

## ASCIT Board of Directors Propose New Bylaws Amendments

Sophie Elam  
ASCIT President  
News

In our annual review of the ASCIT Bylaws, ASCIT Board of Directors has decided to propose the following amendments. These propositions have been approved unanimously by the Board of Directors, and we now bring them to the undergraduate students to be voted into action. We will have the Review Committee send out voting procedures at the beginning of next term (as to avoid having an amendment election during finals). Before then, we will release another reminder in *The Tech*, but prior to this, we wanted to outline the amendments that are being proposed, why they are being proposed, and elicit your vote in January.

All of the proposed amendments are simply revisions to the existing amendments in the ASCIT Bylaws (which can be found on Donut under the ASCIT -> Publications-> Bylaws tab), and there are no new amendments being recommended in this election. The amendment revisions are outlined below with the revised wording in bold.

### Revision to Article IV, Section 5

*"The Board of Directors may pass Resolutions upon approval of four members. The Secretary shall record and make public all Board Resolutions. Resolutions concerning the formation of a committee or office shall require the approval of the Review Committee. Approved staff positions and their duties will be recorded in a Resolution. **Once approved, resolutions passed will stand until inactivated by the Board of Directors or recalled by a 2/3 vote by the Review Committee"***

This change is simply to codify a practice that has already been implemented in ASCIT B.o.D. proceedings. In essence, adding this line allows us to keep resolutions adopted by previous B.o.D. 's without spending meeting time to re-vote on resolutions that have already been passed. (For reference, unlike amendments, resolutions are only voted on by the B.o.D. and ratified by RevComm to establish standards of practice for a particular Board of Directors. These often include creation of staff positions, commitment to maintain student spaces, etc., and with each new B.o.D. resolutions must be renewed). Hence, the focus of this amendment is to streamline ASCIT proceedings and increase operational efficiency.

### Revision to Article IV, Section 4

*"The Board of Directors may choose to create staff positions to assist with the responsibilities of officers of the Corporation, with the approval of the Review Committee. Staff positions must be voted upon in a Board Resolution. The officer receiving assistance is directly responsible for the activity of their staff. All staff positions and resolutions expire upon retirement of the associated officer and cannot be reappointed without reapproval of the position and resolution by the Review Committee. **Staff members can only be granted the right to attend VPSA or closed meetings by invitation by the Board of Directors."***

The above gives ASCIT B.o.D. the ability to extend more privileges to appointed staff. There has been no precedent of such, and we wish to codify this jurisdiction.

### Revision to Article IX, Section 5

*"Each Corporation member will be assessed **fifteen dollars (\$15)** for the Big T, payable on the days of registration at the rate of **five dollars (\$5)** per term. **Each year after 2025, the Big T will be expected to publish a digital yearbook for all members of ASCIT. The exact format of this yearbook will be determined by the Big T Editor's discretion. Concurrently, each year the Big T will publish a physical edition of the past four years' yearbook in a quantity large enough to provide each student in the graduating senior class with a physical yearbook.** A member withdrawing before the end of third term of their **senior year** may either receive a refund for installments paid, or complete the payments and receive an annual. Before the end of third term of their **senior year**, a member who does not wish to receive a copy may, upon written request to the Business Manager of the Big T, receive a refund of any installments paid toward that year's book."*

This amendment changes the current yearbook distribution practices to reduce waste and prioritize ASCIT budget. This amendment will make it such that the Big T will create digital yearbooks/photo collections for every year. However, rather than printing a yearbook for every student every year, there will be "mega yearbooks" printed each year for the graduating class only. These "mega yearbooks" will be an amassing of the digital yearbooks from a student's time at Caltech. This will prevent the surplus of yearbooks we have experienced in the past few years. Further, this will reduce the amount of student dues that are allocated to the Big T. While students will not see a change in the amount they are charged for dues, this amendment allows for the reallocation of said funds to other ASCIT projects (for example, reducing the costs of Formal Tickets).

### Revision to Article VII, Sections 1 & 8

*Election Periods. **All house presidents are to be installed by the first Monday of third term.** Nominations for CRC Co-Chair, IHC Chair, BoC Chair, BoC and all other elected offices shall open at 8 A.M. on the first Monday of third term shall close at 5 P.M. the following Friday. All nominated candidates shall be listed on a ballot and voted upon at elections to occur the second Monday following the closing of nominations for that office...*

***Installation of CRC CoChair, IHC Chair, BoC Chair, BoC Secretaries, Tech Editors and all remaining Officers will take place on the 6th Monday of 3rd term.***

*An oath of office shall be administered by the retiring President to the incoming President which may take the following form: "I do solemnly swear that I will support the Articles of Incorporation of the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Incorporated, and that I will discharge the duties of the office to which I was elected to the best of my ability."*

*The President shall administer the oath of his choice to the incoming Board of Directors."*

The changes above collapse IHC, CRC, and BoC Chairs as well as BoC secretaries, Tech Editors and the remaining nominated ASCIT B.o.D. positions into one election. The goal of this is to allow these positions to be determined prior to the rooms picks process for houses that give picks to Campus positions. Further, the installation of House presidents by the beginning of third term will grant Houses more flexibility to move their elections later (if they so choose), because an agreement with OSE has been made to move leadership week trainings to third term (so that all student leaders can be trained together). **Please note: the later installation of presidents will not be active until 2026 and the next leadership week training will occur in February, 2025. However, the collapse of campus-wide elections will go into effect this academic year (spring 2025).**

If you have any questions regarding the propositions above, please do not hesitate to reach out to a B.o.D. member, come to an ASCIT meeting, or visit the "Documents" page of Donut.

I will be reaching out again next term to solicit your votes, but wanted to put this on everyone's radar as we go into winter break.

Cheers & good luck on finals!

## Where is the CHASE Report?

Michael Gutierrez  
Editorial

The Committee on House Assessment, Support, and Experience (CHASE) was formed in Spring 2023 and "charged by the Vice President for Student Affairs Kevin Gilmartin to develop strategic recommendations to ensure that the undergraduate houses remain supportive living and learning environments, where current and future Caltech students can thrive and succeed," according to an email sent to undergraduates last spring. The Commit-

tee was composed of current students, faculty, staff, and alumni. As part of their investigations, focus groups and a survey of the student body were conducted.

The main deliverable of CHASE is a final report, which will contain recommendations for Student Affairs policies and residential life matters. It was originally estimated to be released in late October or early November of 2024. A draft of the report and its findings have been presented to the Board of Trustees and VPSA Gilmartin, but as of December 2 at 5pm, the final report is still under review and has not been published.

The recommendations in the CHASE Report will be vital to the preservation and evolution of undergraduate House culture. The report itself is complete — the work is done — now we're just waiting on bureaucracy.

The *Tech* will publish a full analysis of the report once it is ready.

## JPL Faces November Layoffs, Third Round This Year

On November 13, JPL laid off 325 employees, or 5% of its workforce. This is the Lab's third round of layoffs in 2024: first was the January reduction of 100 on-site contractors, followed by the February layoffs of 530 employees and 40 additional contractors. As a result, the JPL workforce currently stands at roughly 5,500 employees.

These reductions stem from a funding crisis for the Mars Sample Return mission, which intends to collect rock and dust samples from Mars and analyze them on Earth. Last year, \$822 million was provided for the mission, but NASA was directed to anticipate only \$300 million for fiscal year (FY) 2024. Originally, \$949 million was designated for the mission as per the President's FY 2024 Budget Request. Citing their concerns in a Senate Report from July 2023, congressional appropriations committees felt "alarmed" at how the expected launch schedule for MSR "continues to slip" even with steady funding—hence the \$300 million figure.

In his November 13th letter to the Caltech community, President Thomas Rosenbaum assured that JPL leadership and Human Resources have been working with "each and every affected employee" to make the post-layoffs transition "as smooth as possible." Rosenbaum highlighted that the Lab continues to operate "more than three dozen missions" in space exploration, with "another 17 missions" in the pipeline.

—DAMIAN WILSON, THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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## Sleeping (Again)

Better Free Dozes  
Culture



Hi! It's me again, your sleeper buddy who has been hung up on the Getting Better Sleep Workshop by SWS ever since it happened. But it doesn't stop there – now my YouTube algorithm has been suggesting videos about sleep too. And honestly? I'll take it. I am now invested in getting better sleep, and hopefully you are along for the ride.

