Anderson wins prestigious student-athlete honor

LORI DAJOSE
Contributing Writer

This article was originally published online at caltech.edu.

Rob Anderson, a junior on the Caltech men’s basketball team, has been named to the 2015 Allstate National Association of Basketball Coaches Good Works Team. The community service award “honors student-athletes for their off-the-court achievements and commitment to giving back to their communities and positively impacting the lives of those around them,” according to the NABC.

“I learned that I was named to the team at 8:30 a.m. after pulling an all-nighter — it didn’t really sink in at me first,” Anderson says. “I feel extremely honored to represent Caltech and our team on a national scale.”

Anderson, who is studying mechanical engineering and business economics and management, was selected for his extensive work researching and designing sustainable energy projects. During his senior year of high school, he designed a 17-foot solar-powered boat for the 2012 Solar Splash Competition. Upon his arrival at Caltech in the fall of 2012, he joined both the basketball team and the Institute’s 2013 Department of Energy Challenge Design team, which collaborated with architectural design students from the Southern California Institute of Architecture to design, build, and operate a solar-powered house. During the summer of 2013, Anderson returned to his home state to conduct research at the University of Minnesota, where he designed and coded a tool to calculate the economic feasibility of growing crops that could be converted to fuel in the form of cellulosic ethanol.

“After the Solar Decathlon ended in autumn of 2013, I began looking for another engineering sustainability project,” Anderson says. “I learned that there were a few empty gas-engine go-karts in Fleming [one of Caltech’s eight undergraduate houses] and I realized I could re-engineer them to use electric power.”

Anderson reached out to Caltech and the Renécom Sustainability Institute, and proposed repairing the vehicles, one using battery power and another using a hydrogen fuel cell. He also reached out to the undergraduate population to gauge interest in a sustainable vehicle club. Eventually, more than 100 students signed up for the club’s mailing list.

“That’s basically how the Sustainable Vehicle Club was born,” Anderson says. “The people at the Renécom Institute were excited that a student wanted to lead an engineering project around sustainability. They have played a key role in advising the club, connecting us with the right people around campus and in the corporate world, and have been our main source of funding for purchasing the parts we need.”

Now we’re using the old go-kart shells to experiment with drivetrains—the components that deliver power to the driving wheels—and battery systems. We’re working with local companies to gather most of the parts,” Anderson and his team aim to enter the 2016 Society of Automotive Engineers Formula One Electric Race, an electric vehicle design competition for college engineers. In addition to design and engineering, Anderson and his group conduct research into the feasibility and efficiency of fuels.

“In general, sustainable energy can go either the electric route or the fuel cell route. We’re analyzing both systems with respect to these go-karts to figure out their overall energy efficiency.”

Engineering the go-karts to run on sustainable energy is still a long-term process. In the near-term future, Anderson will soon be traveling to attend the NCAA Division I “Final Four” college basketball playoffs with other student-athletes on the NABC’s Good Works Team. Later in the year, the team will conduct a community works project and hold a basketball camp for younger players.

“Rob epitomizes the term student-athlete,” says head basketball coach Olivier Eslinger.

Anderson has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and has won Graham and Dodd Awards for financial writing four times. Among other achievements, Roll has won the Leo Melamed Award for outstanding scholarship by a business school professor (1990), the Roger F. Murray Prize from the Institute for Quantitative Research in Finance (2001), and the Nicholas Molodovsky Award from the Association for Investment Management Research (2002), and was named “Financial Engineer of the Year for 2009” by the International Association of Financial Engineers. He is also a fellow of the Econometric Society.

The winners of the Onassis Prizes were announced by Alderman Alan Yarrow, the Lord Mayor of London, and Greek ambassador to the U.K. The announcement on March 20. Roll and the other 2015 honorees will receive their awards at a ceremony in September.
CALTECH Y Column: News & Events

Jerri Yung attended the LA Phil concert as part of a class field trip arranged by music lecturer Tom Neenan.

Are you wondering about the next step in your life? Have you reached a crossroad where you would benefit from an opportunity to explore a new skill or interest that this summer help you gain clarity? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the Studenski Award might be for you.

