

**UTAH CHAPTER**

**Message from the President**

*"If it weren't for this award, I wouldn't be here."*

**Michele Hromatka**, graduate student of the Computer Science School of Computing, College of Engineering, University of Utah, September 2013.

I had the pleasure of meeting Michele and hearing those inspiring words as we distributed our 2013-14 Utah Chapter of ARCS Foundation Scholar Awards. Thank you to our current and past members for affording me that opportunity. It literally brought tears to my eyes to meet our incredible scholars and see firsthand what a difference we can make in our state and our country, even with small contributions. With a stellar track record, a BA degree in computer science, and a desire to pursue an academic research career Michele had many options on where to do her graduate work. Because the College of Engineering was able to offer her the Utah Chapter Scholar Award, she chose to launch what will surely be a stellar career here in Utah.

If you turn to the last page, you will see some new names added to our Utah Chapter Board and some reassessments of responsibilities. We are very excited to have Sue Dintelman become our new website guru, though not yet her official title. Her talents have already been put to great use, and I encourage you to visit our website to see the latest in scholar accomplishments and updates. One of my goals this year is to take advantage of the incredible hard work and energy that the ARCS Foundation continues to put into



making both the national and chapter websites easier to use. There is a treasure trove of forms, letters and program suggestions that have been developed by other chapters, and I am all for taking full advantage of their efforts. I also want to thank Klancy deNevers for her past service on our board. As a founding member, former Treasurer and Secretary, we simply wouldn't be where we are without her service. We look forward to her continued membership.

Our mission is a simple but important one: ensure that the best and brightest United States citizens are provided with the means necessary to complete their graduate level studies. While our parent organization ARCS Foundation was established 55 years ago, our Utah Chapter was founded only four years ago. We are off to a wonderful start and are looking forward to welcoming many new members in the upcoming year. Whether you give a onetime gift or join us as a member, your hard earned dollars will be directed towards scholarships. 100 percent of scholar award contributions – whether from individuals, corporations or the all-women volunteer members of ARCS – go to fund these outstanding scholars. We have some very exciting programs already on our schedule. I hope you can join us.

Margaret



**ARCS FOUNDATION UTAH 2013 – 14 EVENTS**

**September 5, 2013 BlackRock Microsystems**



ARCS was very fortunate to get to spend the afternoon with Florian Solzbacher, Ph.D., Executive Chairman and President of Blackrock Microsystems. This new building and laboratory recently opened in June of this year which is an impressive representation of the exciting collaborative work currently taking place at the University of Utah. Professor Solzbacher also serves as the Director of the Microsystems Laboratory at the University of Utah and Co-Director of the Utah Nanotechnology Institute. His research focuses on harsh environment microsystems and materials, including implantable, wireless microsystems but also high temperature and harsh environment compatible micro sensors.

Attendees of the tour enjoyed an enthusiastic “head to toe” if you will, explanation of the very complex topic of implantable devices in the human body. Exciting avenues of these implantable devices include cochlear implants and robotic limbs in paralyzed patients. This translates into deaf patients being able to hear and quadriplegic patients being able to have the autonomy to independently feed themselves and perform activities of daily living. The patient’s brain is even able to sense and perceive temperature from the robotic arm hence providing scientific breakthroughs that almost seem surreal. Professor Solzbacher has indeed discovered and achieved truly advanced miracles in the field of human science.

**October 30, 2013 Fourth Annual ARCS Scholar Awards Luncheon**

ARCS Foundation Utah is pleased to hold our 4th Annual Scholar Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, October 30, 2013 from 11:30-1:00 pm at the John A. Moran Eye Center. We will honor our new 2013-14 scholars and hear from our 2012-13 scholars as well as from Dean Richard Brown, College of Engineering and Dr. Robert E. Marc, Director of Research, Moran Eye Center. Tours of the research labs of Dr. Margaret DeAngelis and Dr. Lilania Werner are available after the event for those who can linger. For more details or to RSVP, please contact Utah@arcsfoundation.org.

