Quynh-Thu Xuan Le (B.S. '89)  
-Distinguished Alumni named  
Rockefeller University Research Center  
of Leadership and Science  
David D. Ho (B.S. '74)  
-Distinguished Alumni named  
Aaron Diamond AIDS Biology  
David D. Ho (B.S. '74)  
-Distinguished Alumni named  
Biology (M.S. '95, Ph.D. '96)  
-Ben Tomlin  
-In the This  
-Kip-S. Thorne (B.S. '62, Physics)  
-Richard P. Feynman Professor  
-In the This  
-Continued on page 4  
-CASEY HANDMER  
-Contributing Writer  
-See page 5 for full story.
**CAT JAMSIDI**

I’m running for IHC Chair because I believe the House system is a fundamentally important part of Caltech, and I want to strengthen and preserve it through the upcoming year. I came to Caltech because of the community I saw in the Houses during my Prefrosh Weekend, and I want to make sure that community is there for everyone and new students are welcome into it. Having served as ASCIT President for the past year, I’ve had the chance to work closely with the current IHC Chair and the previous House Presidents, and I think that serving as IHC Chair would allow me to best support that sense of community, and change the Caltech student experience for the better. The Houses have many good things to offer to the student experience. The social club and the feedback mechanism for student concerns. Following Rotation, freshmen are welcomed into their new home—learning about the unique friends you will never have. Still, there is much room to improve. I want to ensure that everyone has the chance to see all the positive things that each house has to offer. I am very confident in my ability to serve as IHC Chair. My experiences as ASCIT President have prepared me to continue discussions with the Dean’s office, Housing, the faculty, and Student Affairs. Through my responsibilities as ASCIT President, I have learned when to stick my ground and when to back down, while maintaining respectful, constructive dialogue. I have been working with the previous IHC and the newly-elected House Presidents on current issues, regarding the payout of House Endowments, and releasing the graduation rates of houses, as well as other topics. I am well acquainted with students, administrators, and faculty on campus and am fully prepared to represent the interests of students and fight to preserve our culture. I will work tirelessly to strengthen the role of the houses in supporting undergraduates and preparing us for life after tech. The IHC is responsible for Rotation. Although I am not a member of the BoC, I will go into my role of Chair understanding that the Rotation process is important, and I plan on working very closely with the outgoing IHC to understand what worked well this year, and what challenges we can expect to face next fall. I want to continue the improvements made by previous IHC to the Rotation process. I want to make sure it is transparent enough for prefrosh to make the best choices, and that the Houses can present themselves as they are. Student Affairs is in a transitional period. Not only do we have a new Institute President, who is faced with making a major decision regarding the Bechtel Residence, but Student Affairs will be welcoming a new Undergraduate Dean, and a new Vice President for Student Affairs. Student leaders will have new faces to work with, and with this comes an opportunity to make positive changes. But if the relationship between student leaders and these new leaders is not protected, there is a potential for the student voice to be ignored. I will be able to provide perspective and the best understanding of what is important and what we can improve, and how to respect and involve students in that process. In summary, I see the role of IHC Chair as someone with a passion for the house system and a desire to serve the student body. I am confident in my ability to lead us through the coming year and the challenges and opportunities it holds. I look forward to bringing continuous support to the student body as Chair of the Interhouse Committee. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at cjamshidi@caltech.edu if you have any questions.

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**JAY PALEKAR**

Dear Caltech,

My name is Jay Palekar and I am running for Board of Control Secretary. Over the past two years I’ve had the pleasure of serving on both the BoC and the ARC, and in time, learned to appreciate the value of the Honor Code. I desperately rely on collaboration to get through my sets, abuse my card access to buildings late at night, and take my exams at the oddest hours. I can’t imagine my Caltech experience without these traditions and privileges. The Honor Code makes life at Caltech completely different from anything undergraduates at other schools experience, and as BoC Secretary, I intend to be its committed advocate.

