



## ARC hosts first student-faculty lunch of the year

**MALVIKA VERMA**  
ARC Chair

On Thursday, October 24, the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) hosted the first student-faculty lunch (SFL) of the year, held in Ruddock House.

The faculty in attendance were Professor Nets Katz (Mathematics), Professor Christiane Orcel (Languages), Professor Ryan Patterson (Physics), Professor Kristine Haugen (English), and Professor Heather Knutson (Planetary Sciences).

Professor Geoff Blake, the Master of Student Houses (MOSH) and generous sponsor of these lunches, graced the occasion and kicked off the first SFL, along with ARC representative Jonathan Liu and ARC Chair Malvika Verma.

A record number of 97 undergraduates signed up to attend the lunch. Unfortunately, to maintain a reasonable student to faculty ratio (6:1), the ARC could only take 32 of these students.



Professor of Physics Ryan Patterson, discusses hot topics in physics.

Professor of Mathematics Nets Katz discusses his research with students.

-Neeli Mishra

about his research with the students at his table, many of whom were math majors or prospective math majors.

Professor Orcel, on the other hand, described her fascination with collecting art from all over the world. Her current interest is African-American art.

Professor Haugen encouraged students to use Caltech's Hixon Writing Center and the peer tutors in the houses to seek help when writing essays or even SURF proposals.

The student-faculty lunch occurred just one hour after the new President-Elect, Thomas Rosenbaum, was introduced to Caltech in a ceremony at the Athenaeum lawn.

ARC representative Nima Badizadegan and ARC Chair Malvika Verma invited the future President and his wife Professor Katherine Faber to join the students at the student-faculty lunch, but unfortunately, they had prior plans and were unable to attend the event.

The ARC hopes to have them at a student-faculty lunch within the next year.

-Neeli Mishra

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The ARC has discussed increasing the frequency of these lunches in order to account for the massive increase student interest in meeting and interacting

with faculty. The discussions at the lunch varied depending on which professor students were sitting with.

Professor Nets Katz, who is teaching Math 1a this term, talked

## News briefs from around the globe

*Helping readers burst out of the Caltech bubble*

**Need to know**

< **100** words about the world this week – topics sorted from good to bad

by *The Tech Eds*

<b>US marine released</b>	<b>4</b> months of captivity before Columbian rebels release Kevin Scott	[BBC]
<b>JP Morgan pays fine</b>	<b>5</b> billion dollars paid to mortgage lenders in settlement with FHFA	[BBC]
<b>Use Wikipedia by SMS</b>	<b>3</b> -month trial period intended for Africans without internet access	[BBC]
<b>GTA V wins award</b>	<b>1</b> st place at the Golden Joystick awards given to game by 10 M voters	[BBC]
<b>US spying leaked</b>	<b>35</b> world leaders have been monitored by US intelligence since 2006	[CNN]
<b>Pirates attack US ship</b>	<b>2</b> Americans captured off Nigerian coast, Nigerian navy cooperating	[CNN]
<b>Afghan civilians bombed</b>	<b>14</b> killed while on their way to a wedding; no suspects announced	[BBC]

## Food with Mannion!

*Do you like eating food?  
How about free food at nice restaurants?  
Ever want to tell the world exactly what you think of said food?  
The Tech will be beginning a new column to chronicle the foodie experiences of new writers every other week... The Catch: They'll be going head-to-head with Tom Mannion who will be reviewing the same restaurant. If you have ever thought you were more of a gourmand than our resident master chef, now's your chance to prove it!  
Email us for a spot on the list at [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)*

### The California Tech

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## Write articles for the Tech

get paid up to \$30

## ASCIT Minutes

Minutes for October 23, 2013. Taken by Catherine Jamshidi

Officers Present: Connor Coley, Connie Hsueh, Malvika Verma, Michelle Tang, Zach Rivkin, Monica Enlow

Guests: Connor Rosen, Margaret Lee

Call to Order: 10:07 pm

### President's Report (Zach):

Caltech has selected a new President: Thomas Rosenbaum of UChicago  
The Strategic Identity Project board is recommending a Final Positioning Statement, details TBA  
Student Faculty Honor Code committee meetings continue to be productive  
There will be an open UHCC (Undergraduate Honor Code Committee) meeting this term

### ASCIT Survey Results:

>95% of students prefer the house they rotated into over the house they rotated out of.  
Implication: Rotation emphatically beats random assignment  
When asked what would be the ideal time for Problem Sets to be due, a majority of students chose a time between 4 - 6pm. There was little support for times between 2am - noon.  
The student body is being periodically polled for their view of Student - Admin relations. Over the summer, more than 30% of respondents set relations to 1/10, corresponding to "The US and Iran have better relations." In this past week's survey, upperclassmen 1/10s were just under 30%. Freshmen have a more positive opinion.  
Other results will be made available to undergraduates elsewhere. If you have a question for the student body, email me at: [pres@donut.caltech.edu](mailto:pres@donut.caltech.edu)