Now, I'm not here to preach to you. There's plenty of people doing that already, and it gets a little hard to take them seriously when they aren't living our lives. But I'm here to tell you that I AM, in fact, among us, and I have honestly found these changes to be actionable (for the most part) at Caltech, and taking it a step further, I've found myself actually appreciating these changes I made to my sleep schedule.

This time, I want to talk about two major things that we deal with probably quite often: caffeine, and all-nighters.

I'm sure we've all heard at some point that caffeine has a half-life of around 5 hours, but it can really range from 3-7 hours. That means, ideally, you're not having caffeine 5 hours before your bedtime. What caffeine does is it prevents adenosine from binding to receptors in your brain. Adenosine is the waste product released by your brain throughout the day, which when it latches onto your receptors, makes you more tired and inattentive. That's why we feel a bolt of energy or focus when we down some caffeine, but it's important to understand that that is just delaying the inevitable, not preventing it. That doesn't mean I don't drink coffee – I still do, but I've been trying to limit my consumption to only having it until 5 PM. Past that, I'm either going to get a steamer or a hot chocolate.

But then you ask, how can we pull an all-nighter without caffeine? Well the thing is, to nobody's surprise, all-nighters are actually really bad for you. Not only do they make you feel incredibly crappy the day of, they actually prevent your long term memory from developing (if all-nighters are pulled often enough), which means you end up being worse at solving problems or making connections with what you've learnt. And speaking of making you feel crappy, a study showed that people who had been awake for 19 hours have coordination and reaction times that are similar to those who have been drinking, which also means you can end up making poor decisions. That's why, if you think you need to work late, give yourself at least 5.5 hours of sleep, to prevent long-term harm to your body and brain's functioning.

Tldr; it's important (and doable!) to track caffeine consumption during the day and make sure we're not letting substantive caffeine amounts exist in our bloodstream, and it's also important to get at least 5.5 hours of sleep every night! And trust me, it's not as hard or as bad as it sounds.

### THE CALIFORNIA TECH:

LLM-FREE SINCE 2023!



## Caltech Ranks 111th in 2025 FIRE Free Speech College Rankings

In a recent national survey of 257 colleges and universities, Caltech ranked overall 111th. 92 Caltech undergrads were surveyed on a number of questions including how often they felt the need to “self-censor,” their comfort expressing their views on different topics, and administrative support. The report was published by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE), a nonpartisan group supporting free speech on college campuses. The data in this report were collected between January 25th and June 17, 2024.

The majority of Caltech is liberal with a 16:1 ratio of liberals to conservatives. Caltech scored highly on openness (5th) and comfort expressing ideas (23rd) both of which deal with how willing students are to have conversations about political or controversial topics on campus with peers or professors. However, this is possibly skewed by the predominantly liberal majority.

Caltech scored very low in disruptive conduct (248th), a measure of how willing students are to shout down, block entrance, perform violence to stop controversial speakers. 16 percent of Caltech respondents said it was never acceptable to shout down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus compared to 32 percent nationally. 20 percent of Caltech respondents said it was never acceptable to block or prevent other students from attending a campus speech compared to 48 percent nationally. 53 percent of Caltech respondents said it was never acceptable to use violence to stop a campus speaker compared to 68 percent nationally. For all 3 of these questions the answer choices were “never acceptable,” “rarely acceptable,” “sometimes acceptable,” and “always acceptable.” In all three questions the majority of students who did not select never acceptable said it was only rarely acceptable (41%, 49%, and 31% respectively).

Caltech also ranked low in administrative support (204th) with only 25% of students responding that it was either “extremely clear” or “very clear” (4% and 21% respectively) that Caltech administration protects free speech on campus. This is compared with 34% of students responding this way nationally (7% and 27% respectively). 20% of Caltech students said it was “not very clear” and 9% said it was “not clear at all” that Caltech administration protects free speech on campus. In addition to this, Caltech's free speech policy received a “red light” rating based on a stoplight system. The red light indicates that institute policy prioritizes other values over a commitment to free speech.

President Rosenbaum states that “Caltech aims to create an environment where all members of our community are empowered to speak out about issues that matter to them, and we support their freedom and ability to do so. We want all members of our community to feel free to take stances that may be unpopular, but reflect who they are and what they believe, without an official Institute opinion quenching that ability.”

The survey also asked questions about whether speakers on certain controversial topics should be let on campus, 3 questions about liberal speakers and 3 on conservative speakers. 28% of respondents said that Caltech should definitely or probably (72% said probably or definitely should not) allow a speaker on campus who had previously expressed the idea that “transgender people have a mental disorder.” 38% said that Caltech should definitely or probably allow a speaker who had expressed that “abortion should be completely illegal.” 25% said the same about a speaker who had expressed that “black lives matters is a hate group.” Caltech ranks 197th for tolerance for conservative speakers. 58% of Caltech respondents said that Caltech should definitely or probably allow a speaker who had expressed that “the Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.” 49% said the same about a speaker who had said “the police are just as racist as the KKK.” 65% said the same about a speaker who had expressed that “children should be able to transition without parental consent.” Caltech ranked 87th for tolerance of liberal speakers and 209th overall for tolerance difference between liberal and conservative speakers.

Caltech's free speech ranking went up compared to last year and overall, there has been an upward trend in free speech on campuses across the US over the last 5 years FIRE has run this survey. However, the Isreal-Palestine conflict has been not good for free speech on campuses, causing many college administrations to change their free speech codes or deplatform student scholars in response to attempts to use free speech. While students' willingness to talk about most controversial topics has gone up the past few years, the percent of students identifying the conflict as a difficult topic to talk about went up from 26% in 2023 to 55% in 2024.

—UNAI ARRIZABALAGA, THE CALIFORNIA TECH

# Ballads of East and West at The Huntington

**Emily Yu**  
Culture

In “The Ballad of East and West,” Rudyard Kipling states that “East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet.” On the contrary, Raqib Shaw demonstrates how art can unite the two with striking effect.

Last month, *Raqib Shaw: Ballads of East and West* opened at the Huntington Art Gallery. Organized by the Frist Art Museum and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, along with curator Zehra Jumabhoy, the exhibition culminates its national tour at the Huntington. It is the artist’s first solo museum exhibition on the West Coast.

Raqib Shaw was born in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India in 1974 and spent much of his early years in the Kashmir Valley. As a teenager, Shaw left the long-disputed region when it plunged into sectarian conflict. During a visit to London in 1993, he developed a passion for the old masters’ paintings at the National Gallery. In 1998, he moved to London to study art at Central Saint Martins, where he has lived and worked ever since.

Shaw’s work reflects his transcultural life experience by merging references to Western art history, particularly Renaissance, Baroque, and Rococo Europe, with South Asian influences from his childhood.

One piece that pays tribute to Shaw’s upbringing is *Ode to the Country without a Post Office* (2019–20). Sitting on a Kashmiri carpet, he depicts himself coordinating the movement of fireflies while, behind him, the city of Srinagar is in chaos, alluding to the sectarian conflict of Kashmir. The bright fireflies are in stark contrast

to the flames ravaging the city and the warplane in the sky. This piece exemplifies how Shaw engages viewers with intricately detailed depictions of imagined interiors and vibrant landscapes that transcend time and space.

His paintings act as visual diaries, a way to process the world and his life within it. “It’s my way of dealing with this world, it’s my way of escaping into another world,” he explained in an interview with the Frist. “I am a spectator, yet at the same time, I am a player.”

To create his art, Shaw utilizes porcupine quills and fine needles to apply enamel paint to birch wood panels. He also uses jewels, glitter, and semi-precious stones, which contribute to the vibrance of his pieces.

After a visit to the Huntington, Shaw was inspired to create pieces specifically for the gallery’s upper register of its grand staircase. For that space, *The Perseverant Prophet* and *The Pragmatic Pessimist* were reimagined as tapestries—a new medium for the artist. *The Perseverant Prophet* coalesces Pieter Bruegel the Elder’s *The Tower of Babel* (1563) and John Martin’s *The Destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum* (1822), creating an intense, apocalyptic scene. *The Pragmatic Pessimist* deliberates on the fragile state of Earth, featuring numerous polar bears on melting ice. Both works portray Shaw’s contemplations on the challenges and uncertainty of today’s world.