In the past two years I’ve served as the Avery Representative to the Board, sitting nearly fifty hours of cases, acting as a case secretary, learning about the inner workings of the BoC, and doing my best to ensure that the principles of the Honor Code are upheld. Additionally, in my time sitting on the ARC, I’ve been privy to the conversations held between the faculty and students on the future of the Honor Code and understand their interpretation of it. I will do my best to ensure that the entire Caltech community can feel comfortable with the BoC, so that Caltech students continue to have access to the traditions and experiences that have made us unique.

I’ve served as a member of the Board of Control because I wanted to be part of maintaining what I consider an integral part of Caltech. I’m running for its leadership to help ensure that Caltech students will continue to experience these freedoms unhindered.

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**KATE EVANS**

Dear Caltech,

My name is Kate Evans and I am running for Board of Control Secretary. During the past year I have served as a BoC rep-at-large and I have assisted many in helping people achieve a greater understanding of the honor code. I have spent countless hours sitting cases on the Board, and have even volunteered to be acting Secretary on multiple occasions. Having been Secretary on cases in the past, I am well aware of the time commitment involved and am ready to take on the workload. In my experience on the Board, the vast majority of cases resulting in conviction that I have seen are a result of stress or going wrong again in the future, so I can very well empathize with the House presidents and the people who are taking the process hard. The ultimate goal is to make sure they get the person what they went wrong and how to avoid going wrong again in the future, so that they can gain a proper understanding as to why they did what they did, and where the house system and a desire to serve the student body. I am confident in my ability to lead us through the coming year and the challenges and opportunities it holds. I look forward to bringing continuous support to the student body as Chair of the Interhouse Committee. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at cjamshidi@caltech.edu if you have any questions.

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**DANIEL COMella**

As I have toured around the Houses this week announcing my candidacy, the most common question I’ve been asked is, “What does the IHC Chair do?” As I see it, the Chair is responsible for two things: Rotation and student advocacy. Both of which sound simple, but are in reality very complicated issues to deal with. The House system and Honor Code are Caltech’s most distinguishing and important characteristics of the undergraduate experience. Houses provide incredible and unique environments for almost every undergrad, and few things have as profound an effect on one’s experience as which House they rotate into. This is what makes Rotation so important, and largely why IHC Chair is such an important position. Having served on Blacker’s picks team my sophomore year, I have gotten to see a great deal of the workings of Rotation and I feel I have gained much of the knowledge and experience necessary to run Rotation.

Dean Dahi’s articles about the graduation rates across the Houses have stirred up a lot of discussion about Rotation and the House system. I certainly believe that Rotation is a process we should be constantly re-examining. The Institute and the Houses are constantly changing, and as such, we should be willing to change our system for sorting prefrosh into those Houses accordingly. Changes must be made carefully, however, as negative changes could certainly make negative changes. Graduation rates can certainly be misleading information to give to prefrosh, and I believe we should be more careful about deciding before deciding to do so. To us, a lot of the statistics can be put into context, but for a prefrosh, they are hard to understand. I have seen people take time off for personal reasons or take extra time to graduate due to filling a single class—neither of which says much about academic performance. To a prefrosh, however, graduation rates would seem indicative of the academic performance of a house because they have yet to experience the difficulties and disadvantages of graduating.

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**JALEX STARK**

No statement or photo submitted.
Yes, the numbers are now out there, but explicitly giving the per-freshman numbers provides too much emphasis on the numbers themselves, and neglects the overwhelming importance of the environment. It seems neither harmful to have prefrosh try to rotate into Houses that do better in terms of statistics, but for which they are a poor fit. After all, many of us would readily admit that without the support of our Houses and the ease with which they allow us to collaborate, doing well in classes would be substantially harder. Greater transparency of information is certainly possible, but care would have to be taken to ensure the information is taken in the appropriate context.

