

June 2023

INSIDER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...



Kathe Albrecht

I hope you are enjoying the first lovely days of summer. I know you are eager to open up the Summer issue of the *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.

What a great year we've had. Our June 6 General Meeting was a celebratory event as we closed out an ARCS year full of accomplishments, successes, and wonderful learning experiences. I wish to personally commend all our members for their important roles in making these successes possible.

We've done so much! We've strengthened our relationships with our academic partners by conducting formal Site Visits for the first time in many years. We are in a strong financial position with record-breaking fundraising. We've done an excellent job of recruiting talented new members while at the same time strengthening member retention through improved communication and engagement. Tied to that has been a new level of participation in our in-person events: Our Just for Fun Party last summer, the Holiday Party in December, our many field trips, and our general meetings have seen very high attendance, with lots of fun and camaraderie at each one.

A highlight of the year was the Scientist of the Year celebration. It was record-breaking for an in-person SOY and we netted over \$134,000 for our Scholar Fund. We enjoyed a spectacular evening at the Conrad Prebys Center for Performing Arts, celebrated our wonderful Scholars, and heard important remarks from our Scientist of the Year, renowned paleo-oceanographer and scientific leader **Dr. Margaret Leinen**. Congratulations to the SOY Committee and to all of our members and friends who contributed to the evening's success.

As we close the year out, I'd like to thank the 2022-2023 ARC Chapter Board of Directors. What a great team! I feel blessed to have worked with you this year, and am so grateful for your help, advice, and ideas. Joining me as President were **Holly Heaton** (Past President), **Gwynn Thomas** (VP Administration), **Marla Shepard** (Interim VP Finance and Member-at-Large), **Rachel Collins** (VP Fund Development), **Ingrid-Benirschke-Perkins** (VP Marketing and

Continued on Page 2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...

Continued from Page 1

Communications), **Leslie Bruce** (VP Meetings, Field Trips, and Social Events), **Laurie Roeder** (VP Membership), **Pat Judd** (VP University Relations), **Tami Strahan** (Recording Secretary), **Robin Luby** (Parliamentarian), and **Helga Moore** (Member-at-Large). Thank you for your help, guidance, and leadership throughout the year.

And, as always, thanks to all our members for your continued commitment to the chapter. Remember, it is renewal season, so please take a moment to renew your membership if you haven't already done so.

Enjoy the *Insider!*

Kathe Albrecht, President
ARCS Foundation, San Diego Chapter

Summer General Meeting (June 6, 2023)

The June 6 General Meeting was a huge success, with 57 members in attendance. It was a celebratory meeting as we closed an ARCS year full of accomplishments, successes, and wonderful learning experiences. President **Kathe Albrecht** commended the entire chapter for their important roles in making these successes possible.

We began with an informative business meeting which summarized the chapter's activities this year. As part of the meeting, the membership voted on the 2023-2024 slate of officers and Kathe thanked the current board for their hard work on behalf of the chapter. She presented small gifts to each of the outgoing board members: **Rachel Collins**, **Holly Heaton**, **Pat Judd**, **Robin Luby**, and **Helga Moore**.

After the meeting and before lunch was served, members had a few minutes of informal time to catch up with old friends, new members, and guests. We then heard from our two speakers. **Dwayne Roach** explained the important research that his lab is conducting on phage therapies, a ground-breaking treatment that tackles tough antibiotic-resistant infectious diseases. It was eye-opening to hear about new developments, and to learn about the short time frame scientists work in to stay ahead of infections that are developing resistance to existing therapies.



Guest speakers: **Tiffany Luong** and **Dwayne Roach**



Summer General Meeting (June 6, 2023)...

Continued from Page 2

Dwayne then introduced our ARCS Scholar **Tiffany Luong**, one of the doctoral students working in his lab. She spoke about the application of the phage therapies, the process the lab goes through in order to get the innovative therapies to the patients. Dwayne and Tiffany fielded questions from the audience afterward.

The ARCS members and guests would have kept them there for longer, but it was time to adjourn our culminating general meeting of the year.

Heartfelt thanks to **Laurie Roeder** for capturing these record shots from the meeting!