*Raqib Shaw: Ballads of East and West* takes place in two areas of the Huntington Art Gallery. Seven paintings will be displayed in the North Passage, while the two tapestries will be showcased in the upper section of the grand staircase. The exhibition will be on view through March 3, 2025.



Raqib Shaw, *Ode to the Country without a Post Office*, 2019-20

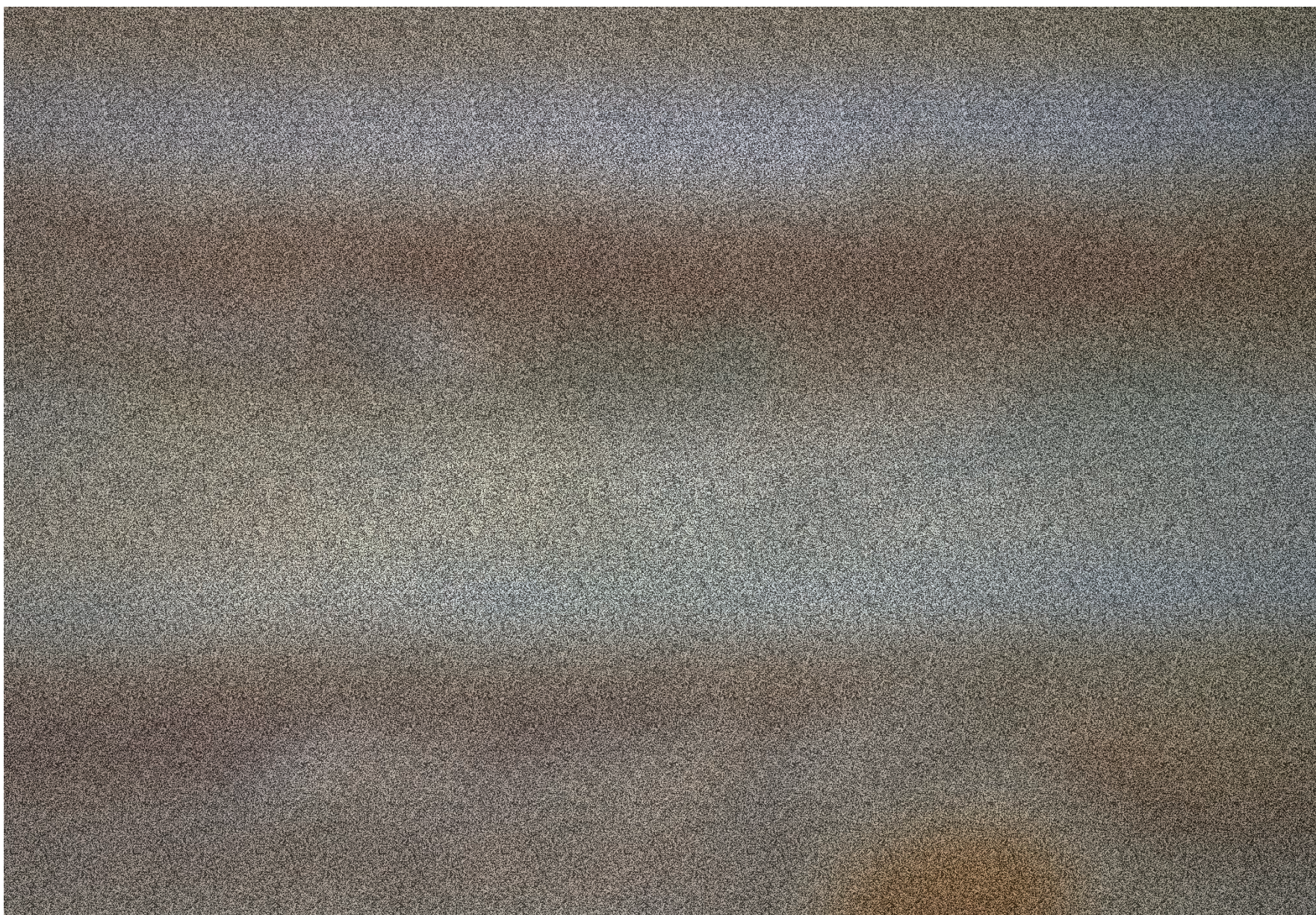
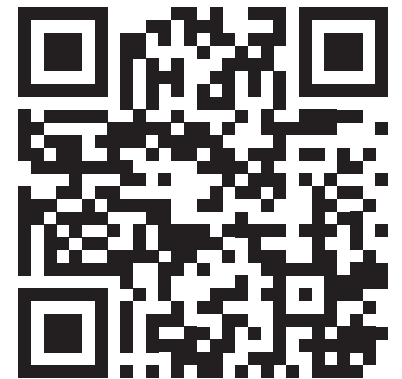
## PSA from the Seniors

Go to bed, frosh...

Ditch Day is Tomorrow!

### Editor’s Note:

Fact check: is Ditch Day really tomorrow?



**The California Tech – Magic Eye #3**

Focus your eyes *behind* the page... the image will appear recessed. Can you name the recently launched spacecraft that appears in the foreground?

# Caltech Isn't For Everyone

Antonio Caceres  
Opinion

I'm Antonio. I matriculated as a Caltech undergraduate in 2019. I will not graduate.

I write to share my perspective. "As scientists, I think we need to own our perspectives rather than pretend that we have some omniscient neutral view of reality." (McGlynn, Terry. "It's really hard to see things from other perspectives." *Science for Everyone*. 2024 August 19.) My story will not reflect the experience of most Caltech undergraduates. The message I want to communicate may fail to resonate with most readers. That makes it no less true and no less valuable.

I write to share my gratitude. Like most students, my time at Caltech had positives and negatives. Highlighting the frustrating and challenging parts of Caltech is validating and cathartic. Still, this focus undermines the elements that make Caltech unique. I'm grateful for our community of young scientists. Thanks to them, I had intellectual growth I could not have elsewhere. I'm grateful for our professors. They have provided me with opportunities to explore curiously and courageously, even as I struggled academically. I'm grateful for our Honor Code and that the Institute trusts the students are here to learn. Caltech is remarkably special in the opportunities it provides to students, and those opportunities emerge from a collaboration between the faculty, staff, and students.

In gratitude for what Caltech has provided to me, I have spent my five years here doing my best to contribute to Caltech's community. I mentored incoming students in and out of the classroom. I changed the curriculum to be more equitable, thoughtful, and effective. I thank those who provided me the opportunity to serve the campus community to the best of my ability.

I see this piece as a continuation of that mission. I give considerable thought to the experience Caltech provides to the undergraduate body and to who is best served by it. In the fall of 2021, I raised concerns to President Rosenbaum about the impact of Caltech's pedagogical structure on existing and incoming students, who just returned from virtual classes where they had demonstrably learned less. Paraphrasing, he responded that he primarily worried about students that might fall through the

cracks and get missed by the community.

I'm publishing to serve those students. Hopefully, to serve the student I was.

Therefore, I write to share my truth. More than anything else, I'm grateful for and enamored by Caltech's pursuit of truth. When I first arrived, I learned Caltech's motto: "The truth shall make you free." Caltech exists to reveal the truth about the world. The truth can make you uncomfortable. The truth can be painful. Sometimes, it's easier to reject the truth than to fully embrace it. I have had to wrestle with that discomfort, that pain, and that rejection in my time here. Despite that, Teachers are unapologetic in their pursuit and disclosure of the truth. To that same mission, I publish this piece with only one apology.

I have spoken to friends, mentees, staff, and faculty about my departure from the Institute. I lied and told half-truths about my circumstances, and I'm sorry for that. I avoided difficult conversations. I tried to minimize what I perceived as harm to the Caltech community. Most of all, I wanted to reject what I learned about myself and my limitations. I did not want to bare the truth about why I left Caltech.

I could not do it.

I could not complete the undergraduate curriculum here.

I ask you, reader, to take a moment. Breathe. Ground yourself. I ask you to notice your instinctual response to that idea. What might you think if an undergraduate came to you with this idea? Maybe they are your student or your friend. How would you respond?

**I am not capable of success as a Caltech undergraduate.**

Perhaps you feel sad or shocked. You might experience validation or relief. If my gauge on campus culture is accurate, then for some, I evoked a visceral rejection or dismissal. "That's not true." "You should not think that way." "Oh, that's just impostor syndrome."

