

## ARCS FOUNDATION NCC MEMBER NEWS JUNE 2021



### OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### SINCE THE MARCH NEWSLETTER:

- We had our first-ever **virtual Symposium on April 26** with Nobel Laureate Dr. Jennifer Doudna as our keynote speaker; it was a great success!
- We had our second **virtual Annual Meeting on May 19**, when we approved the 2021-2022 budget and slate for ARCS NCC leadership, heard annual reports from each Council, and had a fabulous presentation on UC Merced from the University Relations team and the Exploratory Committee. And we awarded the 2021 ARCS NCC Light to **Chris Simpson Brent!**
- **On June 9, we held the first ever New/Old Board Meeting** as a hybrid – in person at Elizabeth Callander's lovely home and by Zoom. With the help of her daughter, technical glitches were sorted out, and voila, another first! Libby Taylor provided a delicious lunch of quiche and salad. Looking back at this past year, we realized that we had accomplished A LOT.

#### YEAR IN REVIEW:

- **We allocated over \$1 million to ARCS Scholars for the third consecutive year!** (Special thanks to **Linda Millard, Susan Mooradian, Molly Hauser** – and many generous ARCS members.)
- **We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Zoom -- we told stories, made toasts, read letters of congratulations from Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Governor Gavin Newsom, plus a proclamation from Mayor London Breed.
- **We maintained momentum**, staying "connected while apart." (Special thanks to all members for remaining committed to our mission - and to Zoom!)
- **We made good progress** with website and weekly social media posts and added a NCC YouTube channel. (Special thanks to **Elizabeth Callander** and **Nancy Bush**.)
- **The new Finance Committee** strengthened the input and managed costs carefully, resulting in a year-end surplus for operations. (Special thanks to **Elizabeth Callander**.)

- **We welcomed a fabulous new member, Diana Rice Moore,** and streamlined all application forms. (Special thanks to **Tina Hinckley**, and to **Katy Hope** and **Deborah Mann** for our custom ARCS NCC face masks.)
- **The SAC Committee raised more than enough money to cover Chapter operations,** despite cancellation of the Scholar Awards Celebration due to the pandemic. As promised, excess dollars were moved to the Scholar Awards Fund.
- **The 2021 ARCS Scholar Symposium on April 26 was a great success as a virtual event.** (Special thanks to **Nancy Bush**, the entire Symposium team, and **Advanced Visual Production**.)
- **Science Activities reimagined Field Trips as Science Salons** on the second Thursday of the month; such a great opportunity to introduce friends and colleagues to ARCS! (Special thanks to **Deborah Mann**, **Nancy Mueller**, and **Judy Webster**.)
- **University Relations conducted three Scholar Celebrations and three Site Assessments** by Zoom with our university partners. All worked beautifully, thanks to thoughtful planning and collaboration. We added a department at UC Santa Cruz and started to explore adding UC Merced as a new partner. (Special thanks to **Chris Brent** and **Leslie Van Houten**.)
- **We approved the new five-year Strategic Plan,** which received strong praise from the Leadership Advisory Council. (Special thanks to **Chris Brent** and **Jane Gardner**.)

Each Council presented their transition plan; the enthusiasm was contagious and the energy for this next year was palpable. **And we had FUN!** (I hope you enjoyed the hat contests at General Membership Meetings.)

### IN CLOSING:

**What an honor it was to be Co-President with Chris Brent (my partner and mentor) and this past year to be solo President!** I am so proud to be a part of this organization of amazing women. We do really important work as "Science Advocates" by providing recognition and unrestricted financial awards to young scientists in STEM disciplines at the seed-stage of their research. We help to keep the STEM pipeline full and the US competitive in science and technology. NO OTHER ALL-WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION HAS OUR LONG HISTORY AND IMPRESSIVE TRACK RECORD.

I am delighted to hand the official gavel and diamond-encrusted whistle (no, they are not real diamonds) to **Elizabeth Callander**, President of ARCS NCC for 2021-2022.

**And thank you so much for the beautiful orchid and fabulous Champagne!**

**-MJ Whitehouse, MD**

## IN MEMORIAM - SISTER MARY JOSEPH OF THE TRINITY, O.C.D.



On June 5, 2021 **Sister Mary Joseph of the Trinity** died at the Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Des Plaines, Illinois. She led a remarkable life. Prior to entering the order in 1989, she was **Ann Russell Miller** – wife of Richard Miller, mother of ten children (including current ARCS NCC members Donna Miller Casey and Janet Miller Abbott and former members Elena Caruso, Marian Miller, and Leslie Schemel), a supporter of opera and the arts, and a great party giver. We remember her as the Founder of the Northern California Chapter in 1970 and National President of ARCS Foundation.

Emerita member Linda Millard recalls that "Ann/Sister Mary Joseph was an inspirational leader who made our early ARCS meetings a joy and always kept things moving. She carried a tote with an enormous clock painted on it and would point to the clock when anyone was going on too long. She carried a rhinestone

whistle to keep us on our toes and a tiny lace parasol for sun protection and so we could find her on field trips. She was one of a kind and will be deeply missed."