### Officer's Reports:

#### V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Malvika):

At the CUE Meeting, we discussed:  
Increasing TQFR Response Rates  
Caltech has very low response rates compared to other colleges  
Professors read the TQFRs, so fill them out to improve teaching  
Proposal - If you fill out your TQFRs, you can register for classes the next term 1 week early  
Increasing the percentage of students who do research  
Incentivize students to do research during the year with credits  
Should we have a Seminar day during the year for people who do year-round research?  
Congrats to the new Freshmen ARC Reps: Emily Mazo (Page), Jay Palekar (Avery), and Alison Lui (Lloyd)!  
The first Student Faculty Lunch was held this past Thursday in Ruddock Dining Hall. It was well-attended and we expect there will be continued interest in this program. If you have any professors that you'd like to invite, let your ARC Rep know. The current list of ARC Reps can be found at [http://donut.caltech.edu/ascit/ARC\\_Reps](http://donut.caltech.edu/ascit/ARC_Reps)

#### V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):

The new President has already expressed interest in meeting with student leaders over the coming months as he adjusts to Caltech.  
Derek Finke has accepted the position for South House RLC. He'll be starting on November 1st. There will likely be a formal training session for new House leaders following House elections in February/March.  
The annual Leadership Conference will take place during 2nd term and will focus on enabling frosh to become more involved.  
Any Student Life and Housing Committee Concerns should be shared with Connor Coley or Justin Koch  
The IHC, with help from others, is putting together a comprehensive document detailing the current House system and potential plans for its expansion (i.e. Bechtel). If you would like to help with this process, please contact [ihc@ugcs.caltech.edu](mailto:ihc@ugcs.caltech.edu)

#### Director of Operations (Connie):

Little Ts have arrived and will be distributed soon to interested students.  
A PDF copy can be found at <http://arc.caltech.edu/files/Little%20t%202013-2014.pdf>  
Although Club Registration is going slower than expected, many problems have been resolved.  
Club Funding Day has been pushed back two weeks to November 10th to allow clubs to schedule time slots.  
Officers should revisit the email sent out last Thursday for more information

#### Treasurer (Monica):

Met with Tom and Lorrie to discuss a new reimbursement procedure. More information to come.

#### Social Director (Michelle):

The Halloween party was held this past Saturday in the SAC courtyard.  
There will be an Interhouse Pumpkin Carving Contest next Saturday on the Olive Walk.  
There will be a Rathskeller event one of the upcoming weekends.  
The Wallpaper Concert will not be taking place during 1st term, but we are working to schedule this on campus.

#### Secretary (Cat):

Making ASCIT Thank You Cards  
Attended the Student Experience Committee Meeting with Connor Rosen (and his guest, Zach Rivkin) at the Board of Trustees Retreat as the undergraduate representatives. We brought back many concerns and questions the trustees have for students. There will be more to discuss at next week's meeting.

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:03 pm

## Last week's ASCIT Minutes\*

\*(Since they were not published last week)

Minutes for October 16, 2013. Taken by Catherine Jamshidi

Officers Present: Zach Rivkin, Malvika Verma, Connor Coley, Connie Hsueh, Catherine Jamshidi, Monica Enlow

Guests: Margaret Lee, Connor Rosen

Call to Order: 10:01 pm

### President's Report (Zach):

Student Experience Committee meeting, at the Board of Trustees retreat, is on 10/25.

ASCIT Survey is being sent out.

If you have an idea for a large fun event that will bring the undergraduates together, contact Connor or me. The Anonymous fund has a healthy budget and there are other funding sources available as needed.

### Officer's Reports:

#### V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Malvika):

Increasing TQFR Response Rates Proposals

Caltech has very low response rates

Professors read the TQFRs, so fill them out to improve teaching Proposal - If you fill out your TQFRs, you can register for classes the next term 1 week early

Student Faculty Lunch this Thurs - record signups for it!

Use the Take-a-Prof to lunch program if you want to hang out with a prof more

The ARC is assembling a committee to discuss MOOCs.

Are they a benefit to Caltech students in terms of teaching quality?

How do we evaluate them?

#### V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):

The IHC and a few additional students are drafting a paper to discuss the current status of the house system, the possible expansion of that system, and the implications on the support/resources that houses provide.

South House RLC offer made

#### Director of Operations (Connie):

Online club registration is ongoing, and the system, though

buggy, has been mostly successful

Club Funding Day has been pushed back to Nov. 10. Club officers should stay tuned for more information on how to apply for annual ASCIT funding

#### Treasurer (Monica):

Information about the new reimbursement process will be sent out shortly.

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:51 pm

# Caltech Y Column: Look out for new events

**PHOEBE ANN  
LAURA SANTOSO**  
Contributing Writers

Hi everyone! This is the Caltech Y Column, designed to inform you about the Y and the opportunities we provide for you to inspire your passions, whether by participating in our programs or leading your own!

Founded by students in 1916, the Y was organized to provide extracurricular activities planned and implemented by students as an opportunity to gain leadership skills and discover their passions and themselves. The mission of today's Y remains the same—to provide opportunities that will prepare students to become engaged, responsible citizens of the world. The Y seeks to broaden students' worldviews, and raise social, ethical, and cultural awareness through teamwork, community engagement, activism, and leadership.

The Caltech Y's mission and core values stand on five key pillars: leadership, civic engagement, service, adventure, and perspective. Regardless of which pillars capture your interest, feel free to attend any of the below programs, or contact us to organize your own!