Once Rotation is over, the IHC Chair has a great deal of influence to wield on behalf of the students. Since coming to Caltech I have made bettering this campus a priority. I have taken up many roles in Blacker and on campus, ranging from a Resident Adviser in my dorm to a Title IX committee. In general, I try to be a person who helps and supports the undergrads, and who is willing to do favors for students around campus. Besides being a full member of Blacker and Ricketts, I do make a point of trying to keep up relationships in other Houses so I can better understand and help the campus. As IHC Chair, I would like to promote the idea of having dim rooms so I can maintain open communication to and from the IHC.

Currently I chair the Stewardship Committee (also known as Stewcom), a committee of representatives from each House that interface between their Houses and the Housing department. As Chair of this committee, I have had the chance to see how issues Houses have with each other and Housing, as well as mitigate and avoid damages. I have offered my advice to the Housing security team and the House Stewards. I believe the other stewards and I have improved the relationship between the Houses and Housing, leading to a greater trust in students to take care of their homes. This gives us more freedom to do what we want, more opportunity to deal with issues ourselves, and ultimately leads to fewer charges. So far this year, combined charges to the Houses have totaled less than $4000. For comparison, in years past, I have seen thousands more than this charged in single terms.

As Stewcom Chair, I have also had the opportunity to work with important CRC and Title IX cases, often alongside Erik Knowarge, Paul Asimov, Tom Mannion, Peter Daily, Dean Dahiri, and Amelda Sargent. Most of this was while serving on the Student Life and Housing Committee.

IHC Chair (continued from page 2)

BIANCA RAY AVALANI

As a member of the Caltech community, I find that the Honor Code is a central part of my life here both in academic and non-academic matters. The academic side of ethical behavior is often mentioned, but the personal and social side is equally important yet less visible. As last year’s off-campus CRC rep, as well as through my time being a Title IX representative, UCC, and Head UCC, I have had considerable experience investigating ethical concerns and ramifications in matters such as potential hazing, sexual harassment, and security breaches. This year, as CRC student co-chair, I plan to interface with faculty, staff, and students to uphold Caltech’s ethical standards while also working to improve the CRC’s procedure, functionality, and efficiency. If elected, I look forward to bringing my increased skill set to the table to protect all parts of our community in the matters that are crucial to our life at Tech.

Several weeks ago, I presented this committee with a proposal for a significantly simplified and streamlined mural policy, which passed. The policy is now awaiting its final stages of approval, but I hope to have it implemented in the coming weeks, and if it is not, I will continue to pursue this issue. The aim of the new policy is to reduce the number of obstacles students must navigate in order to have fun and express themselves, and also to show administrators that students can be trusted to be reasonable and responsible and take care of their Houses as buildings and communities.

I believe the position of IHC Chair will allow me to further my goals to improve student life. While there are certainly many challenges to face in the coming year, I believe I can handle them all very well. I have the talent, the experience, and the dedication to do so. I intend to spend my Sunday evening hanging around Clouseau to talk to people and answer questions. You are also all welcome to email me (acomella@ caltech.edu) or find me in person, usually running around Blacker and Ricketts. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to serving this campus in whatever ways I can in the coming year.

Bianca Ray Avalani

I'm Megan Keanan, and I am running for CRC Co-Chair for the year 2015/2016. My goals as Co-Chair include differentiating honest mistakes from malicious intent, increasing public knowledge of CRC cases, and preventing people from making mistakes that will wind up being seen in the CRC. I have already served as Co-Chair on several cases, and I am very familiar with the how cases are run and organized. I've worked as a regular CRC member on more cases than any other CRC member. I have worked with Dean Nye on other committees, primarily the Safety Net Committee. I hope to improve the way that the CRC works and prevent many of the current unnecessary cases from ever happening.

I plan to achieve the goal of dividing cases into blunders and malevolent actions. I have a lot of experience in the CRC with these kinds of cases. I think that nobody deserves to have their life ruined by an innocent or naive mistake. College is about learning how to live in the real world. I want to avoid any cases that result in people feeling punished rather than educated by decisions from the CRC while I am Co-Chair.