**December 4th, 2013 (5 – 7:00 p.m. location to be determined)**

New Member orientation and social

**February 26, 2014 (Noon – 2:00 p.m.)**

Lunch followed by a studio tour and game design with Dr. Robert Kessler, Executive Director, Entertainment Arts and Engineering: Master Games Studio.

**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 2013 – 14 EVENTS**

### **ARCS Foundation National Annual Meeting (NAM), “Science in Paradise: From the Depths of the Ocean to the Edge of the Universe.”**

The 2013 NAM was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 29 through June 1. ARCS Utah Founding President Cece Foxley, President Anne Erickson, Board Member at Large Judith Miller and Member Lynne Brickner attended. The conference events were held in the beautiful Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort where we attended excellent workshops on Grant Writing, Integrating Planned Giving into your Development Plan, Web Consulting for Free, and Harnessing the Power of the National Web Site and Data Base to Increase Chapter Effectiveness. Distinguished scientists from the University of Hawaii presented two outstanding science panels titled “Frontiers in Astronomy” and “Volcanoes in the Solar System.” The optional tours and dinner speakers offered by the Hawaii Chapter were very interesting and appropriate to the chapter locale. Several of us enjoyed a tour reminding us of the tragic events which occurred at Pearl Harbor and a second tour of the Bishops Museum where we learned about the Ancient Science of Polynesian Voyaging. The wrap-up reception and dinner at the Hilton Hawaiian Village taught us why we should care about Desert Sea Trenches. The 2013 NAM was held in a most beautiful ocean setting where the Hawaii Chapter presented many opportunities for participants to develop new strategies to improve their chapters while renewing old friendships and meeting new ARCS leaders.

### **Fall 2013 National Board Meeting**

In early October, ARCS National Board met in Portland. Margaret Niver McGann, current ARCS President and Judith Miller, Board Member-at-Large attended. Business was taken care of efficiently, with a new nominating committee elected and the new affiliation agreement between national and the chapters explained in detail. In addition, all national committees met and held work sessions. The sessions were productive. Both the training sessions and the meetings of the Council of Presidents allowed the sixteen attending chapter presidents to exchange best practices in development activities, welcoming and recruitment of new members and communications, including the ARCS website. The gathering provided our Utah Chapter with guidance and resources as we continue to develop both our corporate and individual development efforts as well as our recruitment and engagement of members. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect and reconnect with other chapters and to learn of the efforts and successes of our national organization. We look forward to sharing more of what we learned.

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## **EXCITING NEWS**

### **ARCS Utah Chapter Featured as Part of The Utah State Employees’ Charitable Fund**

We are very excited that the Utah Chapter of ARCS Foundation was selected to be included in the Utah State Employees’ Charitable Fund Campaign. The Charitable Fund was organized over 55 years ago to

provide a program wherein state employees could make donations without being solicited by numerous agencies throughout the year. The Charitable Fund Campaign lasts for about two months each year and gives employees an opportunity to donate to approved organizations of their choice. Thanks to the efforts of one of the newest ARCS Utah Chapter members, Kimberly Hood, Executive Director of the State Department of Administrative Services (DAS), our Utah Chapter submitted an application to be included as a listed charity, and not only was approved, but was selected by the Board of Directors as one of the three organizations to make a presentation at the September 20, 2013 Charitable Fund Campaign Kick-off and one of four to make a presentation at the DAS Fall Harvest Charitable Fund Campaign Kick-off. All state departments were represented at the Charitable Fund Campaign Kick-off. Founding President Cece Foxley made a PowerPoint presentation on ARCS, and she and Anne Erickson, Past President, greeted attendees at the ARCS display table where ARCS information materials were made available. Several individuals said they thought the mission of ARCS was very important, and they expressed interest in making a contribution. A few commented that they would consider joining the ARCS Foundation – Utah Chapter. A similar warm reception was received by Chapter President Margaret Niver McGann as she made a presentation at the DAS Fall Harvest Charitable Fund Kick-off and an on-the-spot donation was received. We have high hopes that the increased visibility afforded by these events will help spread the word and provide further support for our mission. Thanks, Kim.

