

UTAH CHAPTER

Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends,

We wrapped up a banner year for the Utah Chapter in 2013-14, and are off to a wonderful start this fall. Thanks to your generous support, we proudly announce our four newest ARCS Scholars, including our first ever Roche/ARCS Scholar. Your gifts allow us to provide each of these incoming students with a \$15,000 unrestricted award. In addition, after the first year, due to the commitments of the University of Utah College of Engineering and the Moran Eye Center, our scholars receive on-going tuition waivers and other departmental support as they continue in their research.

Every year when we meet our new ARCS scholars, I am simply amazed. These young men and women bring dedication, hard work, ambition and sharp minds to their graduate studies and to solving practical problems. Whether it is urban water shed pollution studies, developing a better understanding of brain images of hundreds of individuals with autism, robotics or the intricacies of spintronics, the 18 ARCS scholars that we have been able to financially assist bring home how we really can make a difference in our state and to our country, even with small contributions.

We have already had a busy fall with our first event, the Ed Catmull lecture, the Salt Lake City located National Annual Meeting of ARCS Foundation, our Scholar Luncheon and the kick off event for the Utah State Employees' Charitable Fund

Campaign. (Last year we received \$1,000 from the Fund; 100% of which was used to support our scholars.)

If you haven't yet been able to attend an event, we look forward to seeing you at our holiday social in early December or one of our field trips in 2015. We welcome your involvement. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to get more involved. We always need help with membership development and event planning and welcome the opportunity to get to know you better.

Whether you are a current member, considering membership or simply a supporter of our mission, we invite you to join with us and help support our citizen scholars. With your help we can ensure that these bright young United States citizens are given an opportunity to achieve their goals and help keep our country in the forefront of medical and scientific research.

Thank you for your interest in this important effort,

Margaret

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Margaret', written in a cursive style.



## **ARCS FOUNDATION UTAH 2014 – 15 EVENTS**

### **Ed Catmull - Pixar**



Our first official ARCS event of the year was hosted by the College of Engineering. We gathered with our new and continuing ARCS scholars for introductions and a chance to catch up. Almost all of our ARCS scholars that are in town attended. After our private gathering, we attended the reception, talk and book signing by Ed Catmull, co-founder of Pixar Animation and now president of Pixar Animation and Disney Animation, in the Catmull Gallery of the John and Marva Warnock Engineering Building. Each of our scholars received a copy of his latest book from our chapter.

Forbes magazine has raved that Catmull's new bestseller, *Creativity Inc.* "just might be the best business book ever written." It is also noted as being "a book for managers who want to lead employees to new heights, a manual for anyone who strives for originality." It is, at heart, a book about how to build a creative culture-but it also, as Catmull states, "an expression of the ideas that I believe make the best in us possible."

The lecture had great enthusiasm and everyone in attendance was excited to meet and have their personal copies of *Creativity Inc.* signed. Catmull went on to explain during the lecture portion of the evening that it was when he first attended the University of Utah in 1963 as a physics student, he knew what he wanted to pursue designing graphics but didn't know how to get himself there. Back then, there wasn't a field of animation available but Catmull did have the foresight to switch his studies to computer science as graphics were first emerging as a technology.

"When I was here as a graduate student, I knew at that time that there was something special going on," Catmull reminisced. "And all of the students felt that — we were privileged to be part of something that was magnificent."

Pixar is famous for having one of the best track records of any production house in Hollywood. The studio first exploded on the Hollywood scene in 1995 with the Academy Award-winning "Toy Story" and has since produced an unprecedented number of box office and critical hits including "A Bug's Life," "Finding Nemo," "The Incredibles," "Cars," "WALL-E," "Up," and "Frozen." In all, Pixar has won 12 Academy Awards and six Golden Globes.

"I have found the lessons in the book to be profound, whether you're running a creative company the way he is or trying to run a creative university the way I have. There are many similarities," said University of Utah President David Pershing, who also spoke at the event and welcomed Catmull back home to Utah.

### **December 2014 (date and time to be determined)**

New Member orientation and social

### **Spring Social (date and time to be determined)**

Gather with all of our current and past ARCS scholars at a family-friendly gathering.

