

## ARCS FOUNDATION NCC MEMBER NEWS MARCH 2021



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**BIG NEWS:** At a special meeting the Board accepted the SAC Committee's recommendation to postpone the fall 2021 **Scholar Awards Celebration** to the spring and to combine it with the 2022 **ARCS Scholar Symposium**. This addresses much of the uncertainty related to having large indoor gatherings in November with the ongoing pandemic and it also addresses the limited woman power of our organization. It will be a celebration both of ARCS Scholars and of our 50 + 1 years "in the business" of supporting young scientists -- the Minds of the Future. We will need every ARCS member to lean in to make this a great success. Think about how you can help in addition to filling a table with your friends.

**MORE BIG NEWS:** The **2021 ARCS Scholar Symposium** is coming up on April 26 from 3-5 pm. This is a FREE VIRTUAL EVENT but you must be registered. The Symposium is a great opportunity to share what ARCS is all about with friends who enjoy hearing about new science. Our keynote speaker is **Jennifer Doudna, PhD**, Co-Recipient of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Her name has been in the news:

- Walter Isaacson's new book is titled [The Code Breaker – Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race](#).
- In the March 20 Review WSJ, Dr. Doudna spoke to the power of mission-driven science. At the Innovative Genomics Institute she and her colleagues pivoted to focus on COVID diagnostics and therapeutics, and converted research labs into an automated and certified COVID testing facility in three weeks!
- If you would like to understand what CRISPR gene editing is all about, please watch "Human Nature," a 1.75 hour documentary that includes interviews with Dr Doudna (available on Netflix or Prime).

Click here to register for the Symposium: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4878656>

**CHECK OUT:** the new NCC YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrMA4oJIWDyTjYpcTd6csng>  
And please subscribe!

**LAST UP:** The Northern California Chapter has formed a **Task Force on DEI** (diversity, equity, inclusion) to create an action plan that will be incorporated in the update to the Strategic Plan. This important issue is also being addressed at the National ARCS level. The pandemic has highlighted many inequities in justice, health, education, opportunity. Our organization has room for improvement in diversity of our scholars and our members. The members of the Task Force include Tina Hinckley, Melanie Horn, Heidi Huchberger, Sheila Larsen, Deborah Mann, Susan Mooradian, Merrill Randol, Leslie Van Houten, and me. We welcome input from all members and will do our best to create an actionable plan to share with you at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

#### TWO THINGS THAT I AM GRATEFUL FOR:

- The increased awareness of the critical importance of global public health. In May 2020, **Dr. Antonio Guterres**, Secretary General of the United Nations said, "In this interconnected world, none of us is safe until we are all safe."

- Being part of ARCS, an organization that plays an important role in science advocacy. As **Kendra Kramlich** said, "We need to support science as our lives depend on it – because today they do". Thanks again, Kendra.

As your President, I want to hear from YOU and I will do my best to listen and respond thoughtfully.

-MJ Whitehouse, MD

## FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### LATE-BREAKING NEWS

After much deliberation the judge selected the winner of the **2021 Baseball Cap Contest**. Congratulations, **NANCY NEBEKER**, for wearing an ARCS cap from a 2002 National Meeting in Seattle!

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

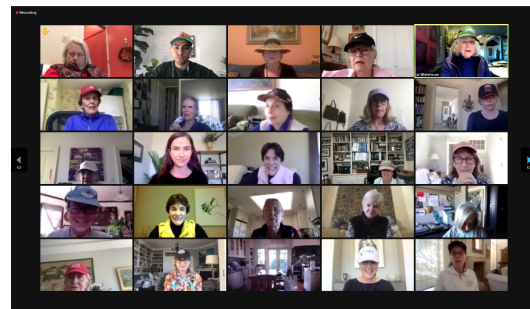
**SPEAKER:** ARCS Scholar **Sophie Ruehr**, a 1st-year PhD student in UC Berkeley's Environmental Science, Policy & Management Department, focuses on using satellite imaging to study how climate change will impact droughts and our ability to sustainably manage water in the future. She combines satellite imaging with other sources of data to help understand and predict plant carbon emission variations year by year. Her presentation was followed by questions from the ARCS NCC members. Sophie thanked us for our interest in her research.

**BUSINESS:** Announcements were made, minutes of the General Membership meeting on December 9, 2020 were approved, YTD financials were summarized, and proposed changes to the Bylaws were approved.

**DEVELOPMENT:** **Susan Mooradian** thanked our members who, in a time of uncertainty, have continued to support the Scholar Awards Fund (SAF). There is an ongoing effort to tap into new sources of financial support, especially from corporations, with the assistance of ARCS members. **Jo Whitehouse** explained the revenue sources for the SAF: members, non-members, corporations, foundations, and endowments.

**MAJOR EVENTS:** **Nancy Bush** provided an update on the 2021 ARCS Scholar Symposium and urged members to register as well as post on social media and forward the email invite to their network. **Deborah Mann** announced that the Board unanimously approved the recommendation of the SAC Committee to postpone the Fall SAC event to Spring 2022 and combine it with the Symposium. She also spoke to upcoming Science Activities presentations.

