



# INSIDER



Summer 2017

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...***



Mary Fitz

**T**his month I come to the end of the journey which began two years ago. Do you remember the quotation I used at the beginning of this journey?

*"If a man wishes to be sure of the road he's traveling on, then he must close his eyes and travel in the dark."*

St John of the Cross

I can remove my blindfold now and look back at the work we have done, the challenges we have met, and assess the problems that lie ahead. I want to express my appreciation to the women who have worked so hard to make the last two years successful. I know the hours they have devoted to our ARCS mission and the sacrifices they have made to share their talents with us.

So I pass the baton on to my friends and compatriots, Helga Moore and Mary Lou Quick. It is so comforting to know the San Diego Chapter is in good hands as I step back from this office. I believe the incoming Board of Directors is strong and enthusiastic about administering, growing, and improving this chapter. I will remain engaged in the ARCS mission for the San Diego Chapter as Past President, and, when asked, I will advise and assist our Board members any way I can.

Helga and I have recently returned from the National Board Meeting in Denver, Colorado. There are changes ahead for the governance of our organization at the National level. At this time I do not see any direct impact upon our local chapter. This coming year, as Policies & Procedures are rewritten and revised, we will see how the new structure will affect us. For now I think we must just "float and flow," and see what the changes will bring us. So perhaps it is best to think of these changes as John O'Donohue put in his unfinished poem:

*I would love to live  
Like a river flows,  
Carried by the surprise  
Of its own unfolding.*  
John O'Donohue

...and so the ARCS Mission continues in the hands of women dedicated to the mission of providing financial awards to academically outstanding U.S. citizens studying to complete degrees in science, engineering and medical research.

*Continued on page 2*



## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...*** Continued from Page 1

Every year when our Scholars parade in front of the audience at the Scientist of the Year Dinner, we are reminded what an important and significant responsibility we have undertaken.

I feel confident your new presidents, Helga Moore and Mary Lou Quick, and their experienced and capable Board members will bring to you two years of efficient and exciting experiences. We all had an opportunity to meet them and show our support at the General Meeting at San Diego Yacht Club on June 16, 2017. Besides installing the new Board, we heard from one of our Scholars, Emily Nardoni, of the UCSD Physics Department, and Andrew Barton, Ph.D., from Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Thank you for all your contributions and support throughout these past two years.

*Mary Fitz, President, San Diego Chapter  
ARCS Foundation, Inc.*

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## ***NATIONAL BOARD MEETING Denver, Colorado - June 7-9, 2017***

This meeting was of great importance to the Council of Presidents segment of the National Board (NB). In the past, the Chapter presidents were all voting members of the NB. Due to the recent restructuring and reduction of Board members from 48 to 23, representation from the Council of Presidents to the NB has been reduced to six members. The Council met on two different occasions to discuss how this would influence the effectiveness of the Council. What would be the purpose of attending a NB meeting if you are no longer a member? It was stated and agreed that it is very important for the presidents to continue to meet at least once a year for the purpose of networking and giving feedback to the six representatives. It was decided that the Council of Presidents would meet as a whole at each January meeting and be encouraged to attend the other meetings as well. I feel confident that the elected representatives will serve the Chapter presidents well and be diligent in their duties to promote the interest of the Chapters.



*A stunning Denver sunset at National*

The NB has hired a management consultant, Ewald Consulting, to help with administrative tasks, especially the scheduling and planning of National Board meetings. As of now, the firm will be working for National only, but that may change in the future.

Highlights included the ARCS Light luncheon on June 9. We're sorry that our own Bobbie Vandervoort couldn't attend, but we did get her award.



## **NATIONAL BOARD MEETING...** Continued from Page 2



New President Helga Moore and  
Retiring President Mary Fitz

On a sad note, the Tampa Bay Chapter surrendered its Charter, which means there are only 15 Chapters at this time.

The All Members Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. from April 25-28, 2018, with a theme of "Scientific Innovation for the Next Generation". It will be a great experience, if past meetings in the nation's capital are any indication of future performance, and everyone is encouraged to attend. The conference hotel is the historic Willard Intercontinental. A Supreme Court dinner and tour will be available on an optional basis. (Justice Kennedy's wife is a member of the Metro Washington Chapter). The Metro Washington Chapter will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with a festive dinner on Friday night.

The National Board Meeting was a successful event, from the reception on Wednesday night to the final Board meeting on Friday afternoon, at which President Lynne Brickner stepped down and Andi Purple of Metro Washington was installed as the new National President.

