

INSIDER



April 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...



Kathe Albrecht

I'm excited to share with you our ARCS Chapter's Spring 2023 *Insider* newsletter. The following pages are full of news and photos from recent activities, reports on events, and information on our newest members, Scholars, and Scholar Alumni.

As president, I have the privilege of attending many important ARCS events throughout the year. A few weeks ago, I attended the Donor Appreciation Luncheon at San

Diego State University, along with **Rachel Collins**, VP Fund Development, and **Kristin Boyd**, ARCS liaison to SDSU. It was a large and enthusiastic gathering of the giving community! Our table included several Scholars, so we had the opportunity to chat with them about their work. The program featured remarks from SDSU's President (and honorary ARCS member) **Adela de la Torre**, several major donors, SDSU alumni, and current scholarship recipients. Our own ARCS Scholar **Maricruz Carrillo** spoke eloquently about her personal and academic journey. Read more about this wonderful event on the following pages.

Another highlight of this past month was a very special luncheon, held at the home of **Doris and Pete Ellsworth**, and honoring our Legacy Society members. These ARCS members have made generous commitments to include ARCS in their estate planning. A big thanks to all our Legacy Society members! Attending the event were **Karen and Bob Bowden**, **Leslie and Clint Bruce**, **Marti and Frank Panarisi**, **Paulette Roberts** (LS member who co-hosted the event as Director of Legacy Giving), **Doris and Pete Ellsworth**, **Norma Hidalgo del Rio**, **Becki Etess**, **Rachel Collins** (as VP Fund Development) and myself. We were having such fun that we forgot to take photos until close to the end of the event. Because a few couples had already left, we decided to take a selfie to get all those remaining into the photo. We got a kick out of attempting a trick that folks under 30 years of age do all the time. You can see from the photo that we are enjoying the attempt at a selfie!



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...

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If you're interested in joining the Legacy Society, please contact **Paulette Roberts** at paulejroberts@gmail.com or call her at 732-403-6004. She will be happy to chat with you about expanding your ARCS giving through the Legacy Society.

As always, many thanks to all of our ARCS chapter members. Your dedication to our educational mission is exemplary and greatly appreciated. Enjoy the *Insider*!

Kathe Albrecht, President

ARCS Foundation, San Diego Chapter

Please Welcome Our New San Diego Chapter Member



Meredith Johnston

Meredith Johnston was raised in Texas and lived in several parts of the country before settling in southern California nearly 10 years ago. She started her career in hospitality and customer relations, strengthening valuable communication and team building skills she still utilizes today. While pursuing her master's degree at University of North Texas, Meredith accepted her first philanthropy position. She was moved by the tangible impact of philanthropy and realized she had a love and aptitude for this field.

Meredith has now worked in philanthropy for over 15 years, holding senior leadership roles at several large public institutions, including Oklahoma State University, University of California, San Diego and University of California, Riverside. She is a passionate advocate not only for education and science but also for the profession of philanthropy. Meredith believes partnering with philanthropists to accomplish bold, exciting and transformative projects is both a noble profession and deeply fulfilling. As an advocate for the importance of philanthropy, she regularly speaks at academic conferences and leads virtual webinars and workshops to help others improve their fundraising efforts.

Today Meredith is the Vice President of Philanthropy at Scripps Research, where she started over five years ago as a Senior Director. With the institute's support, she has cultivated a dynamic philanthropy team of 16 fundraising professionals. To increase support and ensure the longevity of the institute's philanthropy program, Meredith has strategically bolstered fundraising efforts at Scripps Research by growing key fundraising programs—including annual giving, corporate and foundation relations, and planned giving—and investing in stewardship, operations and donor relations. She is passionate about team and culture building and investing in her staff. Outside of philanthropy, Meredith enjoys spending time with her labradoodle Sedona, soaking in the sun, reading, and exploring the theater and arts scenes.

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Please Welcome Our New San Diego Chapter Member... Continued from Page 2

Having worked at several higher education institutions, Meredith understands the significant impact of funding education and the critical need for philanthropy in fostering access to high caliber learning experiences. One of Meredith's key projects during her time at Scripps Research has been raising funding to support the training of the next generation of scientific leaders at the institute's graduate school. ARCS has been a wonderful partner in supporting students in the San Diego scientific community, and she is excited to join this exceptional group.