The Studenski Award Memorial is a grant of up to $6000 established in the memory of Paul Studenski, a student who was killed in an automobile accident while traveling across the United States in 1974. It is awarded to a Caltech undergraduate student whose achievements in the area of community service or advocacy have made a significant contribution to the Caltech community. For more information, contact Athena Castro athenas at caltech.edu or Greg Fletcher gregf at caltech.edu or join us for dinner:

Studenski Informational Dinner Monday, April 6th - 5:30 PM Hosted by Tom Manion at his house.

RSVP by April 2nd to http://tinyurl.com/student-dinner

The application and more info about the program can be found at http://caltechy.org/programs_ services/areas/students/Studenski/index.php.

4. Caltech Y ACT Award Applications are due by Friday, April 17th. The Caltech Y ACT Award, made possible through the generous support of the Federal Credit Union, offers an opportunity to pursue an interest in community service or advocacy. Partner with an organization that is changing the world. Explore real world issues in our local community, across the continent or around the globe - and make a difference in the world. The $4500 award offers an opportunity to explore an issue, engage in a cause, and lead a campaign to educate and engage others at Caltech. Caltech Y activists determine the cause will be and choose an organization with whom they will partner, and the type of campaign they will lead on campus. The Caltech Y ACT Award will help Caltech Students expand their understanding of the world unshelving them to change the world for the better as active citizens.

The application and more info about the program can be found at http://www.caltechy.org/programs_services/commervices/ACT/index.php.

5. Caltech Y Tutoring Program - "The Uncertainty Principle" Saturday | March 28th | 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM | Avery Library for students (free) and alumni ($20)

Branch is provided. Space is limited, registration required by Thursday, 3/26. Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HoPlP

6. Caltech Y T-shirt Competition

The Caltech Y is partnering with agencies from all over Pasadena and the greater LA region for one day of community service. All members of the Caltech community are invited to participate in one of many community service projects at the Boys and Girls Club, the Arboretum, the Los Angeles River, the High Desert, and many more sites. You can choose to work with kids or animals, do construction or outdoor projects or visit with the elderly. Projects are led by other students and will be 6- to 6-hour long - including travel, depending on the project. Meals, transportation, and t-shirts are provided. For more details on the projects and to sign up, please visit www.caltechy.org and rank your preferences on the web form. Signups are requested by Tuesday, March 31st but we will continue to add volunteers in as space allows.

2. Caltech Y Centennial T-shirt Competition

Submissions due Wednesday, April 14th. You can enter as many t-shirt designs as you like.

The Caltech Y is turning 100 and would like to commemorate this momentous occasion with a creative and original design. It is the perfect time to explore an interest in a creative and original design with a design that you can continue to wear long after this momentous occasion. Add volunteers in as space allows.

March 31st but we will continue to add volunteers in as space allows.

You can choose to work with kids or animals, do construction or outdoor projects or visit with the elderly. Projects are led by other students and will be 6- to 6-hour long - including travel, depending on the project. Meals, transportation, and t-shirts are provided. For more details on the projects and to sign up, please visit www.caltechy.org and rank your preferences on the web form. Signups are requested by Tuesday, March 31st but we will continue to add volunteers in as space allows.

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Bronson’s playful lyrics on Mr. Wonderful provide little substance

NAILEN MATSCHKE
Contributing Writer

Action Bronson’s Mr. Wonderful is just one of several highly anticipated hip-hop albums that came out over the past couple of weeks, but while the others were produced by influential artists at the forefront of their genre, the unapologetically unconventional personality that is its creator sets it apart as a unique element on the hip-hop playing field. Born in Flushing, Queens to an Albanian immigrant father and a Jewish mother, Arian Asllani spent several years working as a chef in New York City before switching to his hobby of rapping, as Action Bronson. Like quite a few of his peers, Bronson has found success largely due to the fact that it’s 2013 and hip-hop is far from just rapping (just ask Kendrick Lamar), allowing those who can leverage Internet culture to rise to unprecedented heights. Since his debut album in 2011, Bronson has been picked up by the Vice Media empire, whose Vice Records imprint now distributes his music, while the video division handles his Food Network-style show F---, That’s Delicious.

