

# The Hot Rivet

## ASCIT 2020 SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS PRESIDENT (1 CANDIDATE)

### Yuying Lin

Hi everyone! I'm a junior ChemE in Ricketts (and a social member of Ruddock). I'm running for the ASCIT president position because I believe I can make some further changes to this organization. While serving as the ASCIT treasurer for the past year, I found discrepancies in the ASCIT accounts, leading to the discovery of funds that were misplaced since 2015. I also found other inefficiencies in the ASCIT accounts that prevented me from seeing exactly how the budget was being spent during the year. After communicating with Caltech administration, I initiated and worked on overhauling the ASCIT financial system. As president, I will assist the new treasurer to continue this process and establish better protocols so we can know exactly how our budget is being used. In doing so, I will then work with the director of operations and social activities to allocate funds more fairly and transparently. As for the non-finance changes I would like to make, here are a couple bulleted lists for easy reading:

#### Establish clear protocols for gathering for student feedback

ASCIT can be a lot more efficient in getting student feedback when making decisions. Hence, whenever a decision is being made by ASCIT, I propose implementing this protocol:

-Assess student sentiments and solicit testimonies if relevant

-Draft a proposal with the board of directors (BoD)

-Solicit student feedback on proposal

-Submit proposal to admin and start negotiations

-Update students about results through ASCIT meeting minutes, UGemail, and the Tech

-If needed, repeat the above and get the Student Defense Initiative and other campus groups involved

#### Reduce inefficiencies when communicating with admin:

In the past, when the IHC and ARC have been communicating with administration, sometimes ASCIT created unnecessary interference by speaking on behalf of IHC and ARC. Moreover, students may be more effective at conveying certain grievances to administration compared to the BoD. Hence, I propose the following:

-Always make sure the IHC and ARC are able to speak for themselves by not relaying messages or general impressions without consulting the IHC or ARC first

-If a student has large stakes in an issue, inviting them to meetings between the ASCIT BoD and the VPSA

-If negotiations with admin are met with non-response, proceed with petitions sooner rather than waiting indefinitely



#### Gather more undergraduate input in the Caltech Naming Task Force:

The recent letter from Ben Rosen, the Chair of the Caltech Naming Task Force, has been quite disheartening because it avoided responsibility on the reason Sarah Sam, BSEC president, resigned from the task force. The ASCIT BoD has been talking about ways to engage undergraduate students in the process, and I would like to bring this to fruition by:

-Following the protocols listed earlier for gathering feedback

-Working with administration to gather regular updates of progress from the Naming Task Force

Please let me know with any questions you have!

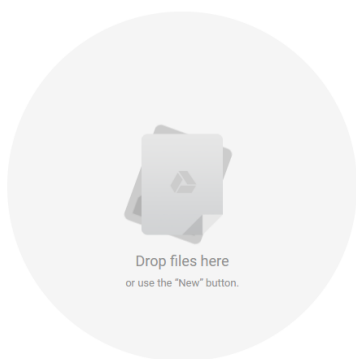
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### OH NO! NO ARTICLES!

KENNY THAI | EDITORIAL

Alright! It's almost time for the next issue of the Tech to be published according to our new biweekly schedule. Let's see how many articles we've got...

Shared with me > New California Tech > Fall 2020 > Issue 2



Oh... It's already well past the deadline Devin, our usual Editor-in-Chief set for submissions for this issue and we've got absolutely nothing. Great.

We also *might* still be required to publish this week since the ASCIT bylaws mandate for the Tech to "publish the candidates list and statements for ASCIT elections" (whether or not this has to be timely is not clear to me and is something I should probably ask RevComm but I can't be bothered to make our next issue twelve pages). This sure is a fun predicament I've gotten myself into.

There's not much I can do about this problem now, but in order to prevent this from happening in the future, I've prepared a video advertisement to get more people interested in writing for the Tech.

Enjoy!

### (PLEASE) WRITE FOR THE CALIFORNIA TECH! [YOUTUBE VIDEO]

KENNY THAI | ADVERTISEMENT



**Write for the Tech!**  
We're looking for writers for the Tech!  
Email tech@caltech.edu or contact Devin Hartzell on Messenger if you're interested!

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# ASCIT 2020 SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (2 CANDIDATES)

### Aditi Venkatesh

Hey everyone!