## **ARCS FOUNDATION UTAH 2014 – 15 EVENTS**

### **ARCS Foundation National Annual Meeting (NAM), “Peak Experience: Cutting Edge Science in the Wasatch.”**

The 2014 NAM was held in Salt Lake City from September 17-20. The Utah ARCS Chapter members were delighted to welcome more than 90 individuals, including ARCS Foundation members and their guests from throughout the country. Chaired by Judith Miller, the NAM Committee put together an outstanding program of special events and presentations. Out-of-state members stayed in the Grand America Hotel, where several of the programs were also held. Many ARCS members commented that the Grand America was the best hotel they had ever stayed in. On Wednesday evening, the opening reception was held at The Point at the Huntsman Cancer Institute and Salt Lake Mayor Ralph Becker welcomed the group. Mayor Becker’s mother Ann Becker is a founding member of the Metro Washington Chapter and is also a member of the Utah Chapter. Information sessions on topics important to ARCS Foundation members were given on Thursday morning and afternoon. Thursday evening ARCS members and their guests were welcomed and recognized at the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal at Temple Square. Tours of the Moran Eye Center, Red Butte Gardens and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts occurred on both Thursday and Friday afternoons. Special presentations at the Grand America on Friday were given by University of Utah President David Pershing, USTAR Executive Director Ivy Estabrooke, L-3 Communications Corp. Executive VP Susan Opp, Dr. Nassir Marrouche and Dr. Chris McGann of the U’s Comprehensive Arrhythmia Research & Management Center (CARMA), Director of the U’s Scientific Computing and Imaging (SCI) Institute Dr. Chris Johnson, and Dean of the U’s College of Engineering Rich Brown. The attendees were very impressed with the scientific research and development of new services and products that are developed here. Friday’s social dinner was held at The Leonardo Museum. Following a general session on Saturday morning, members were given a special architectural tour of the Natural History Museum of Utah.

### **EXCITING NEWS**

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#### **Roche Partnership Announcement**

Past ARCS Foundation National President Jeanne Berdik led a six month effort to bring about an important collaboration between ARCS Foundation and Roche Foundation to fund outstanding doctoral students in the life sciences. Roche Foundation’s long history of support for science innovation is a natural match for ARCS Foundation’s goal of Advancing Science in America.

Current ARCS Foundation President Nancy Spetzler issued the following announcement on June 3, 2014:

“The Roche Foundation and ARCS Foundation (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation, Inc.) announced today a unique program to support outstanding graduate life science students at universities across the United States. The Roche/ARCS Foundation Scholar Award Program in the Life Sciences will support the next generation of life science leaders and further the foundations’ shared

interest in the advancement of science.

Through this partnership, The Roche Foundation will provide a total of \$663,000 in funding to support as many as 40 Roche/ARCS Foundation Scholars over the next three years. All awardees will be by Ph.D. candidates in the life sciences of universities that are ARCS Foundation academic partners.

The program will be administered by ARCS Foundation National and its chapters and is the first program of this type of both foundations. It will leverage ARCS Foundation's established infrastructure and expertise in supporting U.S. STEM students and demonstrates The Roche Foundation's commitment to strengthening America's capacity for innovative research."

ARCS Foundation Utah Chapter President Margaret Niver McGann was honored to receive the first check presented to any chapter from President Spetzler during the ARCS Foundation National Annual Meeting (NAM) held in Salt Lake City recently. Amanda Reynolds, an outstanding Bio-Engineering Ph.D. candidate, was selected by the College of Engineering as the first Roche scholar. She will receive \$14,000 from Roche and \$1,000 from the ARCS Foundation Utah Chapter.

### **ARCS FOUNDATION LIGHT AWARD – ANNE ERICKSON**

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The ARCS Light Luncheon, recognizing members who have given extraordinary service to their chapters, was held on Thursday, September 18. Anne Erickson from our chapter received the ARCS Light Award.

Dr. Anne Erickson is a founding member and the second President of the Utah ARCS Chapter. She has been a dedicated member of the Utah ARCS Board since its beginning in 2009, and first served as Vice President of Communications/Secretary and then President Elect prior to assuming the Presidency. Her enthusiasm for and dedication to ARCS was natural for Anne, since she was the founder of the Utah Math/Science Network which currently sponsors Expanding Your Horizons Conferences, designed to encourage young women to pursue careers in math and science.