What is immediately apparent about Bronson in anything he does is that he’s a character, and he revels in it. His lyrics are dominated by lines about food, sex, and analogies relating the two, and while his flow doesn’t stand out too much from other New York-area rappers, his lines about food, sex, and analogies relating the two, and while his flow doesn’t stand out too much from other New York-area rappers, his personality that is its creator sets it apart as a unique element on the hip-hop playing field. Born in Flushing, Queens to an Albanian immigrant father and a Jewish mother, Arian Asllani spent several years working as a chef in New York City before switching to his hobby of rapping, as Action Bronson. Like quite a few of his peers, Bronson has found success largely due to the fact that it’s 2013 and hip-hop is far from just rapping (just ask Kendrick Lamar), allowing those who can leverage Internet culture to rise to unprecedented heights. Since his debut album in 2011, Bronson has been picked up by the Vice Media empire, whose Vice Records imprint now distributes his music, while the video division handles his Food Network-style show F---, That’s Delicious.

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Caltech Space Challenge asks students to tackle speculative mission design problem


Research Spotlight

The Tech would like YOU to submit your research! If you would like your research featured, submit part of your research paper, abstract, picture of your lab, and/or pictures of your cool science to be featured in the paper. Email tech@caltech.edu.

FEATURE

Techer learns lessons, gains perspective from fifth grade classroom

KSHITIJ GROVER
Contributing Writer

Every Friday, I take a couple hours out of my day to visit an underresourced 5th grade classroom in the Pasadena area, attempting to teach the basics of computer science with an amazing team of undergrads from Caltech. To be honest, I didn’t think it would be that challenging at first — after all, I’ve been at their stage and I’ve dealt with young kids in the past. Piece of cake — just takes some time.

Boy, was I wrong.

I was shocked at nearly every step; things have changed dramatically in the last decade. Here’s what surprised me most in the classroom, disregarding material-specific revelations:

• Technology > Magic.

Especially in the Silicon Valley, there’s this false sense of belief that technology will suddenly lead to innovation in the classroom — stemming from increasing access to resources. I disagree. The students I work with uniformly have access to Chromebooks. They regularly use Google Docs as fifth graders (!). They can explore on their own with code.org or Khan Academy. Yet, there are classrooms with immensely better learning environments than others: this comes from the teacher’s ability to focus and direct the class, not how many laptops they have or how well-trained the students are in surfing the internet. Of course, the discipline of the students, their backgrounds, etc. are all in play here, but technology is no magic pill. A child being able to navigate the internet. Of course, the discipline of the students, their backgrounds, etc. are all in play here, but technology is no magic pill. A child being able to navigate the internet.

• Wonder > Curiosity.

Here’s where the education system needs to be taking its biggest leaps. Nearly 100% of the students I work with react to new information by video games or animations: the end result. They love the way the characters in Frozen move around on the screen. They respond to the magic of any academic. Out of this 65%, I’d say about 33% (at the fifth grade age) are motivated to learn about it. Here’s where I want to focus my efforts. Moving forward with this program: my gut feeling is that the leap from wonder to curiosity comes innately with age, but making the shift from being curious to actually doing it can’t be taught. Whether teachers present material in a novel way or homemade experiments bring out the life in a boring topic, curiosity is the perfect starting point.

• Luck is a big part of education.

There are so many things that need to go right in the classroom, and it’s something I’d never thought about. As a fifth grader, most of this isn’t in your control. Your teacher can’t be a drug — otherwise you’ll despise the material. The environment at home needs to be healthy — otherwise you won’t want to step foot in school. Finances need to be in order; at the end of the day, school isn’t free. Friends matter: say no all you want, but peer pressure is an ingrained part of society. The person who sits across from you all year in fourth grade? It makes a difference. I can’t list all the factors here, but there’s no easy way to pinpoint why someone is having a hard time in school, especially when they’re as young as 10-year olds. I chalk it up to luck simply because it is the part of education that’s hardest to change. It’s the part of life that’s hardest to change.