I'm Aditi and I am a sophomore physics major in Ricketts. I am running for Director of Operations because I firmly believe in preserving the strength of our Caltech community, especially during COVID, and desire to improve student life through virtual channels. If elected as Director of Operations, some of my goals include:

#### Increased Funding for Student Publications

As Director of Operations I intend on working closely with our campus publications, including The California Tech and Big T, to provide requisite resources and funding in order for operation. Especially during our COVID- induced socially distant environment, I believe that our campus publications play an enlarged role in connecting our Caltech community, and help transmit the ideas of the Caltech student body to each other and a wider audience. Because of this, I plan to increase their financial solvency and provide publications with the ability to improve access and have broader publication outreach to address pressing issues and keep our Caltech community more connected.

#### Club Budgets and Maintenance

In large part due to COVID, many Caltech clubs are strained and have difficulty connecting and sharing interests with members online. As your Director of Operations, I will work with all clubs associated with ASCIT to ensure they receive equitable funding to transition activities to online platforms. Also, I am committed to help provide clubs with opportunities to create meaningful initiatives for frosh— a pressing need as they lack club-fueled experiences and deserve tailored activities to support their Caltech community involvement. Likewise, for clubs that have moved fully online and have equipment on Caltech's campus, I want to develop plans to ensure such equipment is maintained and stored safely, ready for our return to campus.

#### Standing up for the Student Body

As Director of Operations, I will also be a part of the Board of Directors and I plan to stand up for the Caltech student body, especially surrounding issues related to the pandemic. During the past six months we have endured tuition increases, ineffective support of our international students, and decreased



leeway in terms of grading protocols – issues affecting our entire student body, and I want to use ASCIT and the BoD as a united voice to vouch for solutions to these issues.

Feel free to message me on Facebook or email me at [aditiv@caltech.edu](mailto:aditiv@caltech.edu) if you have any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns! I appreciate your consideration!

### Katelyn Lee

Hi everyone! My name is Katelyn, and I'm a sophomore bioengineering major in Lloyd. I want to give a special welcome to the prefrish -- welcome to Caltech!

Fall term is typically full of Rotation events like Midnight Capture the Flag or Millikan Boat Tours, Interhouse planning/building/partying, frosh party, sports games, a frozen pumpkin drop, open mic nights, new Red Door smoothies... it's an exciting time. Knowing we won't be together as an undergraduate community is disappointing and frustrating. Our college experience is short, and now it's been cut even shorter. So right now, we need to find new ways to come together virtually and cultivate this excitement while off campus. And when we inevitably return to campus, we'll need to somehow cram all our pent up energy into hopefully (two? one?) amazing term(s). There will be lots of events this year, both online and in person, which means lots of planning, scheduling, meetings, logistics, and behind-the-scenes work to make sure everything runs smoothly. I'm running for Director of Operations for this reason--to coordinate and work with the administration so all the events the student body wants gets done the way we want. Last year, I led Lloyd Lights, where I developed important admin relations through individual meetings with student events coordinators Sue and Tom, security officers Christina and Catherine, and with safety officers Art and Ed. When we had a light malfunction (rip LLO), I organized the repair job and negotiated with administration to plan another trip to the top of Millikan. I also served as one of Lloyd's Interhouse Party Chairs; while Lloyd Interhouse was unfortunately cancelled, all the relevant meetings and budgets were already prepared for a successful Olympus themed party. In high school, I was captain of the cross country and track teams my junior and senior years, and I served on student government for three years, acting as treasurer my senior year. Because of these experiences, I am confident I can act as an effective liaison between students and the administration and bring enthusiasm for promoting student voices.

As Director of Operations, my goals are as follows:

#### Direct Funding to Virtual Events and Activities

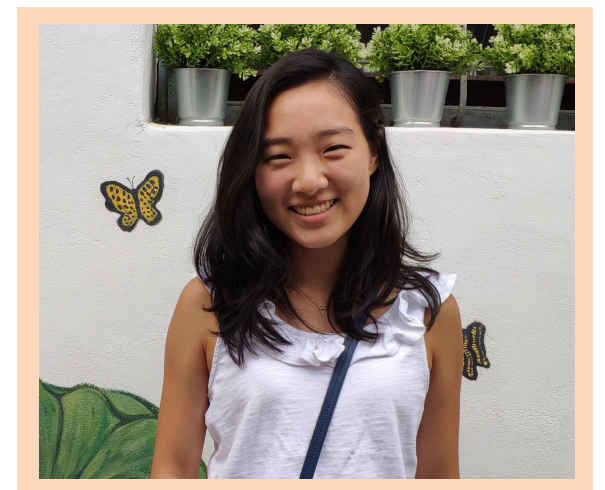
The ASCIT Board of Directors recently announced a surplus of funds due to lack of in-person activities. We should not let this distance reduce the budget directed for student enjoyment and limit our spending--if anything, we should be prioritizing student events even more this term. I will work to take full advantage of these excess funds and the current allotted budget to translate many of the in-person activities we enjoyed together to a virtual format, as well as plan new online events. For example, given the popularity of online gaming and streaming services as ways to connect people, I plan to use ASCIT funds towards purchasing streaming subscriptions for Minecraft and HBO Max and handle these accounts for students to enjoy during these months away from campus. And to promote ASCIT events, I plan on organizing free gift cards and merch as prizes for participation.

