

Student News

July deadline fast approaching for UGA ARCS Foundation Fellowships



2007 UGA ARCS Foundation Scholars with ARCS Atlanta chapter President Jan Bennett

The BHSI is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 ARCS Foundation Fellowships. These awards, funded by the Atlanta chapter of the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation, Inc., provide support to seven exceptional UGA doctoral candidates involved in biomedical and public health-related research each year. Recipients are selected by the BHSI and are eligible to receive \$6,000 annually until the completion of their degree.

Seven doctoral students received fellowships worth a total of \$43,500 from the ARCS Foundation in 2007. The scholars and their mentors are **Geneva DeMars (David Puett, biochemistry and molecular biology)**; **Sarah Eisenstein (Andrea Hohmann, psychology)**; **Jillian Hurst (Shelley Hooks, pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences)**; **Jodell Linder (Daniel Promislow, genetics)**; **Dawn Penn (Ruth Harris, foods and nutrition)**; **Norman Pollock (Richard Lewis, foods and nutrition)**; and **Laura Williams (Anne Summers, microbiology)**.

Students selected to receive the ARCS Foundation Fellowships must be U.S. citizens and meet all application requirements. To view the requirements, and find out how to apply, please visit www.biomed.uga.edu. The application deadline is **July 7, 2008**.

Neuroscience grad student wins thesis award

Graduate student **Elizabeth Rahn** was awarded the 2008 Master's Thesis Award by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) at their 37th annual meeting in Austin, Texas, this past February. The prestigious award recognizes excellence in research and writing by graduate students. Graduate deans in CSGS member institutions nominate one candidate from their institutions, whose thesis is then judged by CSGS faculty members in the discipline.

Rahn, who earned a M.S. in psychology from UGA in December 2006, is currently a third-year doctoral student in the Neuroscience and Behavior Program of the Department of Psychology. Her master's thesis, which evaluated the effectiveness of cannabinoids in treating pathological pain resulting from treatment with the chemotherapeutic agent vincristine, won in the life sciences category.

Students win first place awards at Yeast meeting

Benjamin Alper and **Sarah Breevoort** were awarded the best graduate and undergraduate oral presentation awards, respectively, at the 2008 Southeast Regional Yeast Meeting held at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in March. The meeting has been held annually since 1994.

Alper, a graduate student in biochemistry, won for his research on, "Characterizing M16A Peptidases in Yeast." Breevoort, a 2006 BHSI CURO Summer Fellow and Honors student in biochemistry, was recognized for her presentation "Towards the discovery of Ras-converting enzyme inhibitors – a novel anticancer target." Both Alper and Breevoort work in the lab of biochemistry and molecular biology assistant professor **Walter Schmidt**.

Postdoc, grad student to attend Colorado institute

Post-doctoral fellow **Kamlesh Jangid** and graduate student **Chandra Carpenter** from the UGA microbiology department were among only 35 selected nationwide to attend a professional institute in Colorado in July. They were invited participants in the Robert J. Kadner Institute for Graduate and Postdoctoral Scientists in Preparation for Careers in Microbiology, held at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

The Kadner Institute, managed by the American Society for Microbiology and sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Burroughs Wellcome Fund, is a hands-on training program designed to educate participants in grant writing, scientific presentations, scientific communication and ethics.

MCG, UGA host student scholar seminar exchange



Hurst

UGA doctoral student **Jillian Hurst** (pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences) and MCG doctoral student **Craig Brooks** (cellular biology and anatomy) were able to get a taste of the "visiting scholar" experience this spring semester through the MCG/UGA Student Seminar Exchange Award for Excellence in Biomedical Research.

Created in 2002 to foster research interactions between UGA and the Medical College of Georgia, the program honors the overall scientific merit and quality of the students' work, as well as mastery of their scientific field and verbal presentation skills. Each was awarded a \$250 stipend and invitation to present a research seminar at the other institution with travel and accommodations provided.

Hurst's seminar was hosted by the MCG Graduate Student Association in May. Brooks visited UGA in April. His seminar was co-sponsored by the UGA Department of Cellular Biology.



Brooks