**UNIVERSITY RELATIONS:** **Leslie Van Houten** detailed the success of every virtual site visit and scholar celebration, and noted how each event revealed the unique culture of each university. The UR team continues to explore a future university partnership with UC Merced, with a virtual site visit scheduled in March. **Chris Brent** noted the importance of having liaisons to address the needs of our partner universities. Commending the allocations team, Chris ended by outlining the UR goal of \$1,025,000 in awards for 2021-22.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU - ARCS CLASS OF 2020 + 1

During this most unusual year, the Member Engagement Committee has worked hard to come up with ideas to show our members how much they are loved and appreciated. (Look for a gift from our committee in your mail soon!) But the **Class of 2020** has had a hard time "feeling our love" because they were welcomed into membership via Zoom and have attended all meetings, site visits, Science Activities, etc., remotely -- just like the rest of us. They've never met in person and haven't really had the chance to feel like a class. We decided to help them get to know each other by having a small social Zoom on March 25th for just their class and a few of us from Membership. **Jerry DiVecchio** summed up this fabulous group with "so much talent, smarts, charm, energy, creativity and focused good."

We all had a wonderful time learning new things about each other - for example, that **Meghan DeGroot** got engaged last year (congrats, Meghan!) and moved to Marin; that **Vanessa Whitfield** has an adorable dog named

Hank; and that **Heidi Huchberger** took a fabulous one-year trip around the world with her new French husband, whom she married at 70 after they had both been widowed. (She said they also have a house in Hawaii and they summer in Europe and summed it all up with "life is good"!)

We also learned about our newest member, **Diana Rice Moore**. She joined ARCS last week all by herself so we decided that she should definitely join this call and be a part of the Class of 2020+1. Co-sponsored by Martha Ryan and Connie Mardikian and known to several other ARCS members, Diana lives in Tiburon. She has attended several of this year's ARCS activities via Zoom and is excited to become a part of ARCS NCC. You will all have the chance to meet and welcome her at our **Annual Meeting on May 19th**.



-Glennie Eisele & Francie Osthimer  
Co-Chairs, Member Engagement

## SCIENCE ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP

### HOOVER INSTITUTION ARCHIVES (2/11)

**Sally Herrick**, former Director of Major Gifts at Hoover Institution Library & Archives, kicked off the call by providing a brief history of the Hoover Archives, founded in 1919 by Herbert Hoover. Today, with nearly one million volumes and nearly 6,000 documents and millions of archived items from 171 countries, the Hoover Library supports a vibrant community of scholars. Sally then introduced **Elena Danielson, PhD, Archivist Emerita**.

Dr. Danielson acquainted us with **Lou Henry Hoover**, wife of the 31st U.S. President, the first woman to graduate from Stanford University with a degree in geology, recognized for her scientific acumen in mining as well as her fluency in Latin and Mandarin. Lou Henry was largely responsible for translating from Latin to English the 1565 guide to mining and metallurgy, "De Re Metallica" by the German mineralogist, George Agricola. Published in 1912, the book is considered a relevant reference today. She was truly a woman ahead of her time.

Attendees were captivated by this presentation that documented the unrecognized accomplishments of this brilliant woman. Special thanks go to **Suzanne Roth** who arranged the speakers. Like all of this year's wonderful Science Activities, this event was coordinated by ARCS Science Activities Co-Chairs **Deborah Mann** and **Judy Webster**.

If you missed it, please check out the recording:  
<https://youtu.be/yXwQ4kp7eCA>



### FUNDING SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE (3/11)

Linda Millard gave a wonderful introduction of **Dr. Robert Kirshner**, currently Chief Program Officer for Science at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Dr. Kirshner spoke about his transition from being a research astronomer at Harvard, studying supernovae and accelerating expansion of the universe, to being responsible for leading a team that distributes over \$100 million to enable fundamental scientific discoveries. He shed light on the discovery that the universe is not only expanding, but expansion is accelerating over time. He described Gordon Moore's research use of CCDs (chips commonly found in digital cameras), to help discover distant supernovae. Additionally, he discussed the ongoing research into dark matter and dark energy, which astronomers are confident exist but can't yet detect or measure.

Dr. Kirshner's closing remarks showed the parallels of this mission at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to the mission of ARCS Foundation. Following the presentation, attendees engaged in a Q&A moderated by **Dr. Alex Filippenko**.

Special thanks go to **Deborah Mann** for arranging the optional, divine dinner prepared and delivered by McCalls McMarket, including a Black Magic specialty cocktail, and to **Linda Millard** for securing the speaker.