New students often feel like they do not belong at the Institute. They feel scared: maybe they did not deserve admittance, maybe their achievements fall short of their peers', and maybe they cannot be successful here. Caltech reassures students that this is normal, and nearly everyone experiences these thoughts; I completely agree. The research says that this thinking is not helpful; I completely agree. The whole community communicates that

if a student has been accepted, then they can complete Caltech. Admissions does not make mistakes.

I no longer agree. I know that I gave my education here my complete and total effort. There was a time when I wanted nothing more than to graduate from the Caltech. I believed I could, without reservation or hesitation. I put five years of my time and eleven terms' tuition of my parents' savings on that faith in myself. I received my third and final academic ineligibility in the spring of 2024.

I am not alone, and I hope you can trust me on that. The best public data I can provide comes from Caltech's IRO. After conditioning on students who began their second year (for cohorts matriculating in 2013-2017), Caltech's six-year graduation rate averages to 95.1%. (<https://iro.caltech.edu/data/gradrates>)

Nearly everyone here is capable, and most are more than capable. The Institute responds to the fact that too many students incorrectly believe they are incapable, and so few actually are. But no individual student is negligible; we must give attention to the students that fall through the cracks.

If you accept my premise, then put yourself in the shoes of a student who cannot do it. I came to terms same as everyone else, and I watched my peers struggle and pass, while I struggled and failed. Shamefully, I returned to the deans to bargain to avoid an academic ineligibility, again. My peers moved forward, while I figured out if I would need to add another term to my expected graduation after the classes I dropped. All the while: "If I was accepted, then I can do it." "Admissions doesn't make mistakes."

I saw inconsistency between my lived experience and the community's messaging. I was accepted, so I should have success, but I am not seeing that. If I can do it, then why am I not? I am trying all these different solutions, but nothing seems to stick. I am sharing my story because that logical inconsistency has nasty resolutions.

I will wait until classes return in person. I will take time off to handle my mental health. I will sleep less. I should want it more. I should work harder. I need to stop being so lazy. Something is just wrong with me. This is all my fault. Why am I so messed up?

If a student cannot do it, they are liable to become miserable with the logical conclusions of

their failure. This is not just an ego check because I failed to accomplish a goal. It's the ego check reinforced with the belief that I could have and should have been successful. Such a combination frames the failure as a failure of character.

I fully believe that Caltech's messaging of "If you are admitted, then you can do it" maximizes student morale and, therefore, student success. As a teaching assistant who spent four years making sure students felt accepted and empowered in the classroom, I hate to leave a legacy telling anybody that they are incapable.

I realize now I'm the only one who can. No faculty, staff, or successful alumnus is in a place to put people down. Any enrolled student needs to maintain the illusion for their own sake; they must make it through, and any challenge to the idea that they can needs to be swiftly rejected. The only person who can say that failure is a real possibility is someone who has tried and failed.

Yet even those students might be ashamed of their experience. They might feel obligated to perpetuate the myth. In my final term, as I continued to engage with students and peers, I intentionally hid the circumstances behind my departure. I felt I would be doing a disservice if I made them question their ability to complete the curriculum.

I am publishing this piece because those students that are incapable of getting through it, if they are anything like me, feel scared, frustrated, and worst of all, incredibly alone. Since few share their experience failing out, students very well might feel like they are the only ones. I am not asking the Institute to change so that it works for all of its students. I am writing so that those students are a little less isolated and, hopefully, so they can consider that their failure is not their fault.

I understand this will make some students feel terrified. Remember that this is one experience. Mine should not be the only perspective you consider.

I do not blame faculty or staff. I recognize some students are inadequately supported by the administration and faculty. Caltech has a long way to go to be an equitable institution. It can be equally true that Caltech is not designed for some admitted students for reasons that are neither Caltech's fault nor the student's fault. If an environment is built for everyone, it will fail to adequately serve

anyone. Caltech's curriculum serves a purpose; I was not suited for that purpose, and that's OK. I am a human being. I have my limitations.

I do not blame admissions. I did impressive things in high school, and to their credit, I did so at Caltech too. I think it makes sense that Caltech admissions had a high level of confidence that I could be successful here; they have that same confidence in each and every student here. That confidence is not misplaced; even for those that cannot be successful here, there is a home for you and your talent.

Even if Caltech is not at fault, Caltech still has a responsibility to serve every student it admits, and the Institute refuses this responsibility by telling students they are all capable when that message is a lie. I genuinely believe this is the only way Caltech failed me.

Finally, I want to ensure I do not glorify leaving Caltech. I do not know what my future holds. I might not be OK in the way that Caltech students often mean it. This is a scary world, and a Caltech degree might be a golden ticket to a successful future. Candidly, my safety net privileges me to have this experience and to reflect back on it as positively as I am able to. For those who are truly grappling with their capability at the Institute, you are under no obligation to hold my perspective as correct. I just hope reading this makes you feel less alone and less miserable.

I owe my recovery from a dark place to dialectical behavioral therapy. This modality teaches radical acceptance: the ability to completely accept the world as it is. As a scientific institution, Caltech will challenge my argument. My view of reality is incomplete. At least, I ask the community to radically accept my experience, as difficult as it may be. In turn, I radically accept both Caltech, as it is, and my own limitations, and hold neither animosity nor regrets about my time at the Institute. After all, I found what I came here searching for: the truth made me free.

I would deeply appreciate any feedback or reassurance this piece landed the way I wanted. I can be reached at [contact@antonio-caceres.com](mailto:contact@antonio-caceres.com). My gratitude to you for your attention and to the Tech for publishing my writing.

## Editor's Note: We want to hear your perspective!

We strive to represent every voice in the Caltech Community with fairness, accuracy, and impartiality in our news reporting.

But we only ever seem to hear from alumni... :(

Please send submissions or letters to the Tech editorial team at

**tech@caltech.edu**

Submissions are due at 12 p.m. on the Saturday before each biweekly Tuesday publication.

# An Interview with Stuart Weitzman

Alicia Zhang  
Humans (at) Caltech

It was a bit of an enigma as to why he had chosen to speak at Caltech. A world famous luxury shoe designer, Stuart Weitzman, seems an unlikely visitor. After graduating from the Wharton School in 1963 at the University of Pennsylvania, Weitzman pushed his job offer at Goldman Sachs to pursue women's shoe designing. In 2019, UPenn named its school of design after him, and now seven years after stepping down from creative director, Weitzman travels around the country lecturing at various universities— and Caltech was next on his list. His story—one that champions creative risk-taking over conventional paths—carries particular resonance in this institution where innovation is currency.

Here stood a celebrity designer who had been on the red carpet numerous times— his brand name known by women worldwide— and his first impression of Caltech was Club Room 2 in the basement of Red Door. Plastic chairs and concrete walls aside, his warmth and genuine engagement offered a striking departure from the often merit-focused, technical conversations that dominate life at Caltech.

“When you work at your hobby, there is no retirement,” Weitzman smiles ruefully as he tells me about his beginnings and inspirations. While many end up at Caltech through years of intensive study and careful planning, Weitzman's entry into shoe designing came through serendipity—despite growing up with a family shoe factory, it was an unexpected detour that shaped his future. His journey stands in stark contrast to the calculated trajectories typical of Caltech students, and maybe there is something to learn from loosening our grip on the steering wheel.

He explains how he had painted stage backdrops throughout college for the theater troupe, but only for fun, “What can I say? I ended up in my hobby? Design was my hobby. I was artistic. I made things, built things. I was no Picasso, so I wasn't going to make a life out of it. But in the end, I did.” A classmate, noticing Weitzman's artistic talent, made an introduction to his father who was a shoemaker seeking fresh designs. After studying the manufacturer's style, Weitzman produced twenty sketches, to which he received a strange response. The craftsman selected one design, tore it to pieces, then turned over another paper. Pointing towards the blank page, he challenged Weitzman to recreate the design again, believing Weitzman had copied the shoe design from somewhere else. “I use this in all my interviews,” laughs Weitzman, “Two out of five designers have failed this for their portfolios.” When Weitzman successfully reproduced the torn design, the shoemaker made his offer: \$20 for each design, except the destroyed one. It was Weitzman's first taste of his potential in the industry. He had never made so much money for just an hour of his time.