*Submitted by Helga Moore*

## **Did You Know Pat?**

Known to her friends as a "lovely, generous and delightful woman," Pat Beckman is an icon of ARCS Foundation history. Founder and first president of the Orange County Chapter and long-time national board member, Pat contributed substantially to the national endowment as well as that of her own chapter. Pat also financially supported several other chapters over the years, particularly the Illinois and Pittsburgh Chapters, whose endowments she started. In addition to Orange County, she was a member of the Colorado Chapter and an Honorary Member of Pittsburgh.

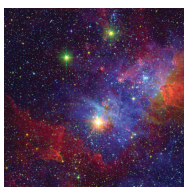


Pat's unfailing devotion and commitment to the chapters were universally known. She recognized that chapters are the heart of the ARCS Foundation, and that building the capacity of the chapters should be the national board's foremost activity.

After her death in 2011, it was thought fitting that any memorial to her should recognize this commitment. The Presidents' Advanced Training Sessions, or PATS, Learning Portal does just that.

The national board approved the PATS Learning Portal as a project in 2012, and it opened for business a little over two years ago as an online training tool and resource bank for chapter presidents and other chapter leaders and members.

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## ***Did You Know Pat?...*** Continued from Page 3

The Portal features links to *hundreds* of articles, websites and documents organized in subject areas important to running an ARCS Foundation Chapter: development, membership, marketing/communications, governance, financial management, and the role of the president in leadership and management.

It also provides easy access to the most current ARCS statistics – the number of scholars, dollars, members and university partners -- and boilerplate material for use in proposals and communication materials. In addition, PATS monthly Timely Tips and webinars provide hands-on advice about how to use the Portal to explore specific subjects.

In the spirit of “many hands make light work,” 29 ARCS Foundation members and the entire Orange County Chapter have been involved over the years in creating the Portal -- as donors, committee members or liaisons to various standing committees, all working with the unwavering support of the vice president of chapter relations and the Council of Presidents. In all, women from **14 chapters** have worked to make PATS a reality. In doing so, they have fulfilled Pat Beckman’s commitment to service and support the chapters.

As the current PATS committee sun-sets at the end of June, we know that the Portal will continue Pat Beckman’s legacy of supporting the Chapters in fulfilling the ARCS mission. We hope Pat would be proud.

*The PATS Learning Portal Committee*

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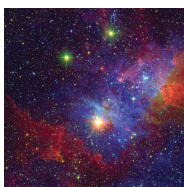
## ***ARCS Scientist of the Year Dinner***

More than three hundred people attended the ARCS Scientist of the Year Dinner on the evening of April 28, 2017 at the Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel. The evening started out with a lively happy hour, at which guests mingled with our Scholars, who shared their research. When guests entered the dining area, they saw the walls lit up with blue, the ARCS signature color, two large screens with a slideshow featuring Scholar names and fields of study, and round tables with flowers and votive



2016/2017 Scholars at SOY Dinner





## ARCS Scientist of the Year Dinner... Continued from Page 4

candles as the centerpieces. After the Scholars' impressive entrance and Mary Fitz's welcome, Dr. Peter Ho of San Francisco spoke about how ARCS support had enabled him to pursue his doctorate, leading to his current position as Senior Director, Business Development, BeiGene, Inc. Our featured guest of honor, San Diego Chapter's 2017 Scientist of the Year Dr. Karen Nelson, then spoke, after an introduction by J. Craig Venter, of her background as a child growing up in Jamaica and her path to become President of the J. Craig Venter Institute and the Head of the Microbiome Group at Human Longevity, Inc., in San Diego. She then explained her field of study. The evening ended with an opportunity drawing for a night at the Sheraton and a spa treatment for two contributed by the hotel.



Dr. Stan Maloy of SDSU, Dr. David Fitz, Perry Colapinto, Mary Fitz, Dr. Cathie Atkins of SDSU

**Perry Colapinto, Chairman**

## News from UCSD

It's spring, and that means goodbyes and good starts. The following is a sample of notes sent by some UCSD Scholars, sharing their plans:

### BEN RUBIN

"I defended my thesis last Friday so I will be moving on. Now I will be applying for postdocs, giving several talks on my dissertation work in Australia, and then going to the Philippines to teach high school biology and do curriculum development. I will then likely come back after approximately six months for one of the postdocs I am now applying for. Thank you so much for ARCS support of my research; it has been transformational. I have massive appreciation of the organization and your efforts! Best, Ben"

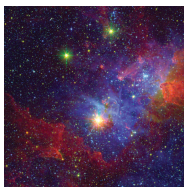
### OLGA BOTVINNIK

"Thank you so much for keeping us updated with ARCS! I am defending my PhD next Friday and will be starting my new job on May 30th. I will be a bioinformatics scientist at the new Chan Zuckerberg Biohub in San Francisco, where I will be working on the Human Cell Atlas project to map every cell type in the human body. I'm very excited about it!"