#### Support Clubs and Publications

I am excited to manage the 40+ clubs and publications we have on campus and provide any support they may need during these unprecedented times. Clubs play an essential part of undergrad life, and I will ensure they are given ample funding to continue being active both online and in person, and that the coming annual funding application proceeds smoothly. Publications bring our community together through student voices and input, so I will fully support the writers and editors as they work to produce content that keep us undergrads connected and informed.

#### Organize and Maintain Student Facilities

The current state of ASCIT equipment, SAC rooms, and other student facilities is unknown due



to the hectic school closure last spring. I am prepared to track down any missing equipment and handle the necessary repairs and renovations that arose from this unexpected circumstance, as well as update the current inventory of all ASCIT equipment.

#### Advocate Student Input

Most importantly, this unusual year opens a possible foothold for sweeping administrative changes to student life, especially Rotation. I will work tirelessly with the administration to represent the opinions of the student body and maintain Caltech as we know it.

With a new Vice President of Student Affairs and a radically changed fall term that upended some of our most treasured traditions, I believe I have the experience to ensure that everything we love about Caltech remains the same now and when we return to normalcy. The Director of Operations will have significant responsibilities in navigating this unique school year, and I hope you will entrust me to fulfill this role.

Thank you so much, and please feel free to contact me at [kslee@caltech.edu](mailto:kslee@caltech.edu) or on Facebook.

Candidate Statements continued on next page



# ASCIT 2020 SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## TREASURER (5 CANDIDATES, PAGE 1 OF 2)

### Leah Griffith

Hi everyone,

My name is Leah Griffith, and I'm running to be your ASCIT Treasurer this upcoming year. Since proudly becoming a member of the Caltech family last year, my belief that Caltech is the place where I belong has only become stronger. One of the major reasons why I have become such a proud Beaver is because of the central role ASCIT plays in student life. At my Pre-frosh visit, I loved seeing the different clubs, the housing system, and all the fun events organized by ASCIT. During rotation, at ASCIT's Tech Fest and Beach Trip, I knew I had made the right choice. It is in large part because of ASCIT events and organizations that Caltech feels like a family.

I would like to be your ASCIT Treasurer because I feel like I have the qualifications to match the job, and the passion to excel. First, I'd like to tell you a little about myself. I'm a sophomore in Fleming studying CS and BEM. This past year, I served as the Fleming Work Frosh, and I am currently an FCC for the incoming frosh. As Fleming Work Frosh, I organized the Western Floss Party. With \$500 to cover

decorations, food, beverages, and a bartender, I was able to organize a fun event for all Caltech students and finished \$50 under budget. By listening to my peers' advice and suggestions, I implemented innovative ways to save money. I plan to do the same if you vote for me as your treasurer.

I believe ASCIT serves as a pillar to unify our community by facilitating new interactions for students to reach outside of their houses and join in Caltech events. Personally, it becomes very easy to simply become engrossed in house culture and a small community of friends. I think that, by reaching out of this small community, students can make new friends and explore more of campus culture. Since at least some of this year will be online, I think that it is more important than ever to be inclusive and creative with events. Due to the online circumstances, ASCIT has more discretionary funding than usual. It is important to spend this money rather than save it because seniors won't be able to benefit from its use. I can't wait to see what ideas you have for how to better spend this money in an online environment.



I'm so proud to be a Caltech student, and it will be my goal, if you vote for me as your ASCIT Treasurer, to make sure that future Beavers feel just as lucky to attend this school. Campus-wide events and funding transition to an online environment will be just some of the items on my agenda. Please remember to vote, and thank you for your time. Feel free to reach out to me at [lgriffit@caltech.edu](mailto:lgriffit@caltech.edu) if you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to chat!

### Geoff Pomraning

Hi Everybody! I'm Geoff Pomraning, and I am running to be your ASCIT treasurer.