To reduce common CRC cases, I plan on presenting a generalized list of high-frequency and unnecessary CRC cases. Many freshmen break rules that they do not realize are CRC-level offenses. Going through a full CRC case is incredibly stressful, so it is something to be avoided if at all possible. I want to give more freshmen an idea of what actions might end up in the CRC. The current fresh camp talks ignores the details of what really ruins some freshmen’s lives. I want to be more transparent while still protecting the privacy of previous CRC cases. Overall, I hope to fix some of the current unnecessary cases from occurring.

I've spoken with the professors and Deans, which, according to the Honor Code Handbook, ought to be "in the best interest of the entire Caltech community." The CRC and the Caltech community therefore need to go hand in hand.

These “recommendations” by the CRC were never intended to be rote punishments. Making a recommendation ought to take just as much careful deliberation as does deciding whether any violation occurred. We cannot make Caltech stronger by making examples of those who violated the Honor Code or institute policy. If we truly want to do things in the best interest of the entire community, we need a CRC that reflects that commitment. The CRC needs a co-chair who cares deeply about the Honor Code, who wants to make the Caltech community stronger, and who can be trusted by students to do the job fairly. For the past year, I have been representing these ideals on the CRC for Blacker, and it would be my honor to represent them for the entire student body.

Megan Keanan (No Photo Submitted)

KEEGAN RYAN

Parul Pubbi

I’ve served on the CRC as Fleming House Representative and know the process well. I’m aware how valuable student input is because I’ve been there first hand. I’ve spoken with the professors and have seen what the logic behind a decision is like. Having served on over half of the cases presented in my time as a representative, I’d like to be CRC co-chair because I want to make sure that students know what’s going on and how to best present themselves and their case.

Watching Grace serve as CRC Co-Chair has also shown me the amount of work the position requires: going through each statement, making sure records are up-to-date, keeping track of the various parties involved. It’s a serious task that deserves to be handled with respect. I know I’d do a good job. I’m decisive and can handle the responsibility.

Being called in for any disciplinary hearing can be daunting. I’d like to utilize my experience in order to keep the process both fair and as simple as possible for all parties involved.

If you have any questions or comments about the CRC, my statement, or my experience, feel free to email me at ppb56@caltech.edu.

Thanks,
Parul

BoC Chair (1)

PAUL DIETERLE

I’ve made a life-long commitment to being passionate about helping others. I’ve been the group candidate statements for The California Tech Editors. (Voting is on March 9, 10 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.)

...the one who writes the last people read." - Sarni Golwala

As chair, I will lead a BoC which more fervently advocates for students than any prior Board.
Thanks to the prevalence of formation albums like Down and Queens of the Stone Age in the late ’90s and early ’00s, the often maligned subgenres of doom and stoner metal have seen a great deal of mainstream success in the past 10 years, and Torche has been one of the most successful since this surge, releasing multiple critically acclaimed albums. While several figureshead including Mastodon and Baroness have adopted progressive elements and moved on to entirely different musical progressions, Torche remains a consistent output of fast and at times crushingly heavy metal that, through its bright, eclectic melodies and clean vocals, maintains appeal to a broader audience than that of many of their peers.

It’s hard to point to a specific sound or formation in Torche’s discography as a seminal work or (at least in my opinion) as a truly outstanding example of their craft. However, there’s no denying that albums like Meanderthal and Harmonicraft are simply fun to listen to, packed from front to back with energetic three-minute-long riffs to distortion. The members of Torche have maintained a consistent output of fast and at times crushingly heavy metal that, through its bright, eclectic melodies and clean vocals, maintains appeal to a broader audience than that of many of their peers.

One final key roadblock that I, too, felt supported, and not a bother to listen to. A shared workplace. You shouldn’t be afraid to ask for help or advice. This is a team effort, and you shouldn’t be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

For the women I spoke with, academia seemed a fixed constant. You either love it or hate it. Cynthia Rose agreed. "I knew I wasn’t going to be a professor. I knew I didn’t have the drive, didn’t have the ambition, and I didn’t see that as a career for me." She left the Ph.D. program for non-family reasons, and I was excited for an album that had a lighthearted flavor to the selection of Torche’s discography to a broader audience than that of many of their peers.