### ASHLEY KROLL

Ashley has clearly been very busy this year. She is filling out her CV and she has two years to go!

*Continued on page 6*



## ***News from UCSD...*** Continued from Page 5

"Hi Suzanne!

I recently had to summarize my year's progress, and realized that I have had several publications/posters since my application that I should notify you about. I have listed them below:

1. Dehaini, D.; Wei, X.; Fang, R.; Masson, S.; Angsantikul, P.; Luk, B.; Zhang, Y.; Ying, M.; Jiang, Y.; Kroll, A.; Gao, W.; Zhang, L. (2017). Erythrocyte-platelet hybrid membrane coating for enhanced nanoparticle functionalization. *Advanced Materials*, 29, 1606209.
2. Kroll, A.; Fang, R.; Jiang, Y.; Zhou, J.; Wei, X.; Zhang, L. Cancer cell membrane-coated nanoparticles for anticancer vaccination. Presented as a poster at the 2017 UCSD MCC Immuno-Oncology Symposium. This conference was held April 20, 2017 at Moores Cancer Center.
3. Kroll, A.; Fang, R.; Zhang, L. (2017) Biointerfacing and applications of cell membrane-coated nanoparticles. *Bioconjugate Chemistry*, 28, 23-32.
4. Wei, X.; Gao, J.; Fang, R.; Luk, B.; Kroll, A.; Dehaini, D.; Zhou, J.; Kim, H.W.; Gao, W.; Lu, W.; Zhang, L. (2016). Nanoparticles camouflaged in platelet membrane coating as an antibody decoy for the treatment of immune thrombocytopenia. *Biomaterials*, 111, 116-123.
5. Dehaini, D.; Fang, R.; Luk, B.; Pang, Z.; Hu, C-M; Kroll, A.; Yu, C.L.; Gao, W.; Zhang, L. (2016). Ultra-small lipid polymer hybrid nanoparticle for tumor-penetrating drug delivery. *Nanoscale*, 8, 14411-14419.
6. Kroll, A.\*; Dehaini, D.\*; Hu, C-M.; Luk, B.; Fang, R.; Zhang, L. (2016) Platelet Membrane-Coated Nanoparticles for Biointerfacing. Presented as a poster at the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering 33rd Annual Research Expo. \*Authors contributed equally

Best,  
Ashley"

### **CASSANDA CALLMANN**

"Along with my advisor, I am working on getting sponsorship for a new small startup. It will be based off of one of the major parts of my thesis work as a PhD student. Together with our collaborators, we have developed a new, safer way of delivering cancer drugs to tumors without harming the rest of the body. It has been one of my dreams to be involved in a biotech startup, so I am quite excited to have a chance to pursue this dream after I defend my thesis."

### **MAZIAR BEHTASH**

Maz begins the new year with a new partner and shares some lovely photos. "I hope this message finds you well. I just had an absolutely lovely honeymoon with my new wife Erica in British Columbia."

**Submitted by Suzanne Dixon, MD, MPH, UCSD ARCS liaison**

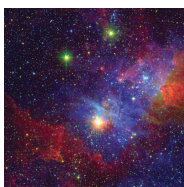
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## ***ARCS SDSU Scholar News***

### **MEGAN MONSANTO**

2017 has started with a flurry of activity. I have published my very first author manuscript in the peer-reviewed journal *Circulation Research*, as well as just recently completed my thesis proposal! This brings me one step closer to completing my doctoral degree. In the coming months I will start an exciting in vivo study using a mouse model of infarction (heart attack) to examine the ability of the cardiac stem cells I isolate from the human heart to help rescue and regenerate the damaged myocardium. I can't wait to see the results!