Here's a sampling of past programs held by the Y:

- Alternative Spring Breaks: Costa Rica, New York, Yosemite, San Diego, San Francisco
  - Make-A-Difference Day: Hillside Home for Children, LA County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Children's Hospital Los Angeles (Coachart), Eaton Canyon, Lifeline for Pets
  - Explore LA: Lakers game, Next to Normal musical, Norton Simon Museum trip
- Our most recent events was Explore LA: Cirque Du Soleil's new show TOTEM.

#### Upcoming Events:

##### 1. Rise Tutoring Program

Mon.-Thurs. | 4-6pm | Winnett, 2nd Floor

The Caltech Y Rise Program is currently accepting new tutors. The Rise Program is an afterschool math and science-focused tutoring program that serves public school students between grades 8 and 12. The tutoring takes place on the Caltech campus Monday-Thursday from 4pm-6pm. For more information about the program and to apply please visit our website at: [http://caltechy.org/programs\\_services/tutoring/](http://caltechy.org/programs_services/tutoring/).

##### 2. Hathaway Sycamores

Saturday | November 2nd | 1:30-4:30pm | Highland Park

Volunteer at Hathaway-Sycamores, a group that supports local underprivileged but motivated high school students. Some of the subjects being tutored are AP Chemistry, AP Physics, and AP Calculus. For more info and to RSVP Email Josie Kishi [atjkishi@caltech.edu](mailto:atjkishi@caltech.edu).

##### 3. Ice Cream Competition

In an effort to further familiarize students with the location and services of the Caltech Y, the ExComm, with help from Tom Mannion, will be holding a competition among the undergrad and grad houses to come up with the best new flavor of ice cream. The winners and, of course, tasting opportunities will take place at the Y. Date(s) and more details to come.

##### 4. Outdoor Adventures T-Shirt Design Contest

Deadline Friday, November 15th

Hello Caltech Y Outdoor enthusiasts! Do you have graphic design skills? We need your help! The Caltech Y Outdoor Adventures group is designing and printing custom T-shirts to wear when hiking, having fun outdoors, or even for daily use around campus. The T-shirts will be a blend of polyester and cotton especially designed to stay dry and comfortable while you are active, but still be soft like a regular T-shirt. We are looking for a cool design that incorporates our love for hiking and outdoor activities with our Caltech and Caltech Y affiliation. If you have graphic design experience, we encourage you to submit a design for the T-shirts. The creator of the winning design will get a free T-shirt and a \$25 discount on the Caltech Y Outdoor Adventures camping trip of their choice (good for trips to Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, and other National and State Parks). Submit your design in .pdf or .ai form to Jeremy Sandler, [jsandler@caltech.edu](mailto:jsandler@caltech.edu) by Friday, November 15th.

If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact the Caltech Y at (626) 395-6163 or [caltechy@caltech.edu](mailto:caltechy@caltech.edu). Feel free to drop by at one of our weekly meetings at the Caltech Y at the Caltech Y (505 S. Wilson, next to CEFCU), Mondays at noon. Lunch is provided.

Go to <http://caltechy.org/lists/> to self-subscribe to announcement lists for upcoming events and sign-up information.

For a student's perspective, feel free to contact Phoebe Ann at [phoebe.ann2@gmail.com](mailto:phoebe.ann2@gmail.com) or Laura Santoso at [santoso.laura@gmail.com](mailto:santoso.laura@gmail.com).

# SURF presenters awarded

#### 2013 Perpall Speaking Competition semi-finalists

Amir Abdolrahim Poorheravi  
Da An  
Karsyn Bailey  
Juliette Becker  
Moriah Bischann  
Will Bunting  
Oliver Chen  
Erin Evans  
Katherine Fisher  
Mark Greenfield  
James Ha  
Alexander Hartz  
Greg Izatt  
Robert Johnson  
Devashish Joshi

Lev Krazyman  
Grace Leishman  
Jarvis Li  
Jonathan Liu  
Jacqueline Masehi-Lano  
Meghana Pagadala  
Ketaki Panse  
Misha Raffiee  
Angad Rekhi  
Connor Rosen  
Iva Rreza  
Keegan Ryan  
Elly Shao  
Benjamin Suslick  
Charles Tschirhart  
Malvika Verma  
Lekha Viswanadham  
Benjamin Wang

#### 2013 Gee Family Poster Competition finalists

Michael Dieterle  
Joseph Grappone  
Ritvik Mishra  
Ellen Price  
Esha Wang

## Caltech and MOOCs Part IV: The Social Reach of MOOCs

**CONNOR ROSEN**  
Contributing Writer

*This is fourth in an ongoing series of articles detailing Caltech's involvement with and initial forays into online education. Previous articles have introduced MOOCs, Caltech's partnerships with MOOC providers, the anticipated benefits of MOOCs, and the potential pedagogical use of MOOCs at Caltech.*

One of the most prominent features of MOOCs is their “massive” nature, attracting numbers of students that lend themselves to hyperbole and disbelief. The largest MOOC ever offered on Coursera enrolled more than 240,000 students – numbers that dwarf the four-year enrollment of the largest universities in the country. The expansion of educational opportunities offered by utilizing MOOCs – the ability to offer a high-quality college-level course and education for free to anyone in the world – is for many at the heart of the “educational revolution” MOOCs offer. There remain, however, several unanswered questions about the true scope and influence of MOOCs.