2022-2023 ARCS Light - Holly Heaton



Congratulations to **Holly Heaton**, San Diego's 2022-2023 ARCS Light Award honoree!

The ARCS Light Award is a distinctive honor awarded to a member of our Chapter each year who exemplifies service and commitment to our Chapter and the ARCS mission.

Holly joined the ARCS San Diego Chapter in 2012. With her background as an attorney and an RN, she brings outstanding acumen and talent to her volunteer leadership, and is passionate about promoting science and technology in our Scholars.

Holly possesses a wealth of qualities that greatly factor into her success as an ARCS colleague and mentor. She is a transformational leader, strategic thinker, collaborative team player and an absolute dynamo. She has that ineffable spark of optimism that ignites passion and commitment from others. She is persistent, curious, and open to learning and trying new things. She recognizes the power of people working together and creating solutions.

Over the past decade, Holly has served on the ARCS Communications, Fund Development, University Relations, Scientist of the Year (SOY), Nominating and Membership Committees - in several Vice President and Director roles. Most importantly, she served as ARCS San Diego Chapter President for 3 consecutive years.

With Holly at the helm, the San Diego chapter navigated the pandemic and adapted to its many challenges resulting in record-breaking success in fundraising and in increased awareness of ARCS and its mission in the region and beyond.

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2022-2023 ARCS Light - Holly Heaton

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Her contributions to ARCS National are also significant, having served on the Council of Presidents (CoP) for four years, the first three as a President and this past year as a CoP representative. Holly also serves as co-chair of the UR Collaboration Network along with **Chris Simpson-Brent** and **Joan Foley**.

In addition to her commitment to ARCS, Holly also serves on the Board of Sharp Healthcare Foundation and previously served on the board and as president of the San Diego Blood Bank. She was recognized by the Salvation Army of San Diego County as a Woman of Dedication in 2022 and serves as a Patron of this organization.

Holly resides in Del Mar, California with her husband, Dr. Robert Heaton. They have two grown daughters.

SDSU Day of Giving (March 14, 2023)

SDSU's Day of Giving marks their annual fundraising campaign that aims to encourage supporters and donors to come together as a community to positively impact SDSU's programs, and build upon a tradition of excellence.

Among the festivities that take place on this day is the Donor Appreciation Luncheon, and since ARCS is a longstanding supporter of SDSU, representatives from our chapter are always invited to this event. This year, **Kathe Albrecht**, **Rachel Collins**, and **Kristin Boyd** took part in the festivities. Here they are pictured alongside two of our current Scholars: **Lily Vasquez** and **Maricruz Carillo**.



L to R: **Bill Tong**, Vice Provost; **Jeff Roberts**, Dean of College of Sciences; **Lily Vasquez**, ARCS Scholar; **Maricruz Carillo**, ARCS Scholar; **Kathe Albrecht**, President of ARCS SD, **Rachel Collins**, VP of Fund Development; **Kristin Boyd**, SDSU Liaison.



Check Presentation at Scripps Research (January 26, 2023)

Nine exceptional grad students at Scripps Research received 2022-2023 ARCS Scholar Awards totaling \$90,000 in funds. On a beautiful sunny afternoon in late January, it was time to make it official with the traditional check presentation...in a spectacular setting on the deck of SR's Faculty Club, no less! Congratulations one and all!



L to R: **Hailee Perrett**, **Garrett Lindsey**, **Michaela Medina**, **Nathalia Gazaniga**, **Karen Bowden** (ARCS SD Co-founder), **Ellen Moxham** (SR liaison), **Kathe Albrecht** (ARCS SD President), **Justice Fleischmann**, **Philip Dawson** (SR Dean of Graduate Studies), **Brett Garabedian**, **Caroline Stanton**, **Toby Eisenberg** (ARCS SD member and donor), **Nelson Wu**, **Laurie Roeder** (ARCS SD VP Membership).

Winter General Meeting (January 24, 2023)

Nothing is more gratifying than following the “career arc” of one of our esteemed Scholar alumni. On a beautiful January afternoon, at our Winter General Meeting, 50+ ARCS San Diego members were treated to a passionate and informative talk on ‘Palliative Care: A Public Health Priority’ delivered by **Caroline Etland, PhD, RN, ACHPN**, who received her ARCS Scholar Award in 2006-2008 at USD’s Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science.