*Continued on page 7*



## ***ARCS SDSU Scholar News....*** Continued from Page 6

### **PETER CALHOUN**

I defended my dissertation on May 19th and started work on May 22nd. I work as a Biostatistician at Dexcom. I love my responsibilities and colleagues and am excited to be using my education to contribute to the diabetes research community. I am extremely grateful to be an ARCS scholar.

### **COLETTE SMIRNIOTIS**

The 2016-2017 school year was an exciting one, both academically and personally. I completed my dissertation proposal (one step closer!), and I got married! I am looking forward to a productive summer in San Diego.

### **KELLY ROSS**

I defended my dissertation on May 11th and I'm currently working on finishing a manuscript as I anxiously await the arrival of my baby boy, who is due June 21st! After he arrives, I plan to spend a few months at home while completing any additional work necessary to get this last manuscript completed and then I'll be looking to restart my career in biotech. Being an ARCS scholar these past two years has been an amazing experience and I'm so thankful for the help and support!

I'll send along a picture after the little guy arrives!

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## ***University of San Diego ARCS Scholars Enjoy Spring Celebrations***

The University of San Diego ARCS Scholars have had a busy and exciting spring semester. We are delighted to report that of the six ARCS scholars currently enrolled at USD, four graduated in May 2017 – two from the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science: Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, and two from the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering. Congratulations to all!

### ***Graduating USD ARCS Scholars***

Dinnah L. Didulo and Monique A. Lineback both received their Ph.D.'s from the Hahn School of Nursing and Joylene Aguirre and Anthony Shao completed their undergraduate studies and received their B.S. degrees from the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering.

Joylene Aguirre's studies in mechanical engineering focused on the dynamics of turbulent flow, which although it may appear to be chaotic and random, is partially organized into a coherent structure based on connections between the direction of the mean flow and the energy of the fluctuations surrounding it. Joylene will be continuing her studies in the future as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington.



USD Scholars Lisa Alvarez, Monique Lineback and Dinnah Didulo enjoy a selfie at SOY



## ***USD ARCS Scholars Celebrate....*** Continued from Page 7



Mary Fitz, Monique Lineback, and Helga Moore  
at USD Spring Luncheon

Monique Lineback's studies in health promotion focused on the complexity of data management, analysis and psychometrics to provide quality measurements for optimum health outcomes. Her research affirmed the important role of women as "health-brokers" for their families who promote good health through lifestyle changes that impact eating habits, exercise, stress reduction, etc.; particularly for populations who experience barriers to health information or may be disadvantaged by race, ethnicity or economic status. Monique will continue to develop more effective strategies to promote health related data in vulnerable populations.

Anthony Shao's studies in electrical engineering focused on the best methods to teach problem solving to freshman engineering students. He has been refining various techniques of problem solving methods including introspection, barriers to problem solving and retention of information. He believes that teaching is the fundamental base of all education and that creating a streamlined, effective and collaborative system is the key to strengthening the learning process. Anthony will be finishing his business degree and developing his entrepreneurial skills before embarking on future advanced degree studies.

### ***Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon at USD***

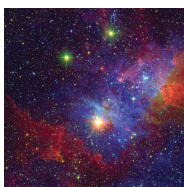
On March 30, 2017, the University of San Diego hosted their 30th Annual Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon honoring all the USD Scholarship recipients and their Benefactors. Mary, Fitz, President; Helga Moore, Vice President Administration; and Linda Johnson, USD Liaison were invited to attend to represent the San Diego chapter of the ARCS Foundation, Inc. who provided awards totaling \$40,000 to six USD scholars during the 2016-2017 academic year. Mary Fitz and Helga Moore were seated with the four ARCS Scholars from the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science and Linda Johnson enjoyed the company of the two ARCS Scholars from the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering. It was a beautiful day to celebrate the long year of hard work by the students and hear their plans for their future. A good time was had by all.

Dinnah Didulo's studies on high-risk populations for diabetes focused on identifying the factors that influence effective diabetes self-management among the Filipino population. Filipinos have the second highest rate of diabetes among Asian-Americans. Dinnah will continue to provide her nursing expertise to identify the barriers that prevent early identification of the disease and to improve the self-management of the disease in patients with pre-diabetes and those at risk for Type 2 diabetes mellitus.



Mary Fitz, USD scholar Dinnah Didulo,  
and Helga Moore at Dinnah's  
Dissertation presentation





## ***USD ARCS Scholars Celebrate....*** Continued from Page 8

### ***ARCS Scholars Attend Scientist of the Year Dinner***

Two University of San Diego ARCS Scholars presented posters at the 31st annual Scientist of the Year dinner on April 28, 2017 held at the San Diego Sheraton Hotel and Marina. Joylene Aguirre, graduating Scholar from the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering and Dinnah Didulo, graduating Ph.D. Scholar from the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science engaged attendees at the cocktail reception prior to dinner with their latest research findings.