The first, and perhaps most difficult to answer, is whether MOOCs can truly offer an educational experience comparable to a college course. This is an area

of debate even among MOOC providers. Some see MOOCs as a potential replacement for a college education – to the point that some instructors believe on-campus education and undergraduate students will vanish from higher education in the near future, with all instruction happening over the Internet. Others see MOOCs as an opportunity to supplement college education – to use them to support existing educational ventures, for the flipped classroom model, and to serve as the baseline to inspire interest and passion in new students to convince them to pursue further, more thorough, investigation of the subject.

The data are unfortunately lacking in this area. Educational research supports the notion that distance education (i.e. online courses that mimic normal courses in size, instructor-student interaction, and feedback and assessment methods) can match traditional education in certain subjects. However, most MOOCs, because of their massive and open nature, do not track the performance of their students. It is difficult to measure student retention of information, performance in higher-level courses, and other measures of learning due to the anonymous nature of online education. The small amount of data suggests a difference between MOOCs and normal college courses. When San

Jose State University experimented with an Udacity-run MOOC to replace their remedial and introductory math course for incoming students, online students exhibited a far lower passing rate of the final exam than on-campus students in the normal class (29 to 80 percent in remedial math, with 51 to 74 percent in the statistics class being the closest comparison). The reasons for this are unclear, but the burden of proof of the efficacy of MOOCs remains on the side of those who claim that they match normal courses.

Additionally, there is a concern about the completion rates of MOOCs in general. A study of MOOC completion rates for 86 MOOCs offered by ten different platforms (including Coursera and EdX) showed that the average completion rate for MOOCs was just over 7 percent – with Coursera and EdX both showing average completion rates even below that. One Caltech offering with public data (Professor Henry Lester's course *Drugs and the Brain*) is included in this set, and had a 6.6 percent completion rate. Professor Antonio Rangel's economics course had an estimated completion rate of between five and ten percent (the data for both of these courses was presented at the February 2013 faculty meeting).

There is some dispute over whether completion rates are an appropriate measure for success of

MOOCs. One educational blogger commented that taking issue with low MOOC completion rates is akin to saying that Stanford has a five percent graduation rate because fewer than 1,000 students graduate for every 20,000 applicants – and many MOOC enrollees are like applicants to a school, unsure whether they are truly interested or capable of the subject but willing to try. However, the point remains that Stanford doesn't claim to educate 20,000 new students each year, but MOOCs boast enrollment data as a sign of their reach, instead of outcomes and completion rates.

Another question about the social reach of MOOCs is what population takes them. The idea that MOOCs give a college education to those who would never had access otherwise is challenged by the demographic data available from many MOOCs. For example, over 80 percent of students who participated in MOOCs run by the University of Edinburgh (which published a study comparing five MOOCs offered on Coursera) had already attained at least a college education. Duke's graduate-level *Bioelectricity* course, which was likewise the subject of a public study and report, had a student population that was over 70 percent college educated, and more than a third of the students enrolled had a degree or work experience in a related field. The public data for Caltech MOOCs

is less clear. Professor Rangel's course had a “modal degree level” of masters or above. The answers to Professor Lester's survey for his course imply that at least 50 percent of the students had attained a college education, with a substantial percentage having a strong background in biology or neuroscience.

These numbers raise an interesting question for Caltech. While it is unclear that MOOCs are truly expanding educational access to previously unsupported groups and populations, or reaching the numbers of students they claim to, the specific population that is taking the greatest advantage of MOOCs may be of more interest to Caltech and more in keeping with our mission.

The opportunity to reach professionals in science and engineering, who have the background and experience to appreciate the unique and challenging material that Caltech students are exposed to in our courses and Caltech faculty are most suited to teaching, is promising for Caltech. As long as instructors keep that in mind, and target their education to the people they want to and are reaching instead of a mythic population of hundreds of thousands of under-educated students with no prior exposure to science, Caltech may actually be able to impact the world using online education.

## Brad/Chad Couture: Dress up to your body type

**BRAD CHATTERGOON**  
Staff Writer

“Jeans” are the colloquial term for pants made of denim.

They are the most commonly used item in anyone's wardrobe and the average American has five pairs.

If you have less than that then this is a great excuse to go shopping. There are a few notable categorizations of jeans: cut, wash and fit.

Types of fit:

- Slim: This fit is the tightest in the category but “slim” does not necessarily mean “skinny”.

Slim fit jeans are the most popular fit in recent times as it gives a fitted appearance to jeans.

- Regular: This fit is characterized by slimness in the seat and thigh but looseness in the legs (i.e. below the knee).

Think of regular fit as still fitted but not as tight as slim.

- Relaxed: This fit is very loose throughout the entire pant without being baggy. Legs have a lot of room in the length of the jean.

- Loose: Think of this as what is referred to as “baggy” jeans. Generally best avoided unless going for a specific type of look.

A very important part of jean choice is in the cut. Here are the main types of cuts for men:



*This student is modeling a slim cut pair of dark wash jeans. Try experimenting with various washes to find which suits certain outfits best.*

–Stanford Schor

- Boot cut: Jeans of this cut are designed to taper to the knee with a slight flare at the bottom. They were originally pretty popular in the 90's but have largely fallen out of popularity lately.

I recommend finding a “slim-boot” cut if this cut appeals to you. It suits almost all body types.