A bit about me: I'm a rising sophomore studying physics and math in Ricketts. I'm a BoC Rep, Frosh camp counselor, a member of the Ricketts Social Team, a Peer Tutor, and an okay dancer. In my spare time, I enjoy reading science fiction, volunteering with a local robotics club, and building tinfoil science experiments with my siblings. I've previously managed large scale budgeting for 700+ person events as president of my high school robotics team, and represented my school to the budgeting office and district board as a Student Senator.

I strongly believe in Caltech's proud tradition of student government and the honor code. Over the past year here at Caltech, I have been privileged to benefit from the vibrant student atmosphere of collaboration and togetherness on campus. Although times have changed, I believe that we can continue to build the Caltech undergraduate community up through ASCIT.

As your treasurer, I would work tirelessly to allocate the money collected every year from our ASCIT dues to projects and activities that enhance the lives of all students in the Caltech community. After all, as current treasurer Yuying once said, the ASCIT budget comes from our money – and we should all benefit from its use.

Specifically, some of the goals I would focus on include:

#### 1) Increasing Fund availability for Clubs and Student Organizations during the Pandemic

ASCIT has long had a crucial role providing funding for the student clubs and organizations that make Caltech the unique and wonderful place that it is. In light of the current pandemic, the crucial role of these clubs in our community has become

even more apparent. Yet, many of these same organizations are facing uncertain futures as COVID-19 throws their usual budgets and events into disarray. As ASCIT treasurer, I would take action to create an emergency fund for the clubs and organizations of Caltech so that they can adapt and continue to thrive in spite of these current circumstances.

#### 2) Ensuring the Financial Strength of the California Tech Student Newspaper

Caltech's cherished student newspaper, The California Tech has gone through truly inspiring improvements in the hands of a team of remarkable editors. However, the financial situation of the publication is far from certain, as in-person printing and staffing costs often near or exceed the current designated budget. Last year alone, the Tech was \$4,000 in debt. However, the Tech remains a vital part of the undergraduate ecosystem. As treasurer, I would work to ensure that a sustainable funding strategy for the Tech was developed, with a consistent and reliable budget to manage these soft expenses and ensure the long-term financial health of the publication.

#### 3) Creating and Funding Accessible, Alternative Events and Opportunities for Students

For many students, ASCIT's central role is the facilitator of many fun and exciting student activities and events. Although the Interhouses and Formal Party may not be possible this year, over \$70,000 that were reserved to fund those events is currently available to ASCIT. I believe that ASCIT has an obligation to use that money to enhance the student experience at Caltech, and as treasurer, I would dedicate myself to finding alternative, accessible opportunities to allow students to redeem those funds. Whether it be through funding virtual



escape rooms and Zoom parties, delivering donuts to our students around the world, or providing students with a personal "for fun" project budget, I will ensure that students are able to enjoy the benefits of ASCIT membership. Finally, if elected Treasurer, I will strongly advocate as a member of the BoD for the reduction or elimination of student dues second and third term, in light of the pandemic, and explore efforts at refunding students for dues already paid during the pandemic.

Beyond that, if elected as a member of the BoD, I would encourage the Board to transparently and openly discuss the recent tuition increases with the undergraduate population, and allow the Caltech community to decide on a course of action for ASCIT regarding that policy.

I would love the chance to serve as your treasurer. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions that you have! I'm available over Messenger, Discord, or email at [gpomrani@caltech.edu](mailto:gpomrani@caltech.edu). Thanks for reading!

Candidate Statements continued on next page



# ASCIT 2020 SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## TREASURER (5 CANDIDATES, PAGE 2 OF 2)

### Shubh Agrawal

Hi! My name is Shubh. I am a junior in Ricketts Hovse studying Physics, and I am running for ASCIT Treasurer.

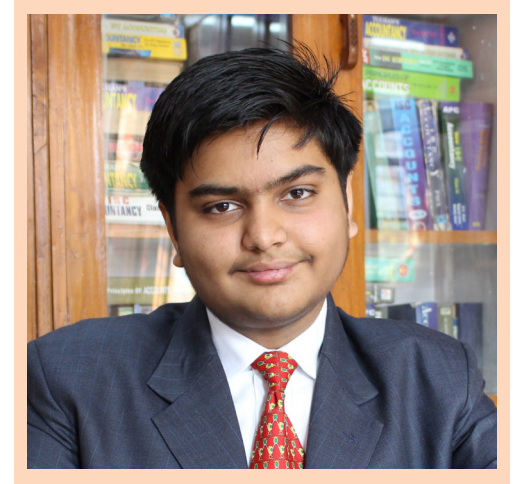
Over the past couple of years, we have seen a stark need of transparency in fund allocation and the operations of ASCIT. The ASCIT Budget comes from the dues we pay; yet there has been a question of how dues are collected, and how independent our student government is from the people it represents us to. It is essential to realize how much influence Caltech administration has over the workings and funds of ASCIT. I am running on the promise to deliver this transparency to the monetary side of our operations.