USD ARCS Scholars were celebrated with ARCS Scholars from the University of California at San Diego, San Diego State University and The Scripps Research Institute by an enthusiastic audience as they entered the ballroom to a thrilling trumpet fanfare. All the Scholars were seated among the audience and in addition to a delicious dinner, enjoyed former ARCS Scholar Peter Ho, Ph.D. share his perspective on the impact of ARCS on his career and hear the honored Scientist of the Year, Karen E. Nelson discuss her path to become the President of the J. Craig Venter Institute and Head of Microbiome Group, Human Longevity, Inc. It was a fun and inspiring evening for everyone.

## ***ARCS Past Scholar John Tat***

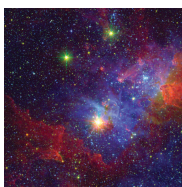
**Scientific summary:** Cancer patients receiving chemotherapy often suffer from harmful side effects. This problem is caused by the possibility that chemotherapy drugs do not know whether to attack the cancer cells or the patient's own healthy cells. Therefore, in principle, targeting only cancer cells would enhance the therapeutic advantage of chemotherapy while decreasing harmful side effects.

In a previous study, my mentor, Professor Steven I. Reed at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI), discovered that cells overexpressing proteins called Cks1 or Cks2 are deficient in a mechanism called the replication stress checkpoint that may protect cells from becoming cancerous. This mechanism involves halting DNA synthesis when cells experience replication stress, a phenomenon which may lead to DNA damage. Interestingly, many cancers have been shown to exhibit elevated levels of CKS proteins. My aim is therefore to selectively kill these CKS-high cancers while sparing healthy host cells, which have low CKS levels.

To this end, I worked with fellow cell cycle researcher Professor Charles Spruck of the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, TSRI Professor Brunhilde H. Felding, an expert in tumor metabolism, Céline Lorient (Felding Lab), and Martha Henze (Reed Lab), to validate the efficacy of a chemotherapeutic strategy combining two drugs already in clinical use, gemcitabine and methotrexate. Gemcitabine is modified in the cell to resemble a component of DNA, which is then incorporated into new DNA as cells duplicate their genome. This creates irreparable DNA damage resulting in cell death. Methotrexate inhibits DNA synthesis, creating replication stress. We believe combining these two drugs would allow us to selectively kill high-CKS cancer cells from a background of healthy tissue, which has low CKS levels. Indeed, by creating replication stress, methotrexate halts



Dr. Stephen Reed of TSRI,  
and John Tat



## **ARCS Past Scholar John Tat....** Continued from Page 9

DNA synthesis and this prevents healthy cells from incorporating gemcitabine, protecting them dying. In contrast, for cancer cells with high CKS levels, methothrexate induces replication stress but these cancer cells continue to synthesize DNA. In the process, they incorporated gemcitabine and died. In short, we found a way to use a cancer cell's own biology to kill it!

Our positive results in cell culture studies motivated us to test this drug combination in a mouse model of breast cancer. We found that tumors with high levels of CKS, but not tumors with low levels of CKS,

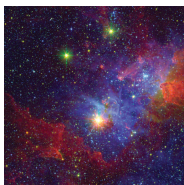
were selectively killed when exposed to the combined treatment. Also, whereas mice treated with gemcitabine alone experienced weight loss over the course of the study, similar to how cancer patients would lose weight when given chemotherapy, mice administered the combined treatment did not. This outcome suggests that replication stress could protect mice from systemic toxicity caused by gemcitabine. Altogether, this project was a step towards personalized medicine, since we are leveraging CKS levels to predict which tumors would respond to our proposed treatment strategy, a protocol that is also likely going to be safer.

**Personal journey:** I joined Dr. Reed's group in 2012 with a desire to develop a more efficacious and safer chemotherapeutic protocol. I thank Dr. Reed for his supervision, and Drs. Spruck and Felding for their helpful advice and reagents. Without these mentors, my PhD project could not have come to fruition. I also thank the ARCS Foundation for its continuous support of me since 2012. While the importance of cancer research is indisputable, the polarizing political climate and diminishing NIH funding make it challenging even for seasoned investigators sustain their cancer biology programs. Indeed, on multiple occasions during my PhD training, I was confronted with the possibility of closure due to funding loss. For this reason, your support for me is more than just financial aid for a PhD student. It is a symbol that the American people still believe that science and technology are good investments towards a better future.