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GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA, Calif. (Mar. 6, 2015) – Sophomore Sophia Chen (Newport Beach, Calif. / Corona Del Mar) registered decisive wins at #2 doubles and #2 singles as the Caltech women’s tennis team posted a dominant 8-1 win over Principia College on Saturday afternoon.

Caltech, currently ranked No. 12 in the first Intercollegiate Tennis Association NCAA Division III West Region Rankings of the season, improves to 3-3 overall while Principia drops to 3-4.

Freshman Erin Wang (Auburn, Calif. / Del Oro) and Chen stormed to the lead at #2 doubles, going on to win convincingly at 8-1. The #1 pairing for Caltech fell behind on a pair of early breaks before salvaging a few games in an 8-4 loss as Principia leveled the match score, but the #3 team of freshmen Grace Yao (La Palma, Calif. / Oxford A.A.) and Sarah Antilla (Redondo Beach, Calif. / Redondo Union) picked up a break midway through and closed out their match with an 8-4 win, giving Caltech the 2-1 edge.

The Beavers completely took over in singles play, going up a set at all six courts while dropping a total of just five games across the lineup. Yao and Morton quickly exploded for nine unanswered goals over the remainder of the first half, but Kannan grabbed a goal in each of the final periods to complete the hat trick. CLAREMONT, Calif. (Mar. 7, 2015) – Senior Shalini Majumdar (Orinda, Calif. / Miramonte) scored five goals over a pair of games as the Caltech women’s water polo team took on Occidental College and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges in the Convergence Tournament on Saturday.

After scoring more goals in the season opener than they had against any conference opponent in nearly two years, the Beavers matched the feat twice this afternoon. Caltech has already scored more goals (18) in four games against conference opponents this season than in the eight games last year preceding the SCIAC Championships.

Majumdar and senior Soumya Kannan (Palo Alto, Calif. / Henry M. Gunn) bagged a brace over the final three quarters, with Kannan scoring another final-period goal with five seconds remaining.

Game 4: Caltech 5, CMS 16
The Athenas netted the first three goals of the game before Majumdar struck for the Beavers’ first, but CMS would extend the lead to 10-1 at halftime. Caltech mustered a mini-run to open the second half, however, as Majumdar completed the hat trick and both Kannan and freshman Carly Robinson (Saratoga, Calif. / Castilleja) tallied goals to pull back within six at 20-14. The Athenas recovered to put the game out of reach, though, with a 16-5 final score.

Bhagavathi continues to run down competition
GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA, Calif. (Mar. 6, 2015) – With a chance to qualify for the Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships in sight, junior Aditya Bhagavathi (West Windsor, N.J. / West Windsor-Plainsboro North) flew across the country to the Tufts Last Chance Invitational on Friday afternoon.

The cross country NCAA qualifier blew out his heat in the 5000-meter run, finishing within 10 seconds of the current qualifying time (14:39) with the 25th-best mark in the country this winter. He chopped off 50 seconds off his previous best time to beat out six other competitors also vying for a qualifying berth.

“This was a great growth experience, both for Aditya and the program as a whole,” Head Coach Ben Raphelson said. “He overcame some doubt mid-race due to the fast pace and competition, letting the leaders open up a gap, but raced back to take the win with a stellar time.”

Bhagavathi hung with the leaders through the first half of the race before falling a bit off the pace as the rest of the field kicked into gear, but began to reel them in over the next mile and surged to the front of the pack over the final three laps on the 200-meter track to record the fastest 5k time in program history at 14:48.94.

“As a program, we aspire to greater competitive success and this was a step toward that in terms of opportunity and achievement,” Raphelson said. “It shows that Caltech student-athletes can perform at a high level against top Division III competition.”

Come to the women’s water polo season opener on Tuesday, March 10, at 5 p.m.!