“It's been my mantra, ‘two roads diverged in a wood and I took the one less traveled by and that has made all the dif-

ference,’” Weitzman tells me, referencing Robert Frost's poem, “The Road Not Taken”. The poem, which we both had to memorize in high school, became his lifelong mantra and inspired the title of his evening talk. “I will say that taking the road less traveled by in all aspects of my life and my business, has made all the difference,” Weitzman wonders to me. After he continued to sell shoe designs throughout college, and making more money than his tuition cost at the time, Weitzman decided to push back his job offer at Goldman Sachs in lieu of creating shoes. “So many people, they see the finish line and they run to it, just on the same path everyone else has. But if you can get there this way. It's fun. You come along the way, you pick up ideas that you wouldn't find on the traditional route. It's why the experience of a career is really invaluable, as much so, or more so, than the education.”

His anecdotes about the industry reveal all the careful steps he's taken along his path towards building a fashion house to rival giants like Prada. Weitzman served as both the CEO and creative director of his company— roles that are typically split between two people in traditional fashion houses like Prada, Chanel, Gucci, and Coach. Starting small meant Weitzman had to develop both skill sets along the way. “I did learn to be a businessman, and to be an entrepreneur. That's different than a businessman, you see,” explains Weitzman, “I think of the guys who run Procter and Gamble as businessmen, but the people who run smaller companies in niche industries— they're entrepreneurs. They do it right.” While Weitzman defied convention by wearing multiple hats, but he didn't do it entirely alone. Barbara Kreger, Weitzman's business partner, is the Vice President of Design & Sales and of Product Development; together they have navigated their way onto the playing field of industry giants like Chanel and Valentino. Their easy dynamic becomes apparent through the evening.

“There would be no Stuart Weitzman without Barbara,” Weitzman states.

Kreger, who has personally tested every shoe pattern they've designed together, brushes off the praise with an easy familiarity. “Don't say that,” she counters. “Of course it still would've happened. It would just be different.”

We explored his unconventional approaches, like avoiding outside investors and bank loans to maintain creative control, as Weitzman slowly grew his company. “I never hired anyone from a business school,” Weitzman says. “I thought creatives could learn that with us, since we're very good at business. I hired creative people. If someone's creative, they'll be a better marketer than someone who studies marketing in school.” His hiring philosophy was a stark contrast to my and other students' experiences in the current job market: “You know, if you bring someone into your company who's been somewhere else and learned their way and it doesn't mesh with what you're doing, it's impossible to change them, really, the spots are already there on the leopard. So I like people



who were leopards without spots, and then they would pick up ours.”

In explaining his deliberate, measured approach to growth, Weitzman reveals his Truisms, nuggets of wisdom, values, and “accepted truths” from his years as an entrepreneur:

“When you're an entrepreneurial business, you live an entrepreneurial life also, and it's just one in the same” and “If I live my life a little bit like I run my business, or vice versa, I end up having fun with both” along with “I did what wasn't done” and “not cutting any corners”

A patient, and steadfast man, Weitzman's commitment to sustainable growth and his vision remained consistent. “I went very slow. I had a CEO President once, got rid of him after nine months,” Weitzman exclaims, “He said he would have built this business five times as big in half the time to where it took me 10 more years. And I said, What would you have done? He said, ‘I would have bought one or two little companies to add to it. I would have borrowed so many millions from the bank to build’” But this did not align with Weitzman's values. “I didn't need to be the biggest guy on the block— I needed to have a solid business. I knew I was giving great jobs to great people, and also giving in general— we gave so much money to charity. AIDS was killing our industry. It was 40% gay designers and 30% gay employees, and the fashion industry took it [AIDS] on in an organization to raise hundreds and hundreds of millions”

As our conversation turned to paths not taken—specifically, regrets and his original plans for Wall Street—he shared his musings, “That's what business can do too. You know how much excitement that gave me on the first order I got from Neiman Marcus. Well, the results of something I did in Boston Children's Hospital with my daughter was triple the thrill of what Neiman Marcus gave me with my first order. It's good how you can do it with your family.”

It is evident that his success flows naturally from his instinct to elevate others and share credit freely. Weitzman's genuine commitment to supporting those around him explains why his achievements feel both earned and inevitable. “The truth is I couldn't do this alone, so I had to engage other people outside of my company, even, and to get them to want to do it, not just to do it because they're making a buck. Nobody needs people to take a job to make the money. We need people to take the job to help build our cathedral. They believe in the vision. They believe in the vision and help you build it. And there's a way to get them excited about it. And that's the entrepreneurial spirit.” He has assumed a more pedagogical

role now after endowing the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at UPenn in 2019.

“When I got involved with the design school, I insisted that if they wanted to be named after me because they were seeking international business— and I have a worldwide brand— then we insisted that a third of their courses had to be taken at the Wharton School.” Weitzman goes on to explain how everyone in life is a salesperson. Every day and in our careers, we are selling ourselves. After hearing a brief explanation of Caltech's curriculum, Weitzman responds, “Your students here are going to go into some world where they have to be entrepreneurs. And a school like this doesn't really emphasize that, doesn't teach it. You don't have entrepreneurial programs. But you know something, we are all salespeople. You are a salesperson. You're selling yourself every day, some way or another. And when you want a job, you're going to have to sell yourself.”

The changes that he made to the curriculum at the School of Design have already led to results. “The students, they are great architects, and [when] they got out in the world...10 years ago, they try to open an office. They don't know how to hire people. They don't know how to lead people. They don't know how to finance what they're doing. They haven't had experience in sourcing all the wonderful materials. Maybe they have to learn it as they go along. But now, now they graduate, and, oh wow, they have such success in opening offices and maintaining them.”

Now, Weitzman spends his days lecturing at universities about his entrepreneurship journey and mentoring students. He is a father of two daughters and an active philanthropist. He attributes his success to luck, hard work, and “laughing through life”. He has been extremely grateful for the successes of his passion, and in the solidarity and ability of the fashion industry to contribute as a force for good. he has numerous other philanthropic projects such as preserving the cave of La Garma, and building a Spanish-Jewish museum in Madrid, Spain where his shoe factory is based.

As our conversation drew to a close, Weitzman offered a piece of advice for the Caltech community. “Think about a mosquito in a nudist colony,” he laughs, his way of acknowledging the numerous choices that Caltech graduates have. “Think of, and be a part of the community. That is the way you will have the most fun.”

## Letter to the Editor re: Athletics in Admissions

Jim Angel  
BS '81, Dabney

I want to thank The Tech for the November 12th article “Athletics in Admissions.” I'm pleased that the Institute is phasing out preferences for athletes in admissions and returning solely to merit. I have no idea why Tech would ever have instituted such preferences in the first place. I doubt whether it would bring in any additional TV revenue, or any TV revenue at all.

I also doubt that we will attract any more of the students we want because our teams are losing fewer games. If a prospective student wants a party school that revolves around its sports teams, Tech is not it and is never going to be it.

I am very proud of the fact that our athletic teams are academically purer than at most universities. I brag constantly that my alma mater has the longest men's basketball losing streak in NCAA history - it demonstrates Caltech's uniqueness and our unwavering commitment to science. We get far better good publicity by NOT winning than by losing fewer games to local NCAA Division 3 teams. The publicity of a school that doesn't care about having a winning professional sports team supports our unique brand.

Athletic preferences are also an avenue to corruption of the admissions process. The university where I teach, Georgetown, was involved in the “Varsity Blue” athletic scandal like many other selective universities. Our ex-tennis coach was bribed to admit students who might not have been admitted otherwise. Given how extremely selective Tech is, I hope that the Institute investigates its program to make sure that there has been no corruption, and has strict policies and procedures in place to prevent such corruption.

I really treasure my experience playing varsity football at Caltech. Where else could a short, fat, uncoordinated klutz like me play on a university varsity football team, as I did in 1978? Even though I injured my knee, the experience helped launch me to where I am today. I owe many thanks to Caltech, Coaches Renfroe and Gutman, David Morrisroe, Charlie Plott, and many others.