After graduating from TSRI, I am joining Professor Gerry R. Boss' group at UCSD as a post-doctoral fellow. My project will focus on studying changes in gene expression during nutrient deprivation in cancer cells. By unravelling mechanisms that underlay cancer cell metabolism, I hope to identify novel cancer drug targets that could translate into better therapeutic protocols. I would like to assume a faculty appointment at a teaching university after my post-doc training.



John Tat atop the "Potato Chip"



## **ARCS Past Scholar John Tat....** Continued from Page 10

In closing, I would like to reiterate that I am grateful for the ARCS Foundation's support for graduate students. My colleagues and I continue to carry out basic biomedical research that may improve the health of our community. I implore members of the ARCS Foundation to join me in voicing the need for more STEM research funding, as well as visit the SBPMDI, TSRI, and UCSD campuses so that my colleagues and I may share with you the life-saving research that we are conducting.

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## **Food, Finances, and Fellowship on the Hill**

ARCS Scholars from UCSD gathered at liaison Suzanne Dixon's house for an evening gathering on May 24. Guest speaker was Matthew Showley, Financial Advisor and Investment Counselor for Creative Capital Management. The evening was primed by a series of financial questions young professionals typically have, which had been sent out to Scholars beforehand. Matt gave a presentation that addressed these issues, including suggestions of helpful web sites and other resources, as well as handouts for easy use. Rapt attention, great interest, and lots of enthusiasm bubbled from the crowd.

Matt followed up by saying, "I really enjoyed my time with the group, and it was great to get to talk with so many of the students beforehand. It made for a much more effective presentation, I think. Please relay my thanks to the students as well; they asked great questions and I appreciated how open they were with me during the entire evening."

Quotes from Scholars: *"My dad talked to me about this stuff [financial matters], but I never understood it at all until tonight."*

*"My brother told me to get an IRA but I had no idea what it really was or how to set it up or what kind I needed."*

*"I liked the part where he explained in what order and how to pay off debt, 'cuz I have a lot of it."*

No evening would be complete without a wonderful dinner. One was prepared by Scholar Igor Fedorov and ARCS member Barbara Starkey. Suzanne and her husband, Mike Hennessy, were in charge of logistics, setup, and drinks on the patio.

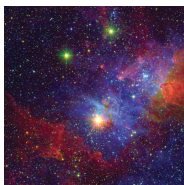
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## **Philip Dawson Named Dean of The Scripps Research Institute's Graduate Program**

Dawson brings to his new role more than 25 years' experience at TSRI as a student, alumnus, faculty member and associate dean.

The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) this week announced the promotion of Philip Dawson, Ph.D., from Associate Dean to Dean of the TSRI Graduate Program.

Dawson, who earned his Ph.D. from TSRI in 1996, replaces Jamie Williamson, Ph.D., who has taken on a new role as Vice President of Academic Affairs.



## ***Philip Dawson Named Dean....*** Continued from Page 11

"As one of TSRI's earliest alumni, Phil possesses a unique perspective on the program, as well as a proven track record of leadership success as both a researcher and an administrator," said Williamson. "In his role as Associate Dean, Phil has been instrumental in the management and direction of the program and he has a clear vision for continuing to build the program's reach and reputation."

As the graduate program prepares to celebrate its 25th graduating class this May, Dawson sees his number one responsibility as continuing the great tradition of academic and scientific excellence that has earned the program international prestige, including annual top-10 rankings in U.S. News & World Report's Best Grad Schools.

"I am both humbled and excited by the opportunity to build on the momentum established under Jamie's leadership and lead this incredible program into the future," Dawson said. "As someone who has been involved in all facets of the TSRI graduate program, I know exactly how transformational this experience can be for students."

Dawson's own research revolves around the development and utilization of methods to incorporate unnatural chemical groups into proteins. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, graduating magna cum laude. After earning his doctoral degree at TSRI, Dawson conducted postdoctoral work at the California Institute of Technology before returning to TSRI in 1997 as Assistant Professor in the department of Cell Biology. He was recently promoted to Professor of Chemistry and has continued to be active in the graduate program through teaching, as well as directing the graduate admissions committee under the role of Associate Dean.