- Skinny leg: This a specific type of slim fit that tends to be very tight.

In most cases, guys should avoid this type of cut as it tends to be too tight and the fad of “if it ain't tight it ain't right” has fortunately been largely left behind.

- Straight leg: As the name suggests, this cut is marked by a uniform straight fit from top to bottom. It is the most flattering of all the cut-fit combinations.

The slim-straight is the most popular cut of the current style scene, and should be your go-to choice if in doubt.

- Low-rise: This is a sub-category of cuts, and is marked by a jean that sits lower on the torso. This is a personal preference category.

Washes are what define the color and pattern of the jean and different washes can

be combined to produce different effects. Types of washes:

- Dark
- Light
- Grey
- Distressed
- Dirty
- Black

A note on other topics:

Designer vs Non-Designer Jeans:

Designer jeans are jeans that are in the range upwards of \$100 and good examples are 7 for All Mankind and Lucky Brand Jeans. Designer jeans are desirable for the quality of the material and comfort or special fits and designs that are usually not available at lower tiers.

An example of this is 7 for All Mankind.

The first pair that I bought from the brand was so comfortable and fit so well that I'd often fall asleep in them (and not just in classes either).

I recommend purchasing a pair of designer jeans once in your life if you can afford it and seeing if it's for you.

Wearing jeans based on the time of day:

There is an idea of “Day Jeans” vs “Night Jeans”. Day jeans should be on the lighter side while night jeans should edge on the darker side.

## Best Coast showcases improved sound on new EP

**NAILEN MATSCHKE**  
Contributing Writer

Those familiar with the indie scene are probably aware of Los Angeles's own Best Coast, consisting of singer, songwriter, and guitarist Bethany Cosentino, and her multi-instrumentalist partner Bobb Bruno. After their formation in 2009, the band's first full-length album, *Crazy For You* (2010), garnered critical acclaim as well as commercial success, thanks to strong support on the Internet. Featuring bright but decidedly lo-fi production, remarkably simple instrumental parts, and floaty vocals, the album captured the sun-baked haze of Southern California in the summer almost perfectly. True to its title, the album's lyrics focused obsessively, unhealthily so, on how badly Cosentino wants to be with a certain person. In 2012, the band released its second album, *The Only Place*. They intentionally went in a noticeably different direction, with high-quality production, far more complexity in the instrumental parts, and no clear unifying theme to the songs. The latter, combined with almost painfully simplistic lyrics, ended up weakening the album, making it feel by comparison unemotional and mechanical.

*Fade Away* is not actually a full-length album but an EP, though seeing as it clocks in as only a song or two's worth shorter

than its predecessors, it is still a substantial release. The seven-song EP dropped on October 22nd, and unsurprisingly it is pretty much exactly what you'd expect from a

production), though, is the vocals. Cosentino, who used to suffer from stage fright and would cover up her vocals with effects, provides a much stronger delivery here, with

chorus song structure, it usually gets called simplistic. Few bands, though, will spend the entire song playing one riff, which is exactly what Best Coast did on their first album. On *The Only Place*, they had far more guitar parts that involved more than a few chords, but I can't think of a single time they were in the spotlight. From "This Lonely Morning" on, we get real guitar solos, where there are no vocals or anything else on top to detract from the listener's focus. Even this small change adds variety to the music and lets them keep the flow going in each song.

-www.radioutd.com

Moving on to the middle of the record, we see that this release is no slacker on variety, either. "I Wanna Know" and "Fade Away" sound almost straight off of *Crazy For You*, and without the overarching themes of that album to support them, I think that actually makes them some of the weaker tracks on *Fade Away*. The two songs in between them, "Who Have I Become?" and "Fear of My Identity," however, are two of my favorites from their entire discography. They do everything the opening track does, with great vocals, decent progression to the songs, a utilization of every trick

Best Coast has up their sleeves, and then one more thing: punchy, upbeat drums. Obviously, this isn't something that should be in every song, but for these two it makes them fun and even danceable, despite some of the heavier lyrics on the EP. These are songs that could almost be described as pop-punk, and wouldn't be out of place on mainstream radio. On the other end of the spectrum, the only song I really dislike is the second to last, "Baby I'm Crying," which with some changes to the lyrics (though not that many, really) could honestly be a Christmas ballad. It relies on just about every cliché there is for the type of song it's supposed to be, making for something that just isn't interesting or that enjoyable. The last song, "I Don't Know How," starts off like another one of these, but halfway through switches to an energetic and simple pattern that makes for a good way to play out the EP.

Best Coast may not be the most innovative or impressive band, but they know how to write songs that are fun, atmospheric, and easy to listen to, while maintaining meaningful lyrics. While *Fade Away* isn't actually a full length release, I can honestly say I like it even more than their first two albums. They brought back a lot of what made their first unique, combined it with the parts that worked from their second, and then added improvements in every area of their sound, leading to an EP with variety, and high quality in just about all of it. Fans of their indie, surf, and lo-fi rock brethren such as Wavves and Surfer Blood should absolutely enjoy this release. In addition, fans of some more high-energy garage rock and pop-punk acts like FIDLAR or The Hives, should appreciate the album thanks to the expansion of Best Coast's sound on *Fade Away*. They're so easy to get into, though, that rock or alternative fans owe them a listen.



band with a couple of albums under its belt. Their sound moves back from the sparkling guitars of *The Only Place* to the grittier distortion of *Crazy For You*, and uses a much more simplistic – though not by any means lo-fi – mix as well. When the record starts, we are welcomed by "This Lonely Morning" and its fade into some guitar and drum parts that wouldn't sound out of place on *Crazy For You*. The first clear difference (besides the

a less ethereal, more pointed style and a chorus that just makes you want to sing along, which is not how I'd describe Best Coast's earlier work. While the links between the songs aren't as clear as on their first release, the theme of time and how much (or little) we have of it left is common, and works much better than those of *The Only Place*.