Women’s water polo converges on Claremont Convergence Tournament
GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA, Calif. (Mar. 6, 2015) – Junior Soumya Kannan (Palo Alto, Calif. / Henry M. Gunn) netted five goals over the Caltech women’s water polo team’s first two games in the season-opening Convergence Tournament on Friday.

The Beavers took on the University of La Verne in the 10:00 a.m. game at Pomona-Pitzer Colleges and Chapman University in the afternoon at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges.

Game 1: Caltech 5, La Verne 16
After three scoreless minutes, La Verne netted the first three goals of the game before the Beavers got on the board. Kannan opened her account for the season at the 1:57 mark and junior Stephanie Wong (Palos Verdes Estates, Calif. / Palos Verdes Peninsula) scored just minutes into her debut shortly thereafter to bring Caltech back within two at 4-2.

La Verne scored on its final possession of the quarter and tacked on two more to start the second when senior Shalini Majumdar (Orinda, Calif. / Miramonte) found the back of the net to make it 7-3. The captain (Orinda, Calif. / Miramonte) scored five goals over a pair of games as the Caltech women’s water polo team took on Occidental College and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges in the Convergence Tournament on Saturday.

After scoring more goals in the season opener than they had against any conference opponent in nearly two years, the Beavers matched the feat twice this afternoon. Caltech has already scored more goals (18) in four games against conference opponents this season than in the eight games last year preceding the SCIAC Championships.

Game 3: Caltech 5, Occidental 24
Oxy wasted no time in sprinting to a 4-0 lead over the first four minutes of the game. Senior Monica Enlow (Swarzensee, Ga. / North Gwinnett) netted the Beavers’ first goal of the day at the 3:32 mark, but the Tigers would lead 7-1 at the end of the quarter. Both team captains, Majumdar and junior Soumya Kannan (Palo Alto, Calif. / Henry M. Gunn), bagged a brace over the final three quarters, with Kannan scoring another final-possession goal with five seconds remaining.

Game 2: Caltech 3, Chapman 22
The Beavers found themselves down 4-0 to start their second game, when Kannan struck for her third goal of the day. Chapman exploded for nine unanswered goals over the remainder of the first half, but Kannan grabbed a goal in each of the final periods to complete the hat trick. CLAREMONT, Calif. (Mar. 7, 2015) – Senior Shalini Majumdar (Orinda, Calif. / Miramonte) scored five goals over a pair of games as the Caltech women’s water polo team took on Occidental College and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges in the Convergence Tournament on Saturday.

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After assuaging the competition at the Claremont Convergence Tournament, Soumya “The Destroyer” Kannan finds no limit to the hurt she can bring to her opponents.

http://gocaltech.com

http://gocaltech.com

http://gocaltech.com
ASCIT Minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes for 4 March 2015. Taken by Sean McKenna.

Officers Present: Cat Jamshidi, Connor Rosen, Nima Badizadegan, Patrick Nikong, Annie Chen, Sean McKenna

Guests: None

Call to Order: 12:33 pm

President’s Report (Cat):
- The provost and the president will meet to talk about teaching quality. The ARC may put together a report on the student perspective of teaching quality.
- BOC Bylaw Voting will happen on Monday the 9th in conjunction with IHC/BOC/CRC etc. votes.
- Midnight donuts is tonight!

Officer’s Reports:
- V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Nima):
  - New ARC reps have been elected from most houses.
- V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Cat):
  - IHC is meeting with President Rosenbaum on April 4th. Talk to your house president if you want them to say something
  - New mural policy will be implemented soon. Goal is to streamline the process.
  - Prefrosh weekend will come up soon, including house social events.
  - REMEMBER: high school students are not allowed at Interhouse parties.
- Interim Director of Operations (Sean):
  - ASCIT will provide some kind of event for prefrosh weekend.
- Treasurer (Patrick):
  - Nothing to report
- Social Director (Annie):
  - Still looking for an event to provide transportation.
- Secretary (Sean):
  - Amneila Meeting next week

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. The next meeting will take place on March 13th at 8pm in SAC 15.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:13pm
Candidate Statements: The California Tech Editors (2 groups)