Dawson has authored more than 160 publications, was an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow and has earned such honors as the Max-Bergmann Gold Medal, the Vincent du Vigneaud Award and Leonidas Zervas Award. He explained that what makes TSRI's graduate program unique is the opportunity, from the very beginning of their education, for students to work in a variety of disciplines, with a diversity of world-renowned researchers.

"What our program does best is teach students how to ask important questions and be experimentally fearless in solving them," Dawson said. "Our graduate program is about more than just learning how to conduct experiments. We nurture independent thought and interdisciplinary work. As a result of this training, many of our alumni are performing groundbreaking research in diverse fields and have carved career paths through all areas of industry and academics."



## ***ARCS Spring Field Trip***

Our ARCS Spring field trip May 5, 2017, to the USD Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science included a fabulous tour of the Beyster Institute for Nursing Research — completed and dedicated in 2016. This

*Continued on page 13*

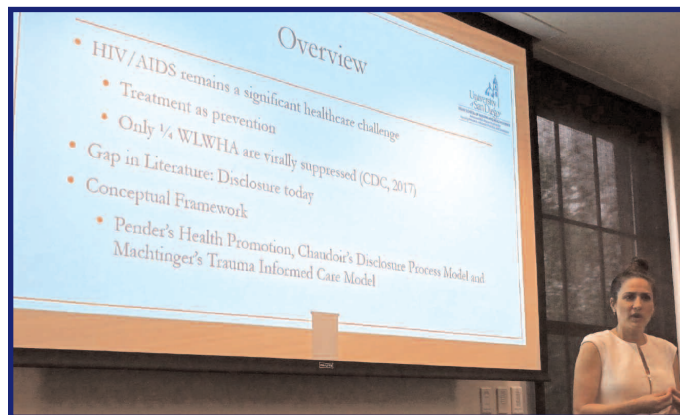




## ARCS Spring Field Trip.... Continued from Page 12

Spanish Colonial architectural gem helped USD gain recognition as “the most beautiful urban campus in the United States.” Betty Beyster, a longtime ARCS member, was instrumental in making this facility possible.

Our morning began with a brunch reception in the Krause Library, where we greeted one another and enjoyed its gracious ambiance. We were then taken a conference room where Dr. Roth, Professor and Director of the School of Nursing, introduced us to some of the Graduate School of Nursing staff and provided an overview of the Beyster Institute.



Two ARCS recipients shared their research. Dr. Carolyn Etland, alumna of USD and ARCS Scholar, is the director of education, research and professional practice at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center. She spoke about the need to engage in advanced planning and having a Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) document.

Monique Linebacker, 2017 USD graduate and ARCS Scholar, gave us a brief

summary of her research with lower income families in San Diego. Both women expressed their appreciation for the financial help they received from ARCS over the years.

A tour of the clinical settings and state-of-the-art laboratory simulations saw us learning from two Master's-level students who demonstrated the capabilities of the computerized mannequins as we wandered through the classrooms and labs. One can see why the students graduating from this program are so sought-after!

During our tour, Dr. Ann Mayo, Dr. Cynthia Connelly, Dr. Cheryl Butera, and Dr. Jackie Close shared highlights of their research and work with graduate students. Twenty-four ARCS members and their guests had





## ***ARCS Spring Field Trip....*** Continued from Page 13

most of the facility to ourselves, as it was the end of the semester.

Dr. Mayo showed us her intriguing clinical laboratory, which looks and feels like a real urban apartment, but one laden with sensors and hidden cameras. She and her research assistants observe elderly people perform activities of daily living, such as cooking, making a bed, putting on shoes, etc., as a test for one's capability for independent living.

Following our tour and demonstrations, we boarded our shuttle bus for lunch at La Gran Terraza, a beautiful, new restaurant on campus, which is open to the public. Some took advantage of the Mexican buffet, where we bumped elbows with students whose plates were piled high with carnitas, carne asada, pollo adobada, fajitas, salad, etc. Remember those college days when students took advantage of the "all you care to eat" philosophy?

Even those who ordered off the menu were pleased with the preparation and proportions. We will be back!

Special thanks to Carol Scimone, Executive Assistant to the Hahn School of Nursing, and Dr. Patricia Roth, Director of the Hahn School of Nursing, for their work over the months in

preparing for our visit. We were given briefcases, pens and memory sticks with the USD School of Nursing logo as gifts. It was a wonderful way to spend Cinco de Mayo, with the USD staff and our ARCS friends.



