recently named 2012 Broadcaster of the Year by the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, an organization that represents the state's radio and TV stations. Bill's "other" job is with 11 live, where he serves as Business Editor and reports from the Help Desk. We all know him as the husband of 2012 ARCS Light **Debbie Liss**.

*Congratulations, Bill!*