ANDREW ZHAO, VIBHOR KUMAR, AND KEVIN YUH

Our team will completely transform the Cal Tek into a masterpiece of literary art. Each of our members will bring their unique abilities to the coffee table. Vibhhor will bring his exceptional taste in curry and all things like to totally transform the Poly into a revolutionary column in the greatest food of the planet. Kekev Yuh will use his extensive mass of experience in the aquatic watersports as well as the rest of the athletic world to bring excellence and Freedom to the Pasadena Comm sports/ humor section. Anthy Zorgedorga will edit the holistic excellence of the paper and ensure proper use of language for maximal readability and understandance. His timeless experience in the through watching multicultural media like on dubbed yy-gi-oh! has solidified his strong foundation in ISO-zyp64 standard en-US language encoding and transmission methods. This badass rocket team of crack editors will be unmatched in their prowess and create the greatest Caltechern Pol San Luis Obispo has ever seen.

** Candidate statements for all other offices can be found on pages 2-3. **

KATHERINE GUO, CHLOE HYUN, NEERA SHAH, AND NEHALY SHAH

Neera and Nehalay each have more than six years of journalism experience as article writers, copy editors, layout editors, and business managers. In the past year as part of The California Tech staff, they have worked to increase student input in the weekly issues and have put together a strong team of consistent writers. They have also worked to include a broad range of content that appeals to various student interests.

Katherine was editor-in-chief of her high school literary magazine and has extensive experience with Photoshop and InDesign. She views the Tech as an important resource for many students here to connect to the community and learn about both local and global news. It is important that the paper continues to be an open platform for Techers to communicate and deliberate ideas that affect the campus as a whole.

Chloe also has experience with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop, in addition to Fireworks, and was a page design/layout editor for several high school publications. She has consistently contributed to The Tech as a writer this past year.

A group, we will continue to ensure that students’ voices are heard and that The Tech remains a source through which students can discuss important and relevant topics. We hope The Tech can continue to be a discussion point to be questioned and challenged by the audience. We always welcome student feedback and new contributors, and will maintain an effort to include diverse voices on campus. An important facet of journalism is to keep this community informed by sharing news and providing an outlet for student opinions.

We are all committed to maintaining the professionalism of The Tech and upholding the standards of a college newspaper. We have all been regular contributors to The Tech and are willing to put in the time and effort necessary to put out a great paper every week.

ADAM JERMYN

Contributing Writer

In the recently released data on House graduation rates, a notable outlier was Dabney House, well below average. As both a Dab and a representative on various student-faculty committees, I spent quite some time thinking about this fact. In the process, I realized that the story is more subtle than graduation rates alone indicate.

In my freshman and sophomore years, a majority of the attendees of Caltech’s Physics League were members of Dabney. Sophomore and junior year, more than half of the members of the Academics and Research Committee were members of Dabney House. In the recent Student-Faculty Conference, half of the committee chairs were Dabrs, as were 40% of student attendees and similar distributions held for the previous conference as well. Dabney contributes a disproportionate number of student advisors, a disproportionate number of the teaching assistants for Mao, a disproportionate number of the courses, and a disproportionate number of the teaching assistants for Core courses, a majority of the committee chairs for Mao, and a disproportionate number of the teaching assistants for upper-division courses. All of these are indicators of positive academic performance, or at least a strong care for academics.

The picture this paints is not one of a House uninterested in academics, nor is it one of a House uninterested in athletics. On the other hand, the graduation rate data does indicate that Darbs meet with more than their fair share of challenges. I think that it is important to keep this perspective in mind. Otherwise the picture painted by the graduation rate data is misleading at best. We are scientists: it’s our job to dig deeper, and I hope that we do.

Little known resources

KSHITALI GROVER

Contributing Writer

While you’re busy doing your sets and going to wild inter-house parties, I bet you can’t even imagine what Caltech is hiding from you. Let me break it to you — it’s a lot. We’re trying to be ambitious and on the you’ve never thought of these things:

1. **Discounted movie tickets.** Who wants to pay $11.50 to watch a movie? Head over to the Caltech Y and get an AMC voucher as cheap as $7.00. But guys; this still doesn’t excuse you from taking that first date to a movie.