June Chocheles and Nan Eastman

## ***From Kindergarten to ARCS***

A short story of two women who attended school together in Babylon, Long Island, New York, from kindergarten through high school (a small school of 200 in the graduating class) but lost touch after that. They reconnected in 2013 at their 40th Reunion and discovered they both lived in the San Diego area...skip forward a couple more years and both became members of ARCS and rediscovered each other at an ARCS event in 2016....and are now both on the Fund Development Committee. Meet June Chocheles, Director of Business Giving and Nancy Eastman, Director of Foundation Giving, both women doing a fantastic job for ARCS!

*Continued on page 15*





## ***From Kindergarten to ARCS....*** Continued from Page 14



June and Nancy 1963 Photo

## ***ARCS General Meeting, June 16, 2017***

The final General Membership Meeting for the chapter's operational year was held on a beautiful summer morning at San Diego Yacht Club in Point Loma. Everyone gathered in the morning for coffee and conversation before taking their seats to hear outgoing President Mary Fitz give her farewell address. It was a moving moment as she summarized all the chapter has achieved in the past two years and thanked the board for their hard work and enduring support. The wrap-up reports given by certain other outgoing chapter officers and chairs gave members a fine overview of the year's accomplishments. Mary then introduced our incoming co-president, Helga Moore, who will share duties with her counterpart co-president, Mary Lou Quick. Helga gave a brief rundown on the recent meeting of the National Board in Denver, recognized San Diego's 2017 ARCS Light, Bobbie Vandervoort, and welcomed the incoming board and the talented new members of the San Diego chapter.



Helga Moore and  
Bobbie Vandervoort

*Continued on page 16*





## ARCS General Meeting.... Continued from Page 15

Former President Robin Luby installed the 2017-2018 Board of Directors with a spirited and lively message to ensure a successful year. This was followed by a presentation from our UCSD Scholar speaker, Emily Nardoni, who told the audience that she chose to study science, and ultimately particle physics, to answer the big “why” questions she had asked during her formative years, and expressed her deep gratitude for the role our chapter has played in enabling her studies. A beautiful and delicious Cobb salad lunch was followed by a lecture on Climate Change and Marine Ecosystems presented by Dr. Andrew Barton from Scripps Institution of Oceanography.



Diane Chalmers, Emily Nardoni, Mary Fitz



MaryAnn McCauley, Becki Etess and Helga Moore



2017-2018 ARCS Board



Dr. Andrew Barton, SIO, General Meeting guest speaker




Nancy Bildsoe enjoying a moment at the General Meeting

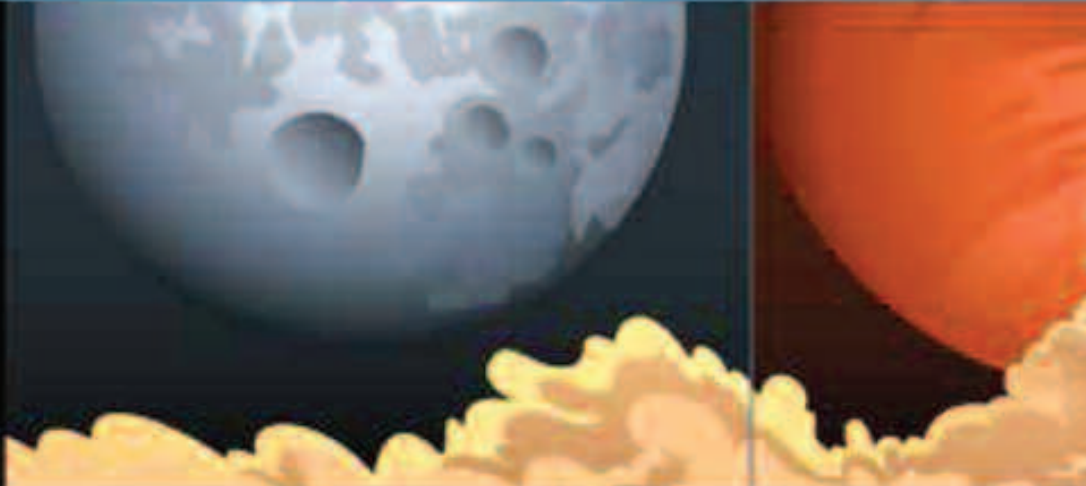



2016-2017 ARCS Board





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