Contributions in her memory may be made to ARCS Foundation, Inc. NCC (PO Box 29405, San Francisco, CA 94129) or to the Carmelite Monastery of St Joseph (949 N River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016).

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

### SPRING BONNET CONTEST

There was intense competition for the best "Spring Bonnet." Our independent judge deliberated for hours. In the end a **TIE FOR FIRST PLACE** was declared:

- **Linda Millard** for her perfect hat -- worthy of the Queen's garden party
- **Francie Osthimer** for her quite elegant hat -- last worn by her mother

Both hats can be seen at top left in the righthand screenshot below. Congratulations to the winners!



### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Leadership:** approved the Slate for 2021-2022; all newly elected were installed with right hands raised.
- **Finance:** approved the budget for 2021-2022.
- **Communications:** great progress with website, social media and launch of the ARCS NCC YouTube channel; looking for "Reporters"!
- **Development:** allocated over \$1 million to Scholars for the third consecutive year.
- **Membership:** welcomed our new member, Diana Rice Moore.
- **Scholar Awards Celebration (SAC):** SAC Committee raised over \$100,000 to cover Chapter operations without the event; the excess was transferred to the Scholar Awards Fund.
- **2021 ARCS Scholar Symposium:** the virtual event was a great success, with more than 600 registered guests; incredible presentations by Nobel Laureate Dr. Jennifer Doudna and six current scholars; lively discussions in Roundtables; \$5,560 in donations!
- **Science Activities:** Committee reimaged field trips as monthly science lecture series by Zoom; great opportunity to introduce ARCS to potential new members and friends.
- **Scholar Relations:** managed all communications with scholars; selected and rehearsed scholar speakers for Symposium.
- **University Relations:** conducted three Scholar Celebrations (SFSU, UCSF, UC Davis) and three Site Visits (UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, Stanford); added Statistics to UCSC's approved departments; explored adding UC Merced as a university partner.

Jo thanked all involved in making so many good things happen. She reminded everyone to check out the digital version of the **Annual Meeting Reports booklet** for more details – and some great quotes! Click [HERE](#) to see the pdf.

### SPECIAL REPORTS

- **UC Merced** presentation by the Exploratory Committee, plus compelling appearances by Chancellor Muñoz and Vice Chancellor Zatz, received many positive comments!

- **Strategic Plan** for 2021-2025 approved; BRAVO! (included in the Annual Meeting Reports booklet).
- **2021 ARCS Light** award presented to Chris Simpson Brent.

Jo thanked all members of the outgoing Board as well as Deborah Greenwood and Leanne Reiter – and in turn, was thanked generously for having served as President of the Chapter 2020-2021.

## SCIENCE ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP

### HYDROCLIMATE WHIPLASH (4/8)

The April Science Activities talk was given by **Dr. Daniel Swain**, climate scientist at UCLA and an ARCS NCC Scholar Alum. His Professor at Stanford, **Noah Diffenbaugh** (also a NCC alum!) introduced him and moderated the Q&A. The title of his talk was "Increasing Hydroclimate Whiplash in California."

Dr. Swain clearly described the interconnectedness of droughts and floods in California. While this may seem contradictory, understanding the science makes it clear that warming temperatures due to climate change are accelerating and cause an increase in atmospheric demand for water (increased water vapor). That demand for water in the air causes aridification of soil and vegetation; warmer temperatures reduce snowpack. In addition, the seasons are changing in California: Spring and Autumn (the dry seasons) are getting longer, while Winter (the rainy season) is getting shorter. It is logical that these factors increase susceptibility to wildfires. Dr. Swain gave sobering examples of the wildfires between 2015 and 2020. He then explained how increased atmospheric water vapor due to warmer temperatures results in more intense precipitation but reduced snowpack, which in turn increases risk of flooding and post-flooding debris flows. He noted that there is a 50% risk of a major flood in the next 40 years (think Sacramento in 1862).

Dr. Swain concluded that we need to prepare for both drought and floods. He cited the prescribed burns on the Yurok Tribal land for forest management and the Yolo Bypass near Sacramento for flood management.

Interested in more? Listen to this talk on the ARCS NCC YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd2Yz52DHNA&list=PLC\\_NzDi6vXlyFgsdi-8fCnBDVvgOB-lcy&index=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd2Yz52DHNA&list=PLC_NzDi6vXlyFgsdi-8fCnBDVvgOB-lcy&index=7). And check out Dr. Swain's website: [www.weatherwest.com](http://www.weatherwest.com)



## ARCS FORWARD

### National Scholar Speaker Series

#### SAVE THE DATE!

On **August 24** at 1 PM (Pacific), Northern California Scholar **Sophie Ruehr** of UC Berkeley will be a part of the ARCS Forward presentation, a new initiative of ARCS National. Sophie wowed us at our February General Meeting. She is a "Rising Star" who has already won eight awards and published three research papers. A registration link will be sent in early August. Meanwhile, see below for details about ARCS Forward and upcoming events.