I also want to bring to attention the importance of ASCIT Treasurer as a member of the Board of Directors. The BoD represents our campus community to administration, and it is immaterial to have strong forceful voices on it to affect change that is favourable to undergraduates. In my role as a BoD member, I will be supporting and voting for provi-

sions that help ASCIT events be accessible to everyone and be geared towards several interests. I will strongly advocate that student input be taken and considered for all major and minor decisions that the BoD takes, through some form of an open survey or forum.

On how I want to change the way ASCIT manages its funds, I will revisit our past and traditional expenses and try to cut down on costs as much as possible, without compromising on quality. Employing past contractors is a common occurrence in student-run groups and are almost always not the profitable option. For this year particularly with remote study, I will be looking to strongly support student-run campus publications; these are very important communications for our community right now.

I have had the privilege of serving as Ricketts Vice President, a BoC Rep, and an ARC Frosh Rep. Through these positions, I have interacted with admin (be it Student Affairs or Housing) and have



fought for the values of our undergraduate community and more autonomy in house affairs. I will bring this experience, drive, and relations with admin to the role.

Thank you for your consideration, and all the best!

### Amrita Mayavaram

Hi! My name is Amrita Mayavaram. I am a sophomore studying mechanical engineering in Lloyd. On campus, I am involved in Caltech Racing, Society of Women Engineers, and the Caltech Y. By becoming ASCIT Treasurer, I hope to provide responsible management and accounting of ASCIT funds, maximize student benefits from the funds, and help advocate for student concerns.

The ASCIT Treasurer is primarily in charge of managing the allocation and distribution of funds for events, clubs, and other activities. I have experience in planning a variety of events, from group trips to seminar days, which involved a lot of work in balancing budgets. Furthermore, these events required organization, time management, and responsibility, which I will translate to the role of treasurer to be reliable and efficient.

As treasurer, I will aim to streamline reimbursement processes and make funding decisions widely available. One of the main roles of the ASCIT treasurer is to provide reimbursement for clubs and other activities. By making this a quick and organized process, I hope to encourage more clubs to seek funding and encourage the diverse interests of the

student body. In addition, I hope to achieve transparency by making a succinct budget document which is readily accessible and widely distributed so that all students are aware of how their money is being used. Beyond that, I would also make an itemized and detailed list of expenses and sources of funding available for students who are interested. I believe this will help solicit more student feedback and ensure that everyone is aware of how their dues are being spent, leading the coordination of and investment in events that best suit students' interests.

Furthermore, I will work with the rest of the Board of Directors to advocate for student needs and ensure that all concerns are met. Given the current circumstances of COVID-19, there is an increased need for clear communication between students and administrators about decisions, needs, and accommodations, and I hope to facilitate this along with the rest of the Board of Directors. In addition, upon return (hopefully soon), I will strive to continue this direct communication to make student life and events enjoyable and accessible for all.

The Caltech community is a vital support system and aspect of the student experience, a fact that has



become even more evident during these remote times. Despite the unusual circumstances, I hope to help promote student interests both remotely and when we get back to campus. I would love the chance to serve as your ASCIT Treasurer to responsibly manage funds, create great events, and help support the Caltech student body. Please feel free to reach out to me at amayavaram@caltech.edu or on Messenger if you have any questions!

### Eilleen Zhang

Hi everyone - I'm Eilleen Zhang and I'm a sophomore EE in Avery, and I'm running to be the ASCIT treasurer!

An explanation on my experience/qualifications: Over this past year, I've been Avery's social director, which has allowed me to understand and appreciate firsthand the work that student government does at Caltech. As part of my responsibilities as SocD, I've organized multiple events within Avery's budget, and have our budget as a primary consideration in all things that I plan with soc team. I have developed these skills for both in-person and virtual events: I've led large events like interhouse and ski trip, and virtually, I've organized Trivia Night and Pen Pals, among other smaller events.