2. **Rentals for nominal prices.** This is another Caltech Y perk. Thinking of exploring the wild outdoors next weekend? You can get ski equipment, sleeping bags, coolers, tents, and more for basically free at the Caltech Y. Huge PA systems are $10 a day... with the number of ragers Caltech throws every weekend, this could be a game-changer.

3. **Borrowing from SFI.** I registered recently, but I have a sub-par Nexus 4 Camera. I was bummed when I uploaded my grainy-pictures (to my massive audience). SFI has Camera SRLS and GoPros that you can rent for 24 hours.

4. **Box space.** Box is like Dropbox, except Caltech gives you space for free — go GB. Go to http://www.caltech.edu/ and store all the backups of your all-important LaTeX sets and MATLAB files.

5. **Discounts.** Panda Express, authentic Asian cuisine, has a Caltech discount — ever thought to pull out your ID there? What about when you’re booking that SuperShuttle home? Check out discounts on SeaWorld, Disneyland, and even Clippers games (http://discounts.caltechy.org). The office is located at 505 S. Wilson Avenue.

Caltech Y Column

MARCH 9, 2015

Caltech Y Column

The Caltech Y Column serves to inform students of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. The list is compiled by Neera Shah from information given by the Caltech Y and its student leaders.

Founded by students in 1916, the Y was organized to provide extracurricular activities planned and implemented by students as an opportunity to learn leadership skills and discover 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, raise social, ethical, and cultural awareness through team building, community engagement, activism, and leadership. More information about the Caltech Y and its programs can be found at https://caltechy.org.

Upcoming Events

1. Decompression Saturday | March 14th | 7:00 to 9:00 PM | Beckman Auditorium

Stressed during finals week? Join us to decompress with free food - burgers, hot dogs, cookies, fruit and veggies, ice cream, chips and drinks; entertainment - movies and just hanging out with your friends. It is a great way to relax a little in the middle of finals. If you’d like to volunteer to help out, please fill out the form here: h t t p : / / g o o . g i / forms/3dS2zVzCnA.

The show is the Lego Movie, and volunteers get a free t-shirt. We'll also need help with screening t-shirts this week, so don't forget to stop by and pick one up if you want to learn and help with screening!

2. **Caltech Y - Alternative Spring Break Trips**

Applications Due Friday, March 6th

Dabney House graduation rates must be put in context

Caltech Y Column

ADAM JERMYN

Contributing Writer

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The Caltech Y is seeking students for our upcoming Alternative Spring Break trips. Join other Caltech Students for an adventure on one of our non-traditional spring break experiences in Malibu or on Catalina Island. Both trips will include opportunities for volunteer work as well as relaxation and adventure...not to mention making new friends with other Caltech students.

Don’t miss out on this fantastic opportunity to explore a new place, have fun, and make a tangible difference in the world.

More info and applications can be found at https://caltechy.org/


Other Announcements Beyond the Caltech Y

Banff Mountain Film Festival

Monday | March 16th | 7:30 PM | Beckman Auditorium

The alpine club is hosting the Banff mountain film festival downstairs in Beckman Auditorium! We’ll be hosting a reception before the event at 6pm at the Gene Pool with the help of the American Alpine Club, the local search and rescue teams, and of course all of our great raffle donors! It’ll be a great event and we hope everyone can make it for some great give aways and awesome adventure films!

Tickets are on sale at the Caltech Ticket office (626-395-4526) or online. Ticket prices as: Students $5; General admission $12; Doors $15.

For more info about the event, see the Caltech Events Page/ facebook.

www.caltech.edu/content/banff-mountain-film-festival

http://www.facebook.com/events/15936808737222483

Hope to see you all there and happy adventuring!
Acquired Taste

The closest you can get to a party at another college

Answers to previous Sudoku

Answers to previous crossword

The California Tech
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