Maybe the most important lesson here is sometimes you have to get up and see it for yourself. Teaching the young kids has taught me more than I could have ever imagined.

huge shoutout to Darius, David, Joe, Matt, Meera, Phillip, Sachi, Sid and Zack (among others!) who have regularly helped out and been amazing with these kids. The Microsoft/Caltech partnership (https://www.facebook.com/ CaltechMicrosoft/feeds-tt) and Outreach@Caltech (https:// Codethetech.learn.caltech.edu/) have also been invaluable here.

Research Spotlight

The Tech would like YOU to submit your research! If you would like your research featured, submit part of your research paper, abstract, picture of your lab, and/or pictures of your cool science to be featured in the paper. Email tech@caltech.edu.

KSHITIJ GROVER
Contributing Writer

CASY HANDMVER
Contributing Writer

During spring break most Caltech students, and weeks of well-earned rest and recuperation. This was not so for the participants of the Caltech Space Challenge, held from March 22 to 27, 2011, the Caltech Space Challenge brings together 32 of the brightest young minds in aerospace from universities around the world to tackle a speculative mission design problem. Split into two teams of 16, each team worked independently in secret to bring their plans to fruition. The team in which I was a participant (Voyager) set to work on Sunday night in the palatial Keck Institute for Space Studies, a major sponsor of the entire event.

The problem: Design a mission from the ground up to send astronauts to a captured asteroid near the moon, extract resources, and have everyone survive. With fewer than 2,000 person hours, that’s exactly what we did. Voyager and Explorer broke into subteams concerned with orbits, propulsion, science, risk management, vehicle design, environmental control and life support, human factors, radiation shielding, guidance, navigation and control, system, policy and outreach, structures and thermal, and a myriad other factors necessary to have a hope of meeting the competition requirements. Working in one room was a great way to dynamically reallocate human resources to solve problems as they emerged.

However, we didn’t spend the entire time in the workshop. Program organizers scheduled a series of gripping lectures by the leading luminaries from JPL, Lockheed Martin, SpaceX, Planetary Resources, and several other key players in aerospace engineering. After each lecture we grilled the presenters for information, trying to seem specific and knowledgeable interactions couldn’t have been more different, as the experts proved to be profoundly humble and very enthusiastic, I found getting an “I don’t know” to an answer empowering. When we worked out the details ourselves, we were now the world experts.

Thursday night bled into Friday morning as the finishing touches were added to our report, fact sheet and slide presentation. With one hour to go the report integration reached fever pitch. Wholesale abandonment of version control and collaborative editing added drama and desperation. With seconds to spare the relevant PDFs were dumped onto a flash drive and whisked away to the judges and, intensely relieved, we stumbled away to lunch.

On Wednesday everyone was busied up to JPL for a workshop session with the A Team, a group of people whose job is literally dreaming up crazy mission ideas and specious them out. I felt as though I was in the company of gods, larger-than-life personages 12 feet tall and capable of shooting laser bolts from their eyes. Our

At 1 p.m. we reassembled for the presentations. Team Explorer went first, and the Voyagers sat in profound suspense waiting for the first slide to drop. For the next hour, Explorer explained to us and the judges the essence of their mission design. Surprisingly similar to our concept: owning political, science, and crew support needs involved a Falcon Heavy-launched Habitat module and an SL-6-launched Habitation

Team Voyager brainstorms ideas in Mission Operations Control at JPL. Photo courtesy of Randell Wessen/A-Team Lead Study Architect for JPL’s Innovation Foundation
Baseball hosts MIT, no foul play detected yet...

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA, Calif. (Mar. 26, 2015) – Two of the most prestigious schools in the entire world clashed in sunny Southern California as the Caltech baseball team hosted MIT on Thursday.

The Beavers outfitted the Engineers through the first seven innings but MIT took advantage of a whopping 14 walks and four errors to claim the victory, 23-7.