Jim Angel, Dabney '81  
Member, Caltech Torchbearer Society

# Art and Photos Spotlight



“Waiting Room” by Lucas Ancieta



“Hot to Go” by Abraham Belaynch



“Mudd Sunset” by Natalia Hernandez



“The Institute” by Lucas Ancieta



“Between Seasons” by Sylvia Wang

**Alicia Zhang**  
The Outside World

## Local Holiday Events in Pasadena

Grab a friend and go holiday light-seeing!

**Holiday Light Spotting in the Neighborhoods: Christmas Tree Lane**  
Free, drive or walk  
5:30 pm - 12 am  
Santa Rosa Avenue, Altadena, CA

Come enjoy the true holiday spirit at one of the oldest Christmas light displays in a tradition going back over a hundred years. The all-volunteer group bedazzles nearly a mile of the street with lights lining all the trees in a beautiful display of community. Be sure to come to the Lighting Ceremony and Winter Festival on December 7 at the Altadena Public Library.

**Harbeck Lights Christmas Show**  
Free, drive or walk  
Opens December 2, nightly  
5:30 pm - 10:30 pm  
1215 Tropical Ave, Pasadena, CA 91107

Beginning December 7, this is the #1 House in Pasadena for their Christmas Light Show featuring over 100,000 channels of RGB color changing pixels! The show is a true Light Show that runs on a 16 minute loop with the lights synced to both classic and new Holiday songs. You can watch and listen to the show from the comfort of your car while tuning the radio to 99.1 FM to watch the lights synced to the music, or enjoy the show closeup on the sidewalk with a front row view.

**Upper Hastings Ranch Neighborhood**  
Free, drive or walk  
Until December 31, nightly 6 pm - 10 pm  
3725 E Sierra Madre Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107

Come see the whole neighborhood decorated in a festival of lights and driveway displays in a tradition that began in 1951. Drive through the themed streets while listening to your favorite holiday songs.

**Tree Lighting**  
Friday, December 6, 2024  
5 pm - 7 pm  
Pasadena City Hall

Pasadena’s Mayor Gordo will light the Pasadena Christmas tree at 6 pm, so come by bundled up and ready to feel the festive spirit. There will be local singers and dancers, crafts for kids provided by Armory Center for the Arts, and light refreshments.

**Snowfall at the Grove**  
The Americana at Brand, Glendale  
10 am - 10 pm

If you happen to be around at 7pm or 8pm, don’t be shocked when snow starts falling down. As you enjoy the farmers’ market underneath a towering Christmas tree and lights everywhere you turn, the Grove is the perfect place to get your holiday light fix while window shopping.

**Westfield Century City Mall**  
10 am - 9 pm, check for specific days  
10250 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA

Enjoy live performances, snowfall, and complimentary gift wrapping at the beautifully decorated Holiday Village at this mall in downtown LA.

**Lightscape**  
> \$29 tickets  
Now until January 2, 5:30 pm - 10 pm  
LA Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007

With food trucks and hot chocolate, marvel at the new nature-inspired installations such as a fiery garden, extended arch of light, dancing palms and the famous crystalline cathedral made of light.

**Animals Aglow**  
> \$29 tickets  
Now until January 7, 6 pm - 10 pm  
Los Angeles Zoo

The Los Angeles Zoo has set up incredible lantern sculptures of wild animals among plants and trees creating a beautiful, festive walkthrough to celebrate the holidays.

**Pasadena Rose Parade**  
January 1, 8 am - 10 am

If you’re in town on January 1st, be sure to check out the Rose Pasadena Parade, which has occurred nearly every year since 1890. It begins on the corner of Green Street and Orange Grove Blvd. in Pasadena. The parade travels north on Orange Grove Blvd., then turns east onto Colorado Blvd., where the majority of the parade viewing takes place and finally ends on Villa St.

**Recommended Food Spots:**  
Ginger Corner Market (5 minute walk on S Michigan Ave)  
Nha Trang (Old Pas)  
Factory Tea Bar (San Gabriel)  
Astro’s Family Diner (DTLA)



Harbeck Lights Christmas Show

# Meet Dr. Saeromi Kim, New Director of Counseling Services

**Maxwell Montemayor**  
Humans of Caltech

"I struggled in college so there is a personal connection for me, to be there for students who are struggling," says Dr. Saeromi Kim, Caltech's new Director of Counseling Services at Student Wellness Services (SWS). Dr. Kim, who uses she/they pronouns and is of Korean-Venezuelan ethnic backgrounds, came to Caltech after 13 years of counseling experience at UCLA. She herself has faced mental health and identity issues in college, as well as had to navigate the issues involved with being queer and an immigrant.

"In interviews, I actually start with my identities because they inform why I do what I do, and why it matters, and what I've chosen in my life," says Dr. Kim. "So, I tell people it's a complicated story."

Dr. Kim was born in Korea and moved to Venezuela when she was five. At 18, they enrolled in Brown university as an international student. However, she would come to face mental health issues in college: "I took a year off in the middle of sophomore and junior year because of mental health issues [...] as well as identity development questions," they say. "I felt really stuck, it's hard for an Asian to tell their Asian parents that you're going to take a year off."

Thanks to a program that helps students find work while on leave, they were able to take a year off to recover, and think more about where she wanted to go in life. She found work on a farm as a caretaker at a rehabilitation center for people with severe mental illnesses: "I don't know why they hired a 19 year old," she said, laughing.

For Dr. Kim, this is where her "mental health career, really, in some way, started." Not only did the experience spark her interest in this occupation, but it was where she learned an important lesson about the importance of community, for mental health.

"What's amazing is that I was just the helper," says Dr. Kim. "There were psychiatrists, counselors, and administrators, but I was the person who was sitting with folks every day." As that person, she was able to have an impact on these patient's lives. "I realized [...] that] what a lot of people need is passion and companionship. That farm helped me realize that it can't just be one person [...] it has to be an actual community response, and environment matters."

After working on the farm for a year, she came back to Brown and changed their major from comparative literature to psychology. "I felt much more focused," says Dr. Kim. Though right after graduating, things were not as straightforward.

"As an international student, I wasn't sure what to do next, especially because I had also come out as queer." She did not "think going back to Venezuela would be safe" because of her identity, so she decided to stay in the US, and first figure out how to "live as a queer person."

Because she needed a visa, Dr. Kim took the first job she could get. Working in the admissions department of Brown, they worked with underrepresented students and pre-college enrichment programs. They then got a PhD in psychology at Clark University, and worked as a clinical psychologist at

Connecticut College, Rhode Island College, Wellesley College, and UCLA, before coming to Caltech.

## A Community-Based Approach

During her 13 years at UCLA, Dr. Kim learned the importance of personalized treatment, as well as a community-level approach. She spent seven of these years as assistant clinical director at UCLA's Counseling and Psychological Services, where she oversaw community outreach efforts. Expanding access to care for minoritized, undocumented, and international students, Dr. Kim gained experience adapting counseling services for a wide diversity of students. From this, she realized "you can't just do mental health one way [...] there are all these different, completely different populations and groups."

Though she also learned the importance of a community-based approach to counseling, Dr. Kim saw the impact of the national crisis in mental health first-hand at her office: "between 2007 and 2017 [we ...] went from a small team, like 30, and [we] were 100 when I left [...] and it was still incredibly busy and [we] still had very long waits. We had to put in a triage system."

She recognized that in order to prevent mental health resources from being inundated, a different approach, one that is more focused on improving student conditions, must be taken: "We also have to think about what we're doing on a community level that's going to help the students [...] or else our clinics are just going to get bigger and bigger and bigger because more people are hurting because their communities and environments are hostile or oppressive or not supportive enough. We can't do that."

Dr. Kim acknowledged how students have raised concerns about wait times and other issues regarding Caltech's counseling services. She explained that building a more compassionate community can help reduce strain on our mental health resources by preventing mental health issues from arising in the first place.

What does building a more compassionate community entail? Dr. Kim explains that this means creating a community where, "everybody has the obligation and responsibility to do wellness, not just the counseling center [...] Rather than a dean saying, 'just go to counseling', can the Dean have a conversation with you? Compassion doesn't always mean just saying yes to anything a student is asking for. Compassion means, yes, this person needs to graduate, and this person needs to do well. But can we show some flexibility? Can we show some compassion? It makes a huge difference."

Enacting campus-wide change is something she hopes to do as the director of counseling services. "That's why I went for a director job," says Dr. Kim. "While I really enjoy the one-on-one... I want to be able to work at a more systemic level so we can try to figure out what it is that is creating this much pain and suffering."