2023 ARCS Scientist of the Year Celebration (May 7, 2023)

What a joy to be back **in person** to celebrate our 2023 Scientist of the Year (SOY) and our 2022-2023 Scholars...in the warm and intimate setting of The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center in La Jolla, no less! The event began with hors d'oeuvres and drinks in the Wu Tsai Courtyard and the JAI, and then moved into the main Baker-Baum Concert Hall where President **Kathe Albrecht** welcomed the audience with some opening remarks, followed by the traditional Scholar processional, accompanied by trumpeter **Kevin Yturralde**. We were then treated to a wonderful video collage, created by Project Manager Extraordinaire **Rob Healey**, which introduced each of this year's Scholars.

Next, we heard a short talk by ARCS Scholar Alumnus, **Dr. Forest Rohwer**, a renowned marine microbial ecologist, who made a few humorous barbs about this year's SOY selection. **Mary Ann Beyster**, whose family foundation is a longtime supporter of both ARCS and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, then introduced the 2023 Scientist of the Year, **Dr. Margaret Leinen**. For the next 20 minutes, we were enthralled by Dr. Leinen's keynote speech, in which she reaffirmed the importance of ocean research for our future.



Mary Ann Beyster



Dr. Forest Rohwer



Dr. Margaret Leinen



2023 ARCS Scientist of the Year Celebration

(May 7, 2023)... Continued from Page 4

The event concluded with a selection of tasty desserts in the Wu Tsai Courtyard, where guests had the opportunity to mingle with our speakers, Scholars, and friends. Many ARCS members remarked that it was “the best SOY event ever”!

Hearty congratulations go to the SOY Committee Co-Chairs **Kristin Boyd** and **Gwynn Thomas** and committee members **Kathe Albrecht, Cathie Atkins, Ingrid Benirschke-Perkins, Rachel Collins, Toby Eisenberg, Doris Ellsworth, Susan Hylton, Karen Ludwig, Lisa Perich, and Laurie Roeder**!



To watch the Scholar video highlights enjoyed at the SOY Celebration (11 Minutes), click [HERE](#):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ax-2i0xVmG8>

For the Full Versions of the Scholar Videos (23 minutes), click [HERE](#):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1Nq1xNhzDQ>



Field Trip to San Diego Botanic Garden (April 12, 2023)

Kudos to **Elizabeth Taft** for organizing a delightful field trip to the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas! Members first heard presentations from three of their lead scientists: CEO **Ari Novy, PhD**; Director of Medicinal Plants Research, **Ben Naman, PhD**; and Senior Director of Science and Conservation, **Colin Khoury, PhD**, followed by a walking tour of the gardens. Afterward, several members gathered for a delicious lunch of pot pies, hand pies and salads at Elizabethan Desserts & The 50's Cafe.



Updates from ARCS Members

On a blustery day in early June, President **Kathe Albrecht** and SOY Committee Co-Chair **Kristin Boyd** paid a visit to Scripps Institution of Oceanography in order to present a unique piece of art to our 2023 Scientist of the Year, **Dr. Margaret Leinen**, in thanks for her keynote speech at our SOY Celebration on May 7th.

Continued on Page 7



Updates from ARCS Members...

Continued from Page 6

Dr. Leinen was thrilled to receive such a special and meaningful gift, which pictures the Spilhaus World Ocean Map: a projection of earth centered on Antarctica that makes the ocean the focus of an astonishing worldview, pushing the land to the outer edges of the square and re-organizing our global geography around the true natural systems of the world ocean. The Spilhaus projection was developed in 1942 by Dr. Athelstan Spilhaus and is a favorite of Dr. Leinen's.

The artwork was created by ARCS supporter **Janet Hubka**, CEO of Illus Art, a company started by Janet and her husband, Mark, which inspires scientific curiosity by engaging students in STEAM through its unique cellular artwork.

Heartfelt thanks to Janet for once again creating the perfect gift for our SOY!