The next big change is the guitar fills and solos. When a band uses a simple repeated verse/

## NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSOR FOR THE FEYNMAN TEACHING PRIZE!

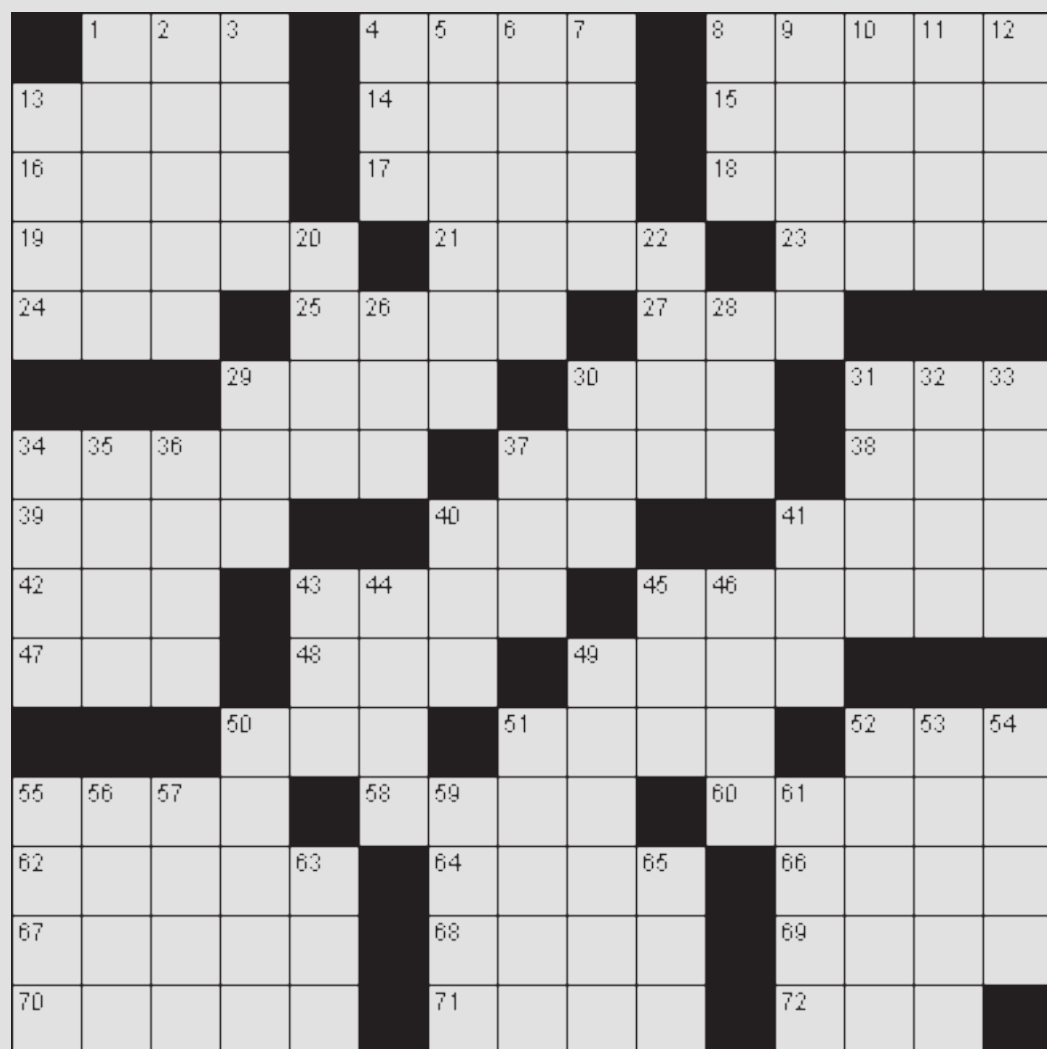
Here's your chance to nominate your favorite professor for the 2013-14 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching! You have from now until January 2, 2014 to submit your nomination package to the Provost's Office to honor a professor who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching.

The Feynman Prize is made possible through the generosity of Ione and Robert E. Paradise, with additional contributions from an anonymous local couple. Nominations for the Feynman Teaching Prize are welcome from faculty, students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and alumni.

All professorial faculty of the Institute are eligible. The prize consists of a cash award of \$3,500, matched by an equivalent raise in the annual salary of the awardee. A letter of nomination and detailed supporting material, including, but not limited to, a curriculum vitae, course syllabus or description, and supporting recommendation letters should be emailed to kkerbs@caltech.edu or directed to the Feynman Prize Selection Committee, Office of the Provost, Mail Code 206-31, at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 91125. Nomination packages are due by January 2, 2014.