Lebby carried the momentum into his match at #4 singles, taking the first set 6-3. Sophomore Ruthwick Pathireddy (Irvine, Calif. / Whitney) dominated the second set at #3, 6-1, to force a third set while Lebby also found himself in a third set.

Barry Lebby watches his partner Rushikesh Joshi go for the ball, knowing that they will celebrate victory together later.

Morgan Lebby sliced the ball through the air to put the Engineers up 2-0. The visitors jumped out to the 4-2 lead in the first inning. With starter Kyler Kocher departing the mound at that point, Jacobs then added to his RBI count with a single to left center, plating freshman David Watson (Fort Collins, Colo. / Windsor). With starter Kyle Kocher departing the mound at that point, Jacobs then added to his RBI count with a single to left center, plating freshman David Watson (Fort Collins, Colo. / Windsor).

Morgan Lebby watches his partner Rushikesh Joshi go for the ball, knowing that they will celebrate victory together later.

The Beavers' bats stayed consistent in the last four, MIT managed another six-run outburst in the top of the eighth and pushed two more across in the ninth as the Beavers bats were kept quiet down the stretch.

Chou and Jacobs led the Beavers with three hits apiece while McCarren, Watson and Battaglia claimed #1 to bring the Enginee...
ASCIT Minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes for 13 March 2015. Taken by Sean McKenna.

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

Guests: Margaret Lee, Anand Poozhikunnel, Elliott Simon

Call to Order: 12:09 pm

President’s Report (Cat):

- Absent

Officer’s Reports:

- V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Nima):
  - Teaching quality feedback report is being made
  - Core problem set due times will be discussed at the next Committee on Undergraduate Education meeting
  - Option Fair is happening April 7th

- V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):
  - New IHC Chair has been elected (Cat).
  - Admissions decisions today, so remember that rotation rules are in effect when interacting with prefrosh.
  - IHC Committee Appointments will happen at the beginning of next term.

- Interim Director of Operations (Sean):
  - ASCIT Food for Prefrosh Weekend will happen on Thursday night. Pizza, donuts, and other goodies provided.

- Treasurer (Patrick):
  - Nothing to report

- Social Director (Annie):
  - ASCIT Formal Ticket sales are happening.
  - New IHC Chair has been elected (Cat).
  - Saturday - Tuesday
  - Harvey Mudd Party in May
  - Trip to Aquarium in May

- Secretary (Sean):
  - Nothing to report

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 31st at Noon in SAC 15.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:32 pm

Caltech Public Events

Hiring Ushers

Flexible hours.
No experience needed.
Outgoing Personality.
Pay Rate:
$15 per hour

Caltech Students only!!

Contact: Adam Jacobo
626.395.5907
ajacob@caltech.edu

2015 CALTECH UNDERGRADUATE WRITING PRIZES

Each year the division of Humanities and Social Sciences awards a number of prizes for undergraduate writing. Consider submitting your work to be recognized and rewarded for your work as a writer.

Submit your Writing this year for these prizes:

MARY A. EARL MCKINNEY PRIZE IN LITERATURE
AWARDED TO THE BEST ORIGINAL POETRY AND FICTION. SUBMIT UP TO 3 POEMS. FICTION SHOULD NOT EXCEED 12,000 WORDS.
Prize amount: $500.00/each category

HALLETT SMITH PRIZE
Awarded to an outstanding essay related to the work of Shakespeare.
Prize amount: $500.00

Submission Guidelines:
Deadline: April 3rd, 2015

Only currently enrolled full-time students may submit. Entries should be double-spaced PDFs. Winners will be announced in June, and winners’ names will be in the commencement program. Winning writing will be archived using CODA through the Caltech Library. Email entries to Sini Elvington at elvington@hss.caltech.edu, noting the prize to which you are applying in the email subject and filename.