**ARCS Forward**, a new initiative of ARCS Foundation, Inc., made its debut on May 4, 2021. The program featured **2021 ARCS Alumni Hall of Fame inductee [Dr. F. Peter Schloerb](#)**, who described his work on the **[Large Millimeter Telescope Alfonso Serrano](#)** that was instrumental in capturing the first image of a black hole.

Current **[ARCS Scholar Dave Coulter](#)**, PhD candidate in the **[Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics](#)** at **University of California, Santa Cruz**, also presented his research, focusing on finding and understanding the electromagnetic radiation associated with gravitational wave events.

You can view the entire May ARCS Forward program [here](#).

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

**August 24, 2021, at 4:00 P.M. ET**

**Program Title: "Carbon Emissions and Offsets: Global and Local Research"**

**Speakers: Becky Barak and Sophie Ruehr**

**[Becky Barak](#)** was an ARCS Scholar in 2010–11, when she was working toward her PhD in **[Plant Biology and Conservation](#)**, a joint program of **Northwestern University** and Chicago Botanic Garden, where she focused on prairie restoration and biodiversity. Today she is a conservation scientist at **[Chicago Botanic Garden](#)** and serves as the curator of the Dixon National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank.

**[Sophie Ruehr](#)** is currently an ARCS Scholar in the **[Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management](#)** at **University of California, Berkeley**. She is interested in water and carbon cycling at local, regional, and global scales. And having worked as a reporter and oral historian, she is also interested in human perceptions of environmental change, especially when these differ from scientific findings.

**September 28, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. ET**

**Topic: Prostate Cancer**

**Speaker(s): TBA**

*Be on the lookout for more information in the upcoming issues of the ARCS Achievements newsletter.*

## SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: AMELIA MUNSON



**Amelia Munson** is a PhD candidate in the Animal Behavior Graduate Group at UC Davis. She has forged numerous local and international collaborations to extend the reach of her research, which focuses on the effect of developmental experience on later responses to environmental change. She is currently working with a variety of species, including three-spined stickleback, Western mosquitofish and the intertidal snail *Nucella lamellosa*, to address this question from different angles. Amelia is also dedicated to growing as a teacher and exploring creative means of scientific communication. She creates illustrated animal facts for the official blog of the Animal Behavior Graduate Group, The Ethogram, and is currently creating videos that will be featured on SciAll, a vlogging platform for scientists. She recently won the **UC Davis Grad Slam** competition at which she presented a three-minute talk

about her research. Amelia is currently writing up her dissertation in preparation to begin her postdoc at the University of Glasgow.

Of her ARCS award, Amelia says: **“The ARCS Scholar Award has been crucial to my success as a graduate student. It provided me the flexibility to pivot my research plans when the pandemic prevented me from conducting my planned research. This allowed me to stay on track for graduation and was instrumental in why I was able to accept my dream postdoc. While I appreciate the financial support, it is the connections and conversations I have had with the ARCS community that really make the award unique. Talking about my research with the bright minds at ARCS events helped me to think about how I present it and ultimately shaped the presentation that I crafted for the UC Davis Grad Slam. ... Ultimately, the ARCS Foundation is so powerful because it supports scientists who are then able to share their passion with the next generation of scientists, which I am incredibly grateful for.”**

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## PRELIMINARY CALENDAR 2021-2022

**Thurs, Sep 9, 5 pm**..... Science Activities #1  
**Wed, Sep 15, 11:30 am**.....General Meeting by Zoom  
**Thurs, Oct 14, 5 pm**.....Science Activities #2  
**Thurs, Nov 4, 5 pm**.....Science Activities #3  
**Wed, Dec 8, 11:30**.....General Meeting in person  
**Thurs, Dec 9, 5 pm**.....Science Activities #4

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## SOCIAL MEDIA



ARCS NCC is active on social media – thanks to support from the management team, ASG, that ARCS National has worked with for the past two years. Items are posted weekly on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and at least monthly on LinkedIn.

Sign up to follow ARCS NCC:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ARCSFoundationNorthernCalifornia/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ARCSNorthernCal>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/arcsnortherncal/?hl=en>

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCrMA4oJIWDyTjYpcTd6csng>

LinkedIn NCC Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13651510/>

LinkedIn National ARCS: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3757538/>

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Be sure to check out the ARCS NCC website on a regular basis --

<https://northern-california.arcsfoundation.org/>

It's being continually improved and updated and is an excellent source of information, inspiration and access for members and the community at large.

Bookmark it now!

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ARCS Foundation Northern California Chapter · PO Box 29405 · 1008 General Kennedy Ave, Suite 202 · San Francisco, CA 94129-0405 · USA