Dr. Etland’s presentation was followed by several chapter highlights such as new member introductions, member giving totals, Scientist of the Year Celebration

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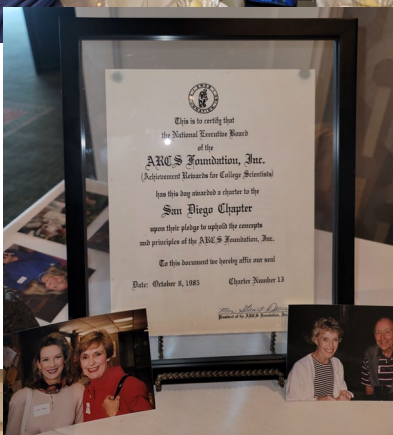


Winter General Meeting (January 24, 2023) ...

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planning, and the 2022-2023 ARCS Light Award, which went to past president **Holly Heaton**. We are all so grateful for Holly's commitment, leadership, and support of ARCS, which is now a model for other chapters across the country!

We also heard some wonderful reminiscences from two of our founders – **Karen Bowden** and **Barbara McColl** – and several of our Charter Members, while enjoying a delicious lunch at the La Jolla Country Club. Everyone went home feeling uplifted and proud of ARCS San Diego, its amazing members, and its impressive impact on STEM research and education!





Updates from ARCS Members

We were all deeply saddened to learn of the passing of two longtime members and supporters of ARCS: **Jacqueline Linstrom** and **Shirley Schwab**. Here you can read about their extraordinary lives of service in the San Diego region and beyond:



Jacqueline Linstrom

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sandiegouniontribune/name/jacqueline-linstrom-obituary?id=38589483>



Shirley Schwab

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sandiegouniontribune/name/shirley-schwab-obituary?id=47583292>

Updates from ARCS Scholars & Scholar Alumni



Samantha Sison (2022-2023 ARCS Scholar at UCSD) was elected the next co-President of Nucleate (formerly Activate Bio), the nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering tomorrow's biotech leaders by educating today's academic trainees.

Read the full story here: <https://nucleatehq.medium.com/nucleate-announces-first-planned-co-president-leadership-transition-be755321f57>



Chelsea Rochman, PhD (2012-2013 ARCS Scholar at SDSU) received an Ontario Minister's Award of Excellence in the category of Everyday Heroes. Prof. Rochman's research into plastic pollution and work through the University of Toronto Trash Team is at the forefront of efforts to protect our environment.

Read the full story here: <https://gro.utoronto.ca/policy-in-the-news/ministers-awards-of-excellence-recognize-u-of-ts-impact-in-ontario/>



Danielle Grotjahn, PhD (2016-2018 ARCS Scholar at Scripps Research) assistant professor in the Department of Integrative Structural and Computational Biology at Scripps Research, received a second Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award, which comes with an additional \$400,000 through December 2024 for her groundbreaking research focused on mitochondria!

Read the full story here: <https://magazine.scripps.edu/awards-and-honors/2022/fall-winter/danielle-grotjahn-granted-second-damon-runyon-rachleff-innovation-award/>

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Updates from ARCS Scholars & Scholar Alumni... Continued from Page 7



Philip Compeau, PhD (2011-2014 ARCS Scholar at UCSD) is a passionate educator who has taught a range of STEM courses to a diverse collection of student groups, an experienced administrator who works to make student development the central focus of his educational programs, and a founder of several successful scalable online education projects; most recently on *Biological Modeling*, which will help you learn why zebras have stripes, why SARS-CoV-2 spread so quickly around the planet, how to train a computer to classify cellular images, and more! Dr. Compeau is currently completing an MBA at Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business to further grow his management skill set.

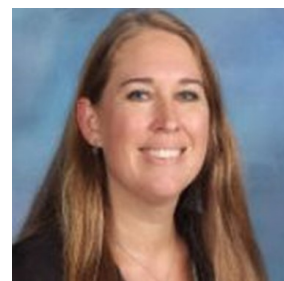


Sarah McCullough Hennessy, MS, PhD (2014-2015 ARCS Scholar at SDSU) was hired by the U.S. Forest Service to help spearhead a project aimed at saving Southern California's montane forests (aka "sky islands") of mountain habitat that feature conifers and several oak species. These forests are facing rapidly intensifying stressors and disturbances that are exacerbated by climate change.