## Identity

Dr. Kim's office is as colorful as her bubbly personality. On her walls and shelves are a variety of art pieces and mementos that represent her intersectional identity, storied past, and

varied interests. These include figurines from Venezuela and Korea, advocacy art for trans women, and gifts from previous clients and coworkers. "I just feel more like me when I have these things around me. It's not like I was born today; I have all this history. So it's really helpful."

Dr. Kim enthusiastically described some of her favorite items, for example, her Russian nesting dolls. "You know, they are just like people, we always have another layer and another layer and different parts of us. Not only because of that, but I just think they're adorable."

Another is her wooden elephant carving: "I love elephants [...] Elephants are very community-minded. Elephants are always looking after everybody else while also trying to take care of themselves."

Outside of work, Dr. Kim likes following non-binary and women's sports leagues, the Dodgers, attending LGBTQ advocacy events like pride parades, and playing pool. Their partner is non-binary trans, so she also likes to attend other trans-affirming events. "I was president of the Los Angeles pool league until just recently, because this job is keeping me very busy, and I can't lead a whole other organization," she chuckles.

## Continuing Their Listening Tour

Since they have stepped foot on campus, Dr. Kim has embarked on a "listening tour" of Caltech. To gain a better understanding of the campus community, she has been researching Caltech as well as talking to students and faculty. "Caltech is so unique. I get it's a little bit of a unicorn. I can't just transfer my knowledge from past places [...] I'm gonna be on a listening tour for at least a year. And of course, it just continues, the listening tour never stops." Showing their commitment to said tour, they proceeded to ask me about Caltech after our interview and expressed interest in talking to more student leaders.

The fact that the Caltech community has a voice to be heard is something that Dr. Kim appreciates: "I'm very grateful, because I feel like I am at a time when people have been vocally advocating." She mentioned reading articles in the Tech regarding student life issues, and says she's excited for the upcoming SFC (Student-Faculty Conference) and SLEC (Student Life and Experience Conference). "There's some schools where that's not even happening," she says. "All of that work is like a dream for a director coming in. The conversation has already started."



Dr. Kim poses with their Russian nesting dolls.



A painting in Dr. Kim's office symbolizes their Korean-Venezuelan background.

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# The science of thought: philosophical insights into scientific practice

## I Know I Don't Know

Camilla Fezzi  
Column

I am more than sure that all of you have already heard of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the masters of ancient classical philosophy. There would not have been a beginning without them and none of the greatest philosophers, even of the contemporary age, would have managed to develop a single concrete idea. Think of Immanuel Kant who still criticized Plato during the period of the Enlightenment (1750).

Many think that Caltech is a completely STEM university, where there is no room for humanities courses, and in some ways it is, to be honest. However, as soon as I arrived and started to settle into the daily life of this university, I realized how much the thoughts of these philosophers completely influence the approach, the method, and the education of this university. It might seem strange to you, but let's navigate deeper by asking ourselves how these cornerstones of philosophy live with us every day.

Let's start with the first, Socrates, a man to marry in my opinion (but for now I haven't found any Socrates available, the search will be particularly difficult... I think) he was the true creator and master of philosophy as we know it, he was the first to define the concept of philosophy, coining the same term. It derives from the Greek form *FILOS* which means "friend" and *SOFIA* which means wisdom; therefore, concretely, all philosophers love wisdom. Let's stop for a second — "love wisdom" — isn't that what we're here for? Dare mighty things, daring, researching, through the immense and profound passion that unites us, even if in different subjects, but related to the common good, to the love of science and knowledge.

So let's high-five ourselves, we are all philosophers here, even without a wig on a statue in the Acropolis of Athens, we are philosophers because we research science, we love discoveries, and we sail to obtain them.

Socrates never wrote anything in his life and everything we know about him was written by his pupil and disciple Plato (so be careful professors because if you have a post-doc who likes to write... maybe you'll end up in some newspaper!). We might ask ourselves why he never wrote anything. He was a star throughout Athens — everyone knew him and waited to hear him every day, especially the young people. From here comes the famous phrase that is documented "I KNOW I DON'T KNOW." What? According to Socrates, it was not possible to have a complete truth, in short, wisdom consists in recognizing one's ignorance and being aware of the limitations of one's knowledge. In other words, "knowing that you don't know" means recognizing that there are many

things we don't know and can't know completely. And don't we do this every day as students? We listen, we participate in lessons, and we write and study because we are constantly searching for knowledge, which deep down we know does not exist. We could never be Omniscient, Caltech in some way encourages us to be, or at least to try to obtain the much coveted Swedish medal, yet each of us, professors, students, graduate students, and workers, is aware of having a limit, as Socrates.

He didn't feel worthy of writing because he didn't know the real and complete truth. Here we come to another maxim of Socrates "A life without research is not worth living for man." Wait, wait! We live this every day! With Socrates we have the first definition of a life dedicated to philosophy, in which knowledge is never placed as a final and definitive term, but as a road to follow until death. Caltech is considered one of the best universities in the world for research, we fight every day to find answers, even partial ones, for a concept, a topic, or a hypothesis (Galilean scientific method). Reflecting on these words, I would say that the admissions office would have admitted Socrates (pragmatic reflection).

Analyzing more deeply, the central point around which the philosophical figure of Socrates revolves is the link between virtue, knowledge, and happiness. By virtue, we mean the realization of right actions and the pursuit of moral good. Doesn't it remind us of something that is continually in our subconscious — the Honor Code? Moral good in turn arises from knowledge. Socrates believes that man does good when he knows what good consists of; vice versa, immoral actions arise from ignorance.

Pursuing virtue through knowledge leads to happiness. Wait, what does all this mean? Welcome to the great soup of philosophy! To understand these things you have to read the text three, four, infinite times, and sometimes you don't understand anyway (especially with abstruse philosophers like Hegel, rest in peace but you made me suffer last year!), but from the beginning, the question is why these people thought so much. I think they had a good time!

Let's get serious again. In Socrates' vision, happiness consists in corresponding to one's nature. Since man is by nature a social animal, says Socrates, his task is to live in the community and contribute to the good of the community through his actions. Therefore, if through adequate knowledge of what good is, man behaves in a virtuous manner, he realizes himself, and his nature as a social animal, and therefore can be said to be happy. For Socrates, good cannot be defined once and for all. Man, through the use of reason, must ask himself from time to time what good consists of.

Socrates, from this point of

view, supports man's ability to arrive at a correct understanding of the good through reason, controlling the instincts that instead lead him towards vice. In this sense, Socrates adheres to an entire tradition of values summarized in the motto "know thyself" (*gnothi sauton*), which incites man to pursue moderation, to understand ethical limits not to be exceeded. This position is defined as moral rationalism = that is, moral action is determined by the ability of reason to control instincts. Do you think that I went up the stairs of my school when I had the Greek version and there was an engraving of this Socratic maxim, in my mind I said to myself "Yes yes, I know myself", but do we know each other? Let's reflect on these words.

*GNOTHY* from Greek is a medium-passive imperative, now we don't go into grammar, but we know when a verb is passive, that is when we undergo an action, therefore we "undergo" the action of knowing ourselves, of being. Medium, however, no longer exists in any language, not even in modern Greek: it consists of doing an action with great intensity, almost as if we were acting with an internal will. So if "the medium" existed in English we would use it when we say "I want the Christmas holidays to arrive". This is an action that we desire with all of ourselves. Socrates uses the middle passive because he believes, as written before, that the action of knowing is something internal, strong, and uncontrollable carried out by our "vital breath". Yes, Socrates (and here I return to the genius of this man) was the first to talk about soul (*PSYXE*) which is much more than breath, it is spirit. *SAUTON* is a reflexive pronoun with object complement, so let's return to the fact of interiority, of seeking oneself in the fact that good cannot be defined once and for all and that its understanding arises from constantly asking oneself what the good consists, there is the essence of what Socrates means by knowledge. True knowledge is never taking a certain truth for granted but putting every truth, every supposition knowledge, always under discussion.

The very essence of philosophy lies in this path to knowledge. The wise man, Socrates claims, is the one who, precisely, knows that he does not know.