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary (SAWA) celebrated "Hearts of Gold, Women Who Inspire," the theme of its 57th Anniversary Women of Dedication (WOD) luncheon, presentation and fundraiser on Friday, April 21, 2023, at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina. The event honors a dozen extraordinary women – a dynamic and diverse group from throughout San Diego County – for their dedication to our community through volunteerism and service.



President **Kathe Albrecht** and SOY Committee Co-Chair **Kristin Boyd** present the Spilhaus projection gift to **Dr. Leinen**.



We were so proud to see not one, but three, ARCS members among the honorees: **June Chocheles**, **Cindy Goodman**, and **Martha Dennis**. Here they are alongside their fellow honorees. Congratulations, June, Cindy, and Martha for this well-deserved honor!!

(L to R): **Cindy Goodman**, **Janice Kurth**, **Sara Wilenski Napoli**, **June Chocheles**, **Stephanie Brown**, **Vivian Crawford Tuck**, **Suzanne Newman**, **Michelle Prescott**, **Kimberly Alessio**, **Maria Provencher**, **Linda LeGerrette** and **Martha Dennis**.



Updates from ARCS Members...

Continued from Page 7

Thank you to **Laurie Roeder** for snapping these photos of the ARCS Members who attended the event in support of this year's Women of Dedication!



Updates from ARCS Scholars & Scholar Alumni



Michael Fox, MS, PhD (2018, ARCS Scholar at UCSD/SIO) published an article in *Science Advances* in early June that reports on some surprising changes to a Pacific Ocean current during one of the strongest recorded El Niños, which saved a remote island's coral reefs while others were devastated by mass bleaching. Read the full story here: <https://discovery.kaust.edu.sa/en/article/21226/ocean-current-comes-to-the-rescue-for-pacific-island-reefs/>



Jervaughn Hunter (2022-2023 ARCS Scholar at UCSD) was excited to report that the nonprofit he co-founded – Hometown H.E.R.O.E.S. – will be awarding its first community impact scholarship to a graduating senior in Jervaughn's hometown (Pt. Gibson, MS) on May 24th! Hometown H.E.R.O.E.S. (Helpers Empowering, Revitalizing, and Optimizing Everyone's Success) seeks to uplift and support the Claiborne County community through outreach, health and wellness, creativity, and activism. Bravo, Jervaughn! You are our hero!



Minerva Contreras (2022-2023 ARCS Scholar at UCSD) is passionate about communicating science and inspiring Latinas all over the world to pursue scientific careers. So, she was thrilled to host a series of videos that make up a Crash Course en Español Biología! You can view those videos here: <https://www.youtube.com/crashcourseenespanol>

Continued on Page 9



Updates from ARCS Scholars & Scholar Alumni... Continued from Page 8



Gabriel Ascui-Gac (2022-2023 ARCS Scholar at UCSD) was highlighted in the spring edition of La Jolla Institute for Immunology's *Immune Matters Magazine*. You'll enjoy reading about Gabriel's journey from a small lab in his backyard in Chile to the Kronenberg Lab at LJI, where he studies how immune cells defend the lungs.

Here's the full story: <https://mag.lji.org/spring-2023/online-exclusive-tinkering-with-t-cells/>



Paul Maier, PhD (2016-2018 ARCS Scholar at SDSU) was featured in the national ARCS newsletter in May. Dr. Maier earned his PhD in Evolutionary Biology at SDSU and went on to work as a population geneticist at Family Tree DNA, a pioneer of the genetic genealogy industry, located in Houston, Texas. Read the full story here:

<https://www.arcsfoundation.org/news/arcs-scholar-revives-lost-branch-humanity-dna>



Daniel Trugman, PhD (2017-2018 ARCS Scholar at UCSD/SIO) was honored with the Seismological Society of America's (SSA) 2023 Charles F. Richter Early Career Award for his scientific productivity, contributions to open-source community software, outreach and teaching. The award is named for Charles Richter, who developed the Richter scale, and honors outstanding contributions to the goals of the SSA by a member early in their career. Read the full story here: <https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2023/daniel-trugman-richter-career-award>



John Holoubek (2022-2023 ARCS Scholar at UCSD) received the 2022 Battery Division Student Research Award, sponsored by Mercedes-Benz Research & Development, at the fall meeting of The Electrochemical Society (ECS) held in Atlanta, GA. The award was established in 1979 to recognize promising young engineers and scientists in the field of electrochemical power sources and is intended to encourage recipients to initiate or continue careers in the field. The award consists of a scroll, a US \$1,000 prize, complimentary student meeting registration and travel expenses of up to US \$1,000 to facilitate ESP meeting attendance.