Anne received her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Utah and Brigham Young University. She was a mathematics and business faculty member and administrator for almost 30 years at Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), including serving over 8 years as Academic Vice President. After retirement from SLCC, she accepted the position of Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston. She has served on SLCC's Foundation Board since 2001, was a ten-year member and Past Chair of the State of Utah's Division of Drinking Water Board, and is Past President of the International Women's Forum of Utah. She also is Past Chair of the Sister Cities Committee of Salt Lake City and has participated in six sister city visits to Chernivtsi, Ukraine. She led the Education section of the 1999 Economic Development Conference held in Chernivtsi, Ukraine and co-sponsored by the City Council of Chernivtsi and Transcultural Awareness Exchange, Inc. of Salt Lake City. She has received awards and recognition for her work from multiple organizations, and is presently a higher education consultant.

Anne is married to Carl Erickson, former legal counsel for Hercules, Inc. They enjoy spending time with their three children and eight grandchildren.



## 2014 – 2015 UTAH ARCS FOUNDATION AWARDS



**Philip Erickson** is an honors graduate from BYU with a BS in electrical engineering and minors in computer science and mathematics. After working as a software engineer at L-3 Communications in Salt Lake City, Philip is returning to college to complete his PhD in Computer Science. At L-3, Philip was a team member on a multi-million dollar military communication system contract. His interest in engineering began when he built a rudimentary helicopter at the age of 4. In college, he built a model helicopter that could fly as part of a feedback control systems class. As a graduate student, Philip hopes to master the knowledge and skills he needs to make a significant contribution to industry.

**Philip received the ARCS Foundation Utah Chapter Scholar Award**



**Amanda Reynolds** completed a BS in biochemistry at the University of Florida in Gainesville. As an honors undergraduate, Amanda mastered advanced research techniques in fluorescent microscopy where she created protocols and ran her own experiments working as a research assistant in the Materials Science Department and Veterans Affairs Hospital. As a graduate student in bioengineering, Amanda is interested in applying materials research in a biological environment, and in creating new materials and devices for the medical field. She aspires to an academic research career as a professor of bioengineering.

**Amanda received the Roche/ARCS Foundation Scholar Award in Life Sciences**



**Alex Szendrei** graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Southern Maine with BS degrees in biology and chemistry. Most recently, he has been working as a chemist at Alere, a healthcare diagnostics and services company. Alex began his college career with his sights set on medicine. He found that he especially liked his classes in thermodynamics, kinetics and quantum mechanics. As part of an NSF and UROP grant, he worked on solid state physics and nonlinear electrical components. As a graduate student in materials science and engineering, Alex hopes to find a research focus in electrochemistry and electrical materials.

**Alex received the 2015 Dr. Stacy K. Firth Scholar Award given by Dr. Cecelia H. Foxley**



**Eileen Hwang** began her training in the MD/PhD program at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey, where she was the beneficiary of a highly sought after NIH F30 fellowship to study hereditary diseases of collagen. Upon graduation, she joined the prestigious ophthalmology residency program at the University of Utah Moran Eye Center. As a first-year resident, she has already made use of the ARCS Foundation support to investigate the role of genetic risk factors and serum biomarkers for age-related macular degeneration.

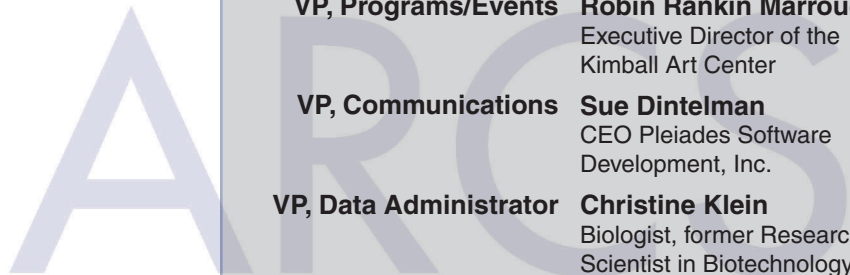
**Dr. Hwang received the 2015 ARCS Foundation Scholar Award**

## DUES REMINDER

If you have not already paid your dues for our 2014-15 fiscal year (it starts in July), you can bring a check to the Scholars Award Luncheon, mail a check to ARCS Foundation, Inc. Utah Chapter, 1338 S Foothill Dr., Suite 324, Salt Lake City, UT 84108 or access our on-line dues payment options at <https://www.arcsfoundation.org/utah/becoming-member>.

## MISSION STATEMENT

*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.*



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### In Kind Donation

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