Additional information including guidelines for the prize and FAQ may be found at <http://provost.caltech.edu/FeynmanTeachingPrize>. Further information can also be obtained from Karen Kerbs (626-395-6039; kkerbs@caltech.edu) in the Provost's Office.

## Today's Puzzle: Crossword



[www.puzzlechoice.com]

### Across

- 1. Astern
- 4. Likelihood
- 8. Valuable resource
- 13. Strong and healthy
- 14. Garrison
- 15. Cut closely
- 16. Midday
- 17. Floating ice mass
- 18. Oasis
- 19. Dodge
- 21. Run easily
- 23. Currency unit
- 24. Saturated
- 25. Enfold
- 27. Make a request
- 29. Scorch
- 30. Viper
- 31. Moose
- 34. Trauma
- 37. Commiseration
- 38. Wordplay
- 39. Space for movement
- 40. Deplorable
- 41. Despicable
- 42. Writing fluid
- 43. Entrance
- 45. Prophet
- 47. Witness
- 48. Swerve
- 49. Nutritional regimen
- 50. Acquire
- 51. Percussion instrument

### Down

- 52. Slump
- 55. Rigging support
- 58. Throw forcefully
- 60. Languish
- 62. Created by interlacing strands of fabric
- 64. Requirement
- 66. Halo
- 67. Legal defense
- 68. Appointment
- 69. Pack tightly
- 70. Ideal
- 71. Portent
- 72. Evergreen tree

- 29. Total
- 30. Assist
- 31. Long narrative poem
- 32. Period of calm weather
- 33. Leg joint
- 34. Part of the eye
- 35. Not any
- 36. Jest
- 37. Golfing term
- 40. Female hog
- 41. Large tub
- 43. Stain
- 44. Solemn promise
- 45. Fuel
- 46. Depend
- 49. Erase
- 50. Kind of seabird
- 51. Freshwater fish
- 52. Fry briefly over high heat
- 53. Pointer
- 54. Chew
- 55. Moved through water
- 56. Field game
- 57. Zealous
- 59. Unfasten
- 61. Posing no difficulty
- 63. Nothing
- 65. Lair

*Answers to last week's crossword puzzle from puzzlechoice.com*



*Caltech Public Events is now hiring student ushers.*

*\$15 per hour to work concerts, performances, lectures, films and parties.*

*No experience needed, no hard labor, flexible schedules.*

*\*Requirements: Caltech student, Positive attitude, Friendly personality*

*To apply email Adam Jacobo (ajacobo@caltech.edu) or call (626) 395-5907*

*For info on Caltech Public Events visit: [www.caltech.edu/content/public-events](http://www.caltech.edu/content/public-events)*

## Two Caltech fencers place first at IFCSC tournament

GoCaltech

Caltech fencing season got underway on Saturday as the Beavers hosted the Intercollegiate Fencing Conference of Southern California (IFCSC) Open Tournament at the Braun Gym.

A pair of Caltech fencers brought home first place finishes while a host of other Beavers placed in the leaders.

Christine Meyer won the epee competition by

topping teammate Ingrid Fielder in the final match-up. Meyer went through pool play with a near-perfect 5-1 mark and then marched through the bracket round undefeated, well en route to finishing first.

Katie Fisher had a solid afternoon in the foil event. Fisher



A Caltech men's foilist squares off against an opponent.

Highlighting the men's portion of the event for Caltech was Matthew Jin. The first-year won the foil competition by posting a perfect record in pool and bracket play (9-0).

Eugene Vinitzky also had a solid afternoon in foil by claiming a third place finish.

John Christian had the Beavers best finish during the epee competition by posting a fifth place finish in the 20-person field.

Harrison Miller took sixth place during the saber event, which was the best finish for the Beavers in that event.

reached the semifinals of the seven-person field before falling in a hard fought bout.

Shi En Kim also had a third place finish as the sophomore reached the semifinal bout in saber before being defeated.

## Beavers water polo maintains winning streak against Chaffey

GoCaltech

On Saturday, October 26, the Beavers men's water polo team played a pair of contests at the La Verne aquatics center against Chaffey College and University of La Verne.

Caltech won against Chaffey with a final score of 12-7. The Beavers got a pair of hat tricks from

Chris Bradley and Patric Eck to aid in the win.

Bradley scored four times while Eck tickled the net on three occasions as Caltech won their third contest of the season.

Jerome Skelly added two goals to aid in the winning cause.

Skelly was just as generous on the opposite end of Caltech's goal.

The junior tied Connor Lee and Eck with two assists.

Grabowski blocked 14 shots in posting his 10 double-figure save game of the season.

It is the fourth straight win for Caltech over the Panthers. The streak began in the 2011 season.

The final score against La Verne was a loss at 16-5.