Scholar Alumni - Where Are They Now?

Julie Akiko Gladsgjo, MD (2005, UCSD) is a board-certified Mohs surgeon who, in addition to private practice, teaches dermatology at local San Diego Hospitals. She earned her medical degree at UC San Diego and has been practicing dermatology since 2009. Her passion for teaching is also reflected in the time she spends with her patients, believing that understanding is the foundation for the best possible outcomes. Her patients benefit from her application of the latest medical advances in dermatology, as well as her warm, compassionate care and her careful attention to detail.



When Dr. Gladsgjo is not caring for her patients, she enjoys spending time with her twins. Her hobbies include quilting, needlepoint, and reading.

Nicole Schirle Oakdale, MS, PhD (2014-2015, Scripps Research) is currently a Senior Research Scientist at Gilead Sciences in Foster City, CA, focused on protein engineering and structural biology.

She joined Gilead in February 2019, after working at Pfizer as a Protein Engineering Lead, where she advanced projects from exploratory phase to pipeline status. She was responsible for antibody discovery and in vitro characterization of potential lead molecules with unique functionalities.



From 2015-2017, prior to her tenure at Pfizer, Nicole worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the Weissman and Frost groups at UCSF, where her focus was on characterizing an endoplasmic reticulum membrane protein complex using a variety of approaches, including genomics, biochemistry, proteomics, and single particle cryo-electron microscopy.

Nicole did her postdoctoral research in the MacRae lab at Scripps Research. There she carried out x-ray crystallographic experiments that led to the solution of the first 3D structures of human Argonaute2, the catalytic effector molecule of the RNA interference pathway. From these crystal structures, she was able to define a detailed mechanism for gene silencing in humans that explains the evolutionary conservation pattern in microRNA target sites observed over a decade ago.

Today, Nicole is an active member of Women In Bio, a national organization of professionals committed to promoting careers, leadership, and entrepreneurship of women in the life sciences. She serves as the chair of the San Francisco Programming Committee, which is responsible for organizing monthly networking events and panel discussions.

Continued on Page 11



Scholar Alumni - Where Are They Now?...

Continued from Page 10

Megan Jennings, PhD (2011-2012, SDSU) is a conservation ecologist and Co-Director of SDSU's Institute for Ecological Monitoring and Management. Her research is primarily focused on informing conservation and management planning in terrestrial systems with particular interest in incorporating landscape dynamics into connectivity planning.



Megan received her undergraduate degree in Environmental and Evolutionary Biology from Dartmouth College and completed her PhD in Ecology at SDSU and UC Davis studying the effects of fire on carnivores. Between 2003 and 2014, she worked as a wildlife biologist for the US Forest Service in San Diego. Her years of experience in land management for a federal agency informed her perspective as a researcher. She strives to work at the interface of science and management - developing applied research to address management and conservation issues, co-producing research with end-users, and communicating results and real-world recommendations to decision-makers and managers.

Megan is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at SDSU, an affiliated researcher with the Scripps Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, and serves as an advisor to the Climate Science Alliance. Her current research interests focus on wildlife movement, landscape connectivity, and climate adaptation using field, lab-based, and analytical techniques to inform conservation planning, wildlife management, and supporting resilience to climate change in our natural landscapes and local communities.

ARCS Calendar of Events

JULY

- Tuesday, July 18 – Board Retreat at La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club

AUGUST

- Thursday, August 3 – Field trip to UCSD Shake Table
- Tuesday, August 15 – Board Meeting (via Zoom)
- Sunday, August 27 – Just For Fun Party at the home of Carolyn Elledge-Baker

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday, September 19 – Board Meeting (via Zoom)