#### What I'm passionate about regarding the treasurer position:

Last year, about 70% of ASCIT expenses were on social events around campus. With the virtual education format due to the pandemic, many of these things are unlikely to happen, or at least until students return to campus. These are my main goals:

1. Support campus clubs and publications that are operating differently during this virtual term.

For example, if a club typically relied on snacks to incentivize member attendance, or had shared club materials on campus that are now inaccessible but could be reasonably sent to individual club members, ASCIT could reimburse those expenses if clubs wanted to recreate that virtually.

2. Re-evaluate how the budget is allocated to take into account changes to ASCIT spending due to virtual school, and work with the rest of the BoD to find new ways to effectively spend our money on things that as many students as possible can benefit from, especially regarding social events. I would also like to allocate ASCIT funds to Houses to support upholding any House traditions that can be converted to a virtual format, especially because Houses aren't collecting dues during the virtual format.

3. Fulfill the written responsibilities of Treasurer with accuracy and reliability, and listen to and find solutions for student concerns (such as last year's issues with ASCIT dues).

Some other things that I want to do in the future include:

- Bringing more events physically closer to the north side of campus for Bechtel and Avery residents - when I helped with distributing midnight



donuts there last year, I was surprised by how many people showed excitement for finally having donuts in a more convenient location.

- Posting budget proposals on the Olive Walk ASCIT box as well as in Bechtel and Avery

In general, I'm passionate about student life at Caltech and as treasurer, I will put my best efforts into constantly improving our experience as students. If you have any questions or want to talk to me, feel free to contact me on Facebook Messenger or ezzhang@caltech.edu.



## ***ASCIT 2020 SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)***

### ***DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (2 CANDIDATES)***

#### **Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa**

Hello my name's Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa (eye-yuh-loo-wah) and I'm running to be your ASCIT Social Director. Some things about me: I'm a junior in Ricketts House involved in many things on campus including working with Caltech Admissions, being a Ricketts House Social Vice president, and being involved with BSEC.

With Ricketts, I've been involved with planning social events for a long time. Since early 2019, as a member of the Ricketts Social Team (SOC Team), I helped set up big campus-wide events like Open Mic Night and Interhouse. Now, as a Social Vice President, I am directly in charge of planning (now virtual) events, considering budgets for these events, and making sure people in my house are getting involved. From both of these formal roles and my other experiences, I have learned some very basic things that I will be sure to keep at the forefront if elected ASCIT Social Director.

With the pandemic and remote learning, students are missing out on the in person events that used to hold on campus. ASCIT social events are a big part of what makes Caltech such a close and

welcoming community. In the case of more remote terms, I plan to utilize the virtual platform to plan fun events for undergraduates. As a Social Vice President for Ricketts house, I am planning fun virtual escape rooms, game nights, movie nights, and dinners. If elected ASCIT Social Director, I will make sure that everyone can take part in fun social events from their homes.

My job would be to serve and represent the undergraduate body. For that reason, I will prioritize planning events according to what the Caltech undergraduate body prefers. In addition to traditional ASCIT events like Movie Night, I will send out multiple surveys to gauge what students are looking for in events and plan around that. In this way, I will be sure to better represent and serve the student body.

I plan to also work with social house directors to strengthen the Social Committees of the different houses. This would mean continuing to hold meetings where social directors can voice problems and concerns they are having and discussing what collaborative events different houses would be interested in hosting.



I genuinely enjoy planning social events because they're part of what has made my experience at Caltech this far such a positive one. If you have any questions about my plans for ASCIT or want to further discuss anything, please shoot me an email on aodemuyi@caltech.edu. Thanks, and hope everyone's staying safe!

#### **Daniel Kyme**

Hi Caltech! I'm Daniel Kyme and I wish to serve as your ASCIT Social Director :)

The emergence of COVID-19 has completely upended what used to be a familiar and intimate community of friends. The nightly crawls to Red Door and casual chatter with housemates provided a source of warmth and support that has yet to be replicated. And, with the future poised to be as bleak as what has been, the role of ASCIT Social Director comes to fore as ever important and pivotal. The ASCIT Social Director will have to navigate how to shape a sense of belonging and togetherness

within a completely dispersed community through a virtual medium.

I, a senior allegedly in that final "glory" year of college, write to you in his childhood room to rise to the challenge and turn things around in what has personally been an absolutely horrible year. To do so, I ask for your vote for ASCIT Social Director with the promise of a better year.