Contact Sini Elvington at elvington@hss.caltech.edu with any questions.
Brad/Chad discusses housing: The pros and cons of moving off-off

BRAD CHATTERGOON
Contributing Writer

Welcome back to Caltech for the launch of spring term. Spring is often a time of reflection marked by a change toward warmer weather after the last six months of chill. Spring also marks change for many of us. For about a quarter of us that change is graduation and finally packing our bags and moving out of Caltech. For others it’s a time to start planning a bit for the following academic year, and one item in particular that many will have to face is determining housing options. Having lived off-off campus (i.e., in housing not provided by Caltech) for both my junior and senior years, as well as being off campus (i.e., in any Caltech-provided housing except the houses) my sophomore year, I think that I am qualified to provide a brief listing of the positives and negatives of living off-off, and to some extent, campus.

Cons:
• You do have to fend for yourself. You have to find your own food whether you like it or not. This means one of three things: cooking, consuming only ready-to-eat foods like cereal, or buying takeout every day. I have seen people implement each of these three scenarios and if you are living off campus it is important that your expectations about food be sorted out and that those expectations be realistic. I have been part of the group that claims each person will take turns cooking, only to have that never follow through. But I also have heard of groups making the same claim and doing so. This brings me to my next point.

• The group or person that you choose to live off campus with will have a bigger effect on your experience living off campus than a roommate on campus would. I place this in the cons section because if this becomes a con, it will be quite possibly one of your biggest cons for living off campus.

• If moving off-off for the first time, it can be quite costly up front. Most, if not all, off-off accommodation will lease the living space and nothing else short of perhaps a fridge and stove, and if lucky a dishwasher and laundry unit. This means needing to purchase a bed, desk, and other furniture, as well as kitchen utensils and wares. Bearing this in mind, it is worth the investment if you are planning to live off-off for the remainder of your time at Caltech, and it is possible to mitigate a lot of cost by either “inheriting” an apartment from another group of Techers and paying them for the furniture within the apartment or by purchasing from an off-off graduating senior like myself (yes, I’m selling my stuff).

Pros:
• More space. Living off-off usually means an apartment or condo shared among 2–5 people, although I have heard the occasional park bench can work too. These apartments come not only with bedrooms but also with a living room and kitchen, which amounts to much more space that one can have near-personal control over, as opposed to space offered in the house environment.

• No requirement to enroll in the campus board plan. Complete control over your diet is possible off campus. This usually can present itself in one of two ways. One can eat as cheaply as possible and save money. Alternatively one can have greater decisions about what quality and type of food one wants to consume, especially great for pursuing the dietary side of fitness goals.

• The opportunity to learn how to live like a real adult. With off-off housing comes responsibilities. These can take the form of needing to set up an account with city water and power, setting up an internet subscription, paying bills on time, taking out the trash, etc. They are great preparation for when you leave Caltech either during the summer or after graduation. As a case where this is relevant, I recall opting into campus housing during a summer that I spent at Harvard. In retrospect, this was a terrible decision as facilities were somewhat limited or difficult to deal with; for example, the dining hall was only accessible at specific times. Had I already experienced living off campus, I would have opted to find an unaffiliated living situation where I could stock a pantry and fridge with food available for consumption whenever I wanted.

One more thing that may be a pro or con, living off-off campus often means that your social life is very much what you make of it. It is possible to be really involved on campus but it does take a bit more work. On the flip side it is also a lot easier to devote more time to school or hobbies outside of Caltech. At the very least, by being off-off Caltech feels more like a place that one is strongly associated with but can take a break from for a while, compared to on campus, it is much more difficult to escape from the Caltech bubble.

—Brad/Chad
“Alma mater”

**Welcome prospectives!**

We really want you to come to Hartford University. You were the best applicants and you’ll do really well here.

Prof. Smartington

**Welcome prospectives!**

Have some free food and alcohol while we tell you how awesome you are and how much we want you to come here.

**California Institute of Technology**

You’re an idiot. How did you ever get into undergrad?

Finally, back to Tech.

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**Acquired Taste**

We are gathered here to mourn the loss of our beloved Burger Continental.

Their last act of kindness was to cater their own funeral.

Two weeks later...

Rob

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with the lipstick, your total comes to $9.99

just put it on my bill

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