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### **HISTORY OF ARCS FOUNDATION UTAH SCHOLAR AWARDS**

The Utah Chapter of the ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Foundation was approved by the National Board in 2009. Since then, we have raised funds to provide support for 14 ARCS Scholars at the University of Utah – 12 are PhD students in Engineering and 2 are medical residents at the Moran Eye Center, all are doing ground-breaking research which will impact our future. The 2010-11 scholars are: Shannon Hanson, Civil & Environmental Engineering; Nicholas Nolta, Bioengineering; and Joshua Sewell, Chemical Engineering. The 2011-12 scholars are: Daman Bareiss, Mechanical Engineering; Andrew Fisher, Electrical & Computer Engineering; and Shannon Reynolds, Civil & Environmental Engineering. The 2012-13 scholars are: Jennifer Bauer, Bioengineering; Katherine Lambert, Bioengineering; Megan Prestgard, Materials Science & Engineering; and Brian Zaugg, Ophthalmology.

We are extremely fortunate that both the College of Engineering and the Moran Eye Center have committed to funding the 2nd and 3rd years for these scholars as well as our most recent scholars so that ARCS Utah can continue to fund new ARCS Scholars each year. Thus far, the total funding committed to this important effort is as follows: \$15,000 each to 14 scholars for a total of \$210,000; second and third year funding provided by the College of Engineering and the Moran Eye Center for a total of \$420,000, which brings the grand total of funds provided and committed to \$630,000.

**2013 – 2014 UTAH ARCS FOUNDATION AWARDS**

The 2013-14 scholars are: **Matthew Hamilton**, Chemical Engineering; **Megan Walsh**, Civil & Environmental Engineering; **Michelle Hromatka**, Computer Science; and **Brian Stagg**, Ophthalmology.



**Matthew Hamilton - Recipient of the Stacy K. Firth Scholar Award**

Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Utah

Research Interests: Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere as part of the combustion process.

Matt received his BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Utah. He would like to teach at the university level and pursue research that will help minimize the human impact on the environment.

*Stacy K. Firth Scholar Award donated by Dr. Cecelia H. Foxley.*



**Megan Walsh - Recipient of the Founder's Award**

Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Utah

Research Interests: Effects of urbanization on restoring water streams in Utah and other semi-arid regions.

Megan received her BS in Civil Engineering and MS degree in Environmental Pollution control from Pennsylvania State University. Megan hopes to develop tools and training that will help watershed managers develop successful stream restoration.

*Founder's Award honoring Dr. Cecelia H. Foxley, ARCS Utah Founding President, made possible by donations from Dr. Anne Erickson, Ruth Novak, and anonymous ARCS Utah Chapter Members.*



**Michelle Hromatka - Recipient of the Utah Chapter Scholar Award**

Computer Science, School of Computing, College of Engineering, University of Utah

Research Interests: Computer graphics and animation.

Michelle graduated with a BA degree in computer science from the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in St. Joseph, Minnesota. Michelle aspires to an academic career as a professor of computer science.



**Brian Stagg - Recipient of the Judith and Cliff Miller Scholar Award**

Ophthalmology, Moran Eye Center, University of Utah Medical Center

Research interests: Corneal Neovascularization, cataract surgery safety and efficiency and improvement of eye care delivered to indigent populations. Brian graduated from the University of Utah School of Medicine in May 2012. He is joining the Eye Moran Center as an ophthalmology resident.

Dr. Stagg views research as an opportunity to improve patient care and have an impact on the future.

*Judith and Cliff Miller Scholar Award donated by Stanley Gold.*

## DUES REMINDER

If you have not already paid your dues for our 2013-14 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.arcfoundation.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.*

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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**Laura Springhetti**  
Nurse Anesthetist, Moran Eye Center and V.A. Hospital

**Karen Gunn**  
Associate Provost, Economic Development & Business Partnerships, Salt Lake Community College

## In Kind Donation

Thank you to Parsons Behle & Latimer for the layout and printing of this year's newsletter.

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