With Llove,  
Daniel Kyme



## ***VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS / ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR (1 CANDIDATE)***

#### **Megan Wang**

Hi everyone! My name is Megan Wang, and I am a Junior biology major in Fleming. I have been an At-Large ARC Rep since my Freshman year and I would love to continue serving the Caltech community as ARC chair.

Between my experience working for the ARC and being a TA, I have learned a lot about how important it is to build a bridge between the students and faculty. While there can be a lot of confusion, especially with the forced remote learning that we are all slowly adjusting to, it is clear that the students are eager to learn and the faculty are more than willing to support their agenda. I hope to be in the position to shape the environment and provide the tools necessary to promote meaningful interactions between the students and faculty.

Throughout my tenure as an ARC rep, I mainly worked on the ARC research page and our student-faculty lunch program. If I were to be elected ARC chair, one of my main focuses would be on expanding the ARC research page. I would like to reach out to more professors about potential research opportunities and be able to provide more details regarding their specific research on our webpage. I believe that our research page should have a section where professors and postdocs can post specific projects that they would like an undergraduate to work on.

Additionally, our research page should be expanded to include a section with resources for undergraduate research outside of Caltech. I know that during this uncertain period of quarantine, research opportunities have been hard to come by and updating our research page with projects that can be worked on remotely would greatly help many students.

Another program I would like to implement is a research mentorship program where freshmen who are new to research and want to join a lab could talk to upperclassmen working in their field of interest. This would essentially be incorporating research into the option buddies program. Many freshmen who choose to do research, whether in the form of a SURF or during the school year, do not have the opportunity to experience various types of research in their field of interest before accepting a lab to work in. A research mentorship program would allow freshmen to better explore potential lab options before committing to one.

Furthermore, since classes look like they will be remote for an indeterminate amount of time, I think the quality of our education can be drastically improved via improving the organization of the platforms each class uses. I would like to collaborate with the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Outreach (CTLO) to create and offer workshops to



explain the numerous features that are available but not currently used on Canvas. Through educating professors and TAs on these features, I believe that we can eliminate secondary platforms that serve the same purposes and are difficult to keep track of.

Finally, with the upcoming SFC this year, I would like to document the proceedings either through short summaries of each panel or through video recording as many students were not able to attend the SFC two years ago due to various conflicts.

Please feel free to send any additional ARC-related questions or concerns to me either through facebook messenger or my email yinghan@caltech.edu! Thank you for your time and consideration!

**End of Candidate Statements**



## The California Tech 2.5 years ago (April 23, 2018): A Cautionary Tale for Prospective Tech Editors

### REFLECTIONS ON THE TECH THUS FAR

SOPHIE PIAO | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

One evening, when I woke from troubled dreams, I found myself transformed in my bed into a monstrous Tech editor. Despite this, it would be far from honest to describe the past few weeks as a “KAFKAESQUE NIGHTMARE EXPERIENCE.” In just two short weeks, I’ve learned an incredible amount about the Caltech community and what it means to create content for this particular demographic.

In our candidacy statement last term, we attacked the Tech as it was gleefully and without restraint. As joke candidates, we didn’t expect to win, and it showed. We made promises we had no intention of ever needing to keep; painted the incumbent in a light that cast mocking, disrespectful shadows on ourselves; and criticized aspects of the paper’s production we didn’t understand, because we didn’t understand them. Frankly, we made absolutely no effort to do so until we had to.

We took over in a gust of confused hubris. How would we even get the printed papers to campus? Who read and cared about the sports section? Could we just print whatever the hell we felt like? I’m embarrassed to admit that we never put adequate, serious thought into answering these questions. And as we finally learned the answers, sitting in an uncomfortable circle of office chairs in the SAC room where Jon and Katherine walked us matter-of-factly through a list of details and responsibilities that spanned pages and pages, the discomfort that our bizarre victory had planted in my mind began to grow. The fact that these answers came from members of the previous Tech team whose hard work we thoroughly disrespected was even more humbling. When we uploaded our first issue to the printer’s website a week later, it gnawed at me still. The next day, listening to my friends and acquaintances talking about how they enjoyed reading it, the pride that filled me unexpectedly turned just as suddenly to shame.

The Tech was a flawed publication before it came into our hands. We can assert this because we never would have won otherwise. However, we can also say with certainty that, in our attempts to improve it, we’ve already made plenty of mistakes of our own. In our first issue, we neglected to include Actual Sports Content, instead covering the CS 2 Othello tournament. We now realize that both of these have a place in the Tech. To continue accepting the help of members of the previous Tech team in creating and distributing a publication we can all take pride in with a clean conscience, we the editors-in-chief wish to apologize for the thoughtlessness with which we treated our predecessors.