Read the full story here: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/environment/story/2023-01-22/southern-california-sky-island-logging>

Scholar Alumni – Where Are They Now?

Krissi Hewitt, MS, PhD (2011, SDSU) joined the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in 2017 as Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness. Through this role, she works with campus stakeholders to build capacity for data-informed decision-making and strategic planning, with the aim of improving policy and practice. She also leads campus research integrity and strategic initiatives as the Chief Research Officer for the school.



Krissi brought with her over 10 years of experience in STEM education transformation and research, and served as Regional Education Partnership Policy Advisor for Oregon's Chief Education Office, directing the state agency's cross-sector education partnership initiatives and conducting policy analyses relevant to STEM and career and technical education on behalf of the governor. As a biologist and science educator, Krissi is committed to enhancing STEM learning environments with a focus on applied, experiential learning opportunities that increase scientific literacy.

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Scholar Alumni – Where Are They Now?...

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Past honors include serving as a National Academies Teaching Fellow in the Life Sciences as well as receiving an Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Fellowship. Krissi earned her doctorate in science education from Oregon State University, her master's in microbiology from San Diego State University, and her bachelor's in biology from the University of California, San Diego.

Paresma (Pinky) Patel, PhD (2009-2010, Scripps Research) is a Division Director in the Office of New Drug Products at the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). She started at the FDA in 2015 as a review chemist supporting the oncology divisions. She has worked across multiple clinical divisions as a drug substance and drug product chemistry, manufacturing, and controls (CMC) reviewer and served as a Quality Lead for two years prior to transitioning to a role as Branch Chief in 2021.



As a reviewer at the FDA, she worked as a member of a multidisciplinary team evaluating drug applications submitted to the FDA for clinical trials and marketing. She primarily focused on reviewing the data submitted in the chemistry, manufacturing, and controls sections which includes the process used to manufacture drugs, the overall quality and quality metrics of the drugs, and the final formulation that is developed for administration to patients.

Prior to FDA, she worked as a medicinal chemist at the National Institutes of Health with a focus on target validation and lead optimization of small molecule kinase inhibitors. Dr. Patel completed her PhD in organic chemistry at Scripps Research in 2010 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the California Institute of Technology in 2012.

In an interview with Scripps Research, Dr. Patel talked about the many skills she learned from her time as a PhD student in the Boger lab that were transferable to her career. Attaining a doctorate required learning to think independently to solve problems in the laboratory setting. The skills that she consistently relies on in her current career include problem solving, critical thinking, effective communication of science, and working as a member of a team.

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Scholar Alumni – Where Are They Now?...

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Philip Janney, PhD (1993-1996, UCSD/SIO) is an analytical geochemist with broad interests in the geochemistry of mantle-derived rocks (basalts, kimberlites, carbonatites, peridotites, etc.). His current interests are in deciphering the interactions between the convecting mantle and continental lithosphere in intraplate regions, particularly southern Africa. He also has interests in the geochemistry of mid-ocean ridge and ocean island lavas and in the cosmochemistry of refractory inclusions in chondrite meteorites.



Dr. Janney earned his PhD in earth sciences at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) in 1996. He went on to do another year of postgraduate research at SIO, followed by two years at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. In 2000, he took a job as manager of the Isotope Geochemistry Lab at The Field Museum where he remained for the next six years. In 2006, he moved to Arizona State University in Tempe, where he worked as associate research scientist in the School of Earth and Space Exploration until 2012. He then joined the faculty of geological sciences at the University of Cape Town in South Africa and is currently associate professor. He has authored or co-authored over 30 publications in international scientific journals.

ARCS Calendar of Events

MAY

- Sunday, May 7 – 2023 Scientist of the Year Celebration (The Conrad in La Jolla)
- Tuesday, May 16 – Board Meeting

JUNE

- Tuesday, June 6 – Member General Meeting (La Jolla Country Club)
- June 8-10 – National Board Meeting (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Tuesday, June 20 – Board Meeting

JULY

- Thursday, July 6 – Field trip to UCSD Shake Table