## Weekly Scoreboard

Men's Water Polo  
vs. Chaffey (at La Verne)  
W, 12-7 Final

Men's Water Polo  
at La Verne  
L, 16-5 Final

Men's Soccer  
at Redlands  
L, 5-0 Final

Women's Volleyball  
at La Verne  
L, 3-0 Final

Men's Soccer  
at Claremont-M-S  
L, 8-0 Final

Men's Water Polo  
vs. Claremont-M-S  
L, 16-7 Final

Women's Volleyball  
vs. Chapman  
L, 3-0 Final

### *SFL Lab 326 Open House Information*

***Date:*** Tuesday November 5th, 2013

***Time:*** 10:30am - 2:30pm

*SFL Lab 326 is the Caltech Library's NEW interactive computer classroom, available for classes, workshops, and training sessions.*

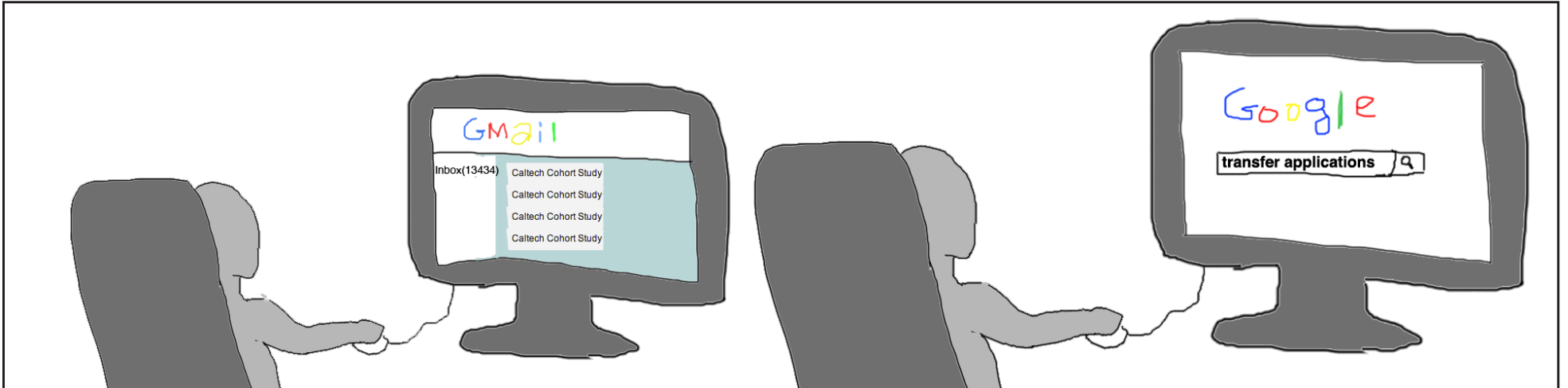
*With 8 dual-screen Windows workstations on moveable tables, 3 AirPlay-enabled monitors, and AppleTV, Lab326 is an intimate, immersive instruction space.*

*Reservations are accepted 24 hours (or more) in advance for classes and sessions. For more information or to make a reservation, visit:*

*[http://library.caltech.edu/about/group\\_study\\_room\\_policy.html](http://library.caltech.edu/about/group_study_room_policy.html) or email us at [library@caltech.edu](mailto:library@caltech.edu)*

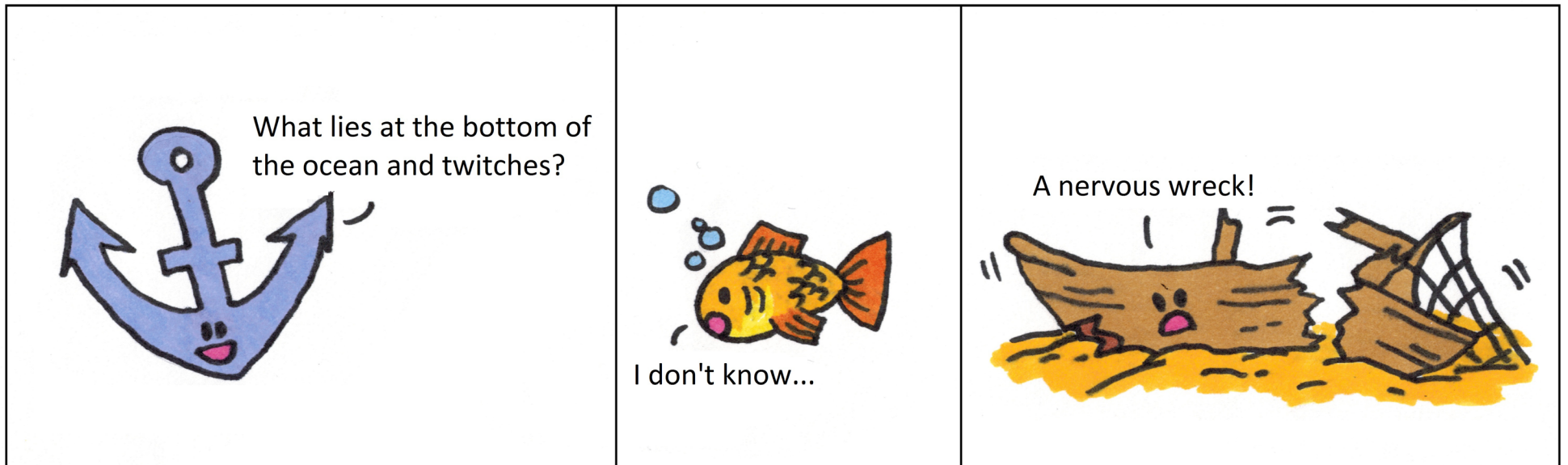
## Acquired Taste

Dr. Z



## Unoriginal Jokes

Kerry Betz



*For more photos,  
videos, and archives  
of previous issues,  
check out the Tech  
website!*

[tech.caltech.edu](http://tech.caltech.edu)

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