That being said, I don’t believe that deciding to take the content of the Tech in a very different direction is in itself anything for which we need to apologize. In fact, given the circumstances of the election, that appears to be exactly what we were elected to do. Still, we’re not trying to make “Editors and Friends: The Newspaper,” and we’re not trying to out-compete the Torch. I certainly want to preserve the elements of the Tech that its readership values, even if they’re things I personally don’t understand. I want it to be more informative, accurate, consistently-formatted, and stylish. But most of all, I want it to be something we can all look forward to coming out every week, which is something we learned very quickly we cannot make happen alone. Be the change you want to see in the Tech, and favor us with your aid in distributing worthwhile, student-guided content to our peers. We will repay you with our most serious efforts to make a newspaper in which you can be proudly published... and \$5-\$15 per content contribution.

Signed in concurrence by Amrita Rhoads, Milan Roberson, and Daniel Xu.

We are always willing to take feedback either at [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu) or [tech.caltech.edu](http://tech.caltech.edu).

### LETTERS FROM THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Sophie Piao: writing things that aren't at least 50% joak is really venturing outside my comfort zone. pls no bully. also sorry @fleming we know how to spell your house name i promise :^(

Amrita Rhoads: s

Milan Roberson: i was gonna write an editorial for this issue but put it off to the last minute, sorry fam. make sure to check out my opinions in next week's issue!

Definitely Not the Rest of the Tech Editors Trying to Impersonate Dan Xu: hi i'm totally dan xu! i love being a tech editor and grading sets!

**This week's recommended Tech usage after reading is: lizard tank liner.**

**We are always accepting submissions for comics, and will pay you.**

### WELCOME TO KENNY'S CONQUEST!

KENNY THAI | FEATURED ARTICLE

Good evening! Good morning! And hello! Welcome to a new section of the *Tech* that I'll be calling Kenny's Conquest!

Now, you might be asking, "What exactly is Kenny's Conquest?"

Well, I'm glad you asked! This is the corner from which I'll attempt to get my name in as many places in the credits as possible! Let's go through them one by one:

**Editor-in-Chief:** I sourced all the original content of this issue myself (by writing most of it).

**Page Editor:** I've been in this position since my team was officially elected Tech Editor, and this position is what allowed me to seize control of an entire issue like this in the first place.

**Copy Editor:** As you can probably tell with what I'm getting away with, no one is reading what I'm putting in the paper beforehand, so I have to edit my own articles. This is why everything is so poorly written.

**Reporter:** In this column, I report on the actions of a Caltech student (myself).

**Staff Writer:** I represent the staff of the Tech in the front page story.

**Columnist:** Amazon Skymall (Right)

**Sports Writer:** (Right)

**Contributing Writer:** (Right)

**Distribution:** I have access to the undergrad mailing list and have appointed myself with the task of sending out this issue through that channel as well as [our website](#).

### TSM LOSES LEAGUE OF LEGENDS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 0-6

KENNY THAI | SPORTS

Well I know nothing about League, so I interviewed a [not] randomly selected sample of people that do. Here is what they said:

"NA 'Near Airport' is known as the fastest region to arrive at the Airport. Since they gave up on the LoL Worlds Championship, they are investing in Speedruns. In particular they are current worldrecord holders in Airport Any % and Airport no wins. TSM currently holds the record for both."

- Kasey Adams (MechE '21, Dabney)

"I thought 5-man Lillia sleeps were crazy, but then I saw a 9-man Lillia sleep and I was tilted off the face of the Earth."

- Norman Chung (MechE '23, Dabney)

### AMAZON SKYMALL

KENNY THAI | COLUMNIST

<https://forms.gle/jY9K7g8e5B76NQLZA>

Note that we (still) make no claims that the winner of the raffle is determined randomly

### HOW SHOULD I FINISH FILLING THIS PAGE?

KENNY THAI | CREATIVE WRITING

Well, I'm almost done with this issue of the Tech. All I've gotta do is fill this corner, but what to fill it with? Ooh I know! Behold:

**This week's recommended Tech usage after reading: click/tap [here](#) to visit our (hopefully) functional website!**

## The California Tech

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kenny Thai

PAGE EDITOR

Kenny Thai

COPY EDITOR

Kenny Thai

REPORTER

Kenny Thai

STAFF WRITER

Kenny Thai

COLUMNIST

Kenny Thai

SPORTS WRITER

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