If you missed it, please check out the recording:  
<https://youtu.be/fBxeuA-yg28>

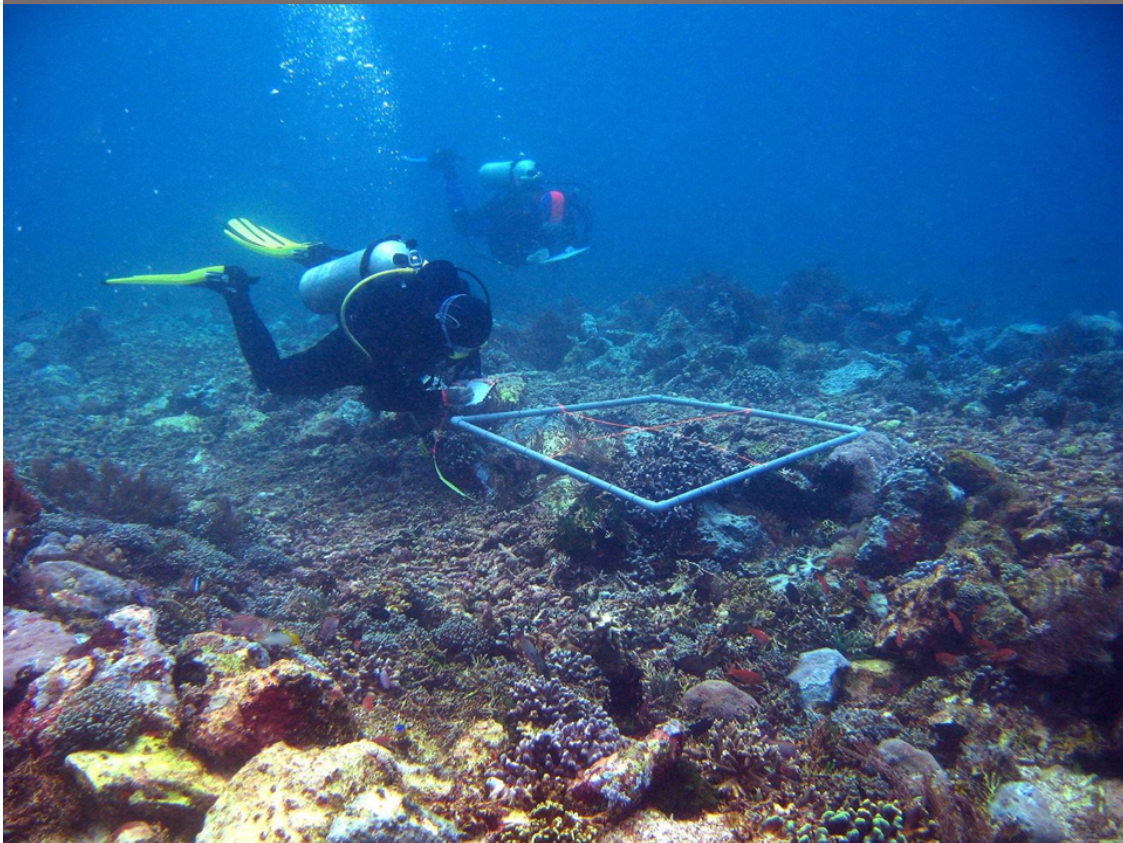


## ARCS ALUM SPOTLIGHT

**DR. HELEN E. FOX**, a UC Berkeley ARCS alum, is the Conservation Science Director for the Coral Reef Alliance. She has more than 20 years' experience working at the boundary of science and conservation, with geographic expertise in Indonesia and the Coral Triangle. Her work includes investigating links between marine protected area (MPA) management and governance, ecological impacts, and human well-being. She has received numerous grants and awards, authored more than 40 scientific publications, logged more than 1,000 dives, and once lived underwater for 10 days in the Aquarius habitat.

Dr. Fox did her PhD investigating coral reef recovery and rehabilitation from destructive fishing in Indonesia. She did most of her field work in Komodo National Park, collaborating with the Park authorities and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Blast fishing (homemade bombs that when detonated would kill fish and shatter coral skeletons) was illegal but had been common until stopped with better management, including patrols. Chronic, large-scale blasting had transformed beautiful, complex reefs into flat, mostly lifeless rubble fields. Her research showed how natural coral recovery was prevented by the shifting rubble in the water currents burying or abrading new coral recruits. She also developed low-tech, locally-available coral reef rehabilitation options, scaling up the most successful approach.

"I am so grateful for the ARCS Foundation award: it was my first research grant, and as such was a tremendous help in getting my research in Indonesia started. It allowed me to take my first field trip, develop my hypotheses, set up initial research plots, try out survey methods, and collect pilot data. I am convinced that it was being able to make this initial trip that led to my future funding success, as I received several grants after the ARCS fellowship."



## 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/arcsnorthernca/?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/>

## CALENDAR APRIL - JUNE 2021

**Thurs, Apr 8, 5 pm**.....Science Activities#7, climate science  
**Wed, Apr 14, 11:30 am-1 pm**.....Board Meeting by Zoom  
**Mon, Apr 26, 5-7 pm**.....Virtual Symposium  
**Wed, May 12, 11:30 am-1 pm**.....Board Meeting by Zoom  
**Wed, May 19, 11:30 am-1 pm**.....Annual Meeting by Zoom  
**Wed, June 9, 11:30 am - 1 pm**.....New/Old Board Meeting by Zoom

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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