There is an immense difference between the Italian/European system and the American one that I am experiencing and which I am approaching and perhaps hopefully getting used to. Memorization is the basis of everything, I have spent years memorizing notions and, of course, this has developed my mnemonic ability, but I now find myself in a place where everything is the opposite and there is a clear similarity with the continuation of the thought of Socrates. THE so-called maieutics. Or give birth to the



The School of Athens is a fresco created between 1509 and 1511 by the Italian Renaissance painter Raffaello Sanzio and is located in the Stanza della Segnatura, one of the four "Vatican Rooms", located inside the Apostolic Palaces. It is one of the most important pictorial works in the Vatican Museums in Rome. In the Center, we can find Plato and Aristotle. On the left with the green dress explaining his truth, there is Socrates. It is interesting actually to see that Plato has his hand pointed toward the sky, because his philosophy is mainly focused on ideas and abstract reality, Aristotle, instead, points his hand toward the earth meaning his philosophy is concrete and rational. We will focus on these guys next time!

truth. Every problem set, every Quiz, and exam encourages us to "give birth" and mature, a truth through our knowledge. Socrates, in 470 BC, was looking for the same thing. According to Socrates, truth is present in each of us. The problem is that to get there we need to do some digging that involves incessant examination of what we believe is right.

For this reason, Socrates developed an educational method called maieutic dialogue. Let's try to understand what this dialogue consists of, but first make two premises:

1. As the term suggests, the method is based on dialogue between two interlocutors. This first element is already particularly significant: Socrates does not believe in the written word, as we said before. The road to knowledge is instead - says Socrates - an always open road, which develops through the comparison between multiple points of view. Collaboration? But not too much!

2. The second necessary premise is that the Socratic dialogue is based on the presence of an interlocutor who, through his questions, helps the second interlocutor to bring out the truth. This passage is also significant: the true master, the true wise man, is not the one who possesses the truth and transmits it to the other, to the student. Rather, he is the one who acts as a support to direct the other on the path to knowledge. The professors?

There's plenty of space to reflect! But what are the steps of the method?

1. The first moment is that of irony = the person leading the dialogue asks a series of questions to his interlocutor, trying to understand what he thinks he knows about a certain topic. The teacher's attitude is ironic in the sense that the teacher pretends to agree with the interlocutor, to be impressed by his knowledge. In short, we are in Los Angeles and Hollywood, Socrates had already anticipated what would happen. This fiction, however, only serves to make the other fully express what he thinks he knows about a certain topic.

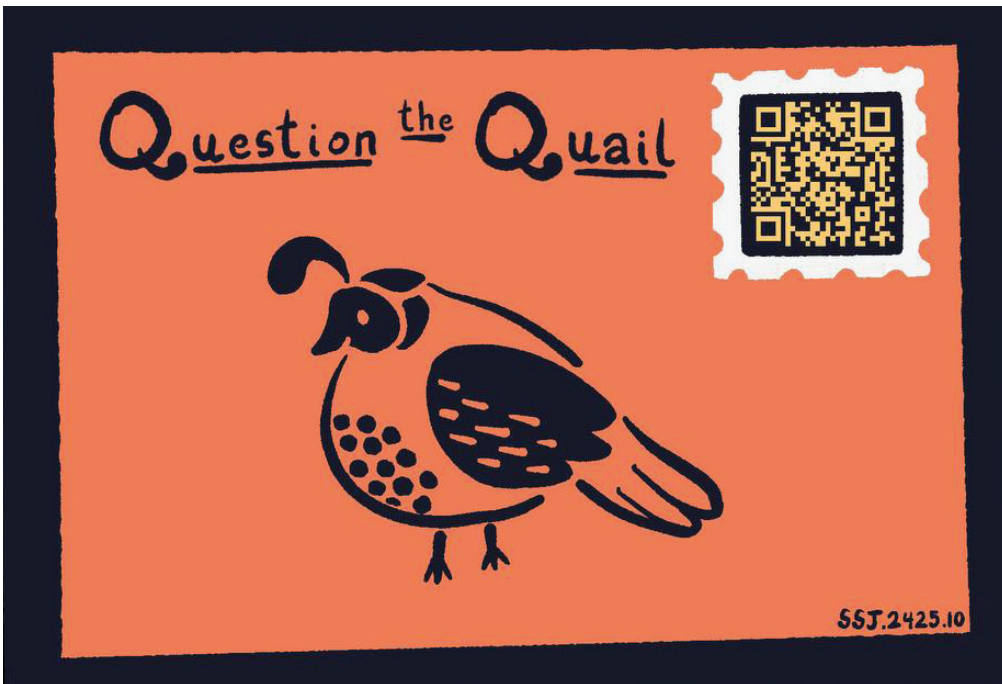
2. The second moment is that of the examination = the truths

that have emerged are at this point subjected by the teacher to a rigorous check, with the aim of analyzing whether this knowledge is solid or whether it rests on contradictory elements and fragile foundations. The purpose of this exam is to lead the interlocutor to question his position until he has made a clean sweep of his knowledge.

3. The third moment is the maieutic one = the term maieutics refers to the art of giving birth. In this step of the method, the master helps the student to bring out the truths he possesses within himself, in the same way a midwife helps a woman give birth to her child. Also, in this case, support comes from examining the knowledge that emerges, to analyze whether it is based on solid foundations. This test, another important element to underline, is based on a method called brachylogical. That is, it is based on dry, concise questions, which aim to produce concise answers. The simple question "What is it?" is the essential question of the dialogue because it has the aim of producing a concise answer in the interlocutor, which defines the object being talked about through definitions that are as essential as possible.

I would say that there are so many connections between Socratic thought and Caltech, I would never have said it, I have to be honest! Therefore, when we fall into the search for truth, into assiduous perfectionism, and the desire for omniscience, let us remember what Socrates wrote. Knowledge is what allows us to achieve happiness, but we will never be able to know everything, happiness is therefore a process of constant search. In addition, we give birth to our truths, because deep down everyone has them. It is a path of collaboration and extraction, but every class teaches us this. Every demonstration is a demonstration of the truth we have inside, of the numbers we see, of the results we aim for, of a limit that tends towards zero or infinity. They are truths that man has managed to achieve after years and so step by step, by knowing ourselves, we will be able to achieve.





**A SATIRE advice column about alive,ahaha, and everything in between!**

**Hello quail, I've recently been feeling quite lonely. I feel like none of the people at this school truly understand me. Theyre always telling me I'm too "wild" or am acting "feral". I dont really know what to do, they all seem so tame and boring.**

Greetings wild child.

Ah, well you see, theres your problem. You're trying to interact with *people*. I have some good friends around campus I can let know to introduce themselves.

Coyote: My favorite of the bunch. She's quite the character. A bit on the misunderstood side tho. She's cautious of new folks, but also knows how to hollar and howl with her friends, she's a riot once you get to know her.

Turtle: You'd think she stays in her shell, but honestly she does quite the opposite. I have seen her make her way all around campus. I honestly dont even know how she gets the places she does, shes quite the adventurer. Usually hangs out around Caltech Hall, but I often see her up by Baxter or even down by the houses.

Isopod: He is the shy one of the bunch. Loves to curl up with a good book. He likes to exist around any quiet spot on campus, but I've noticed he tends to prefer to be near Venerable or Bechtel.

Lizard: A very active little spitfire. You can often find her running or doing push-ups, or sunbathing to recharge. I most often see her running by CSS or down by the gym.

Parrot: A very talkative fellow. Also quite the prankster. Ive heard he likes to drop oranges near people and laugh. He's so iconic for that one tbh. He's quite the socialite, is all around campus, no one spot in particular.

Peacock: Parrot's more flamboyant friend. I'm pretty sure he's from out of town, but he visits occasionally. I wish he'd visit more, he's got a truly incredible voice. Sometimes you can see him and his friends down in the rich people neighborhoods, I saw him at a house party the other week. Also why can I say peacock, and no one bats an eye...

Opossum: If I thought I rarely see Peacock, I almost never see 'possum. I've seen her jogging by the north houses once or twice, but I think she sleeps most all day. She's honestly so real for that one.

—quail

**Howdy Quail, I've been wishing for a new drink to try. Regular soda really isn't hitting the same anymore. Everything just feels so lame these days. I need something new to reinvigorate my tastebuds. Any recs?**

Oh yes.. ohhhhh yess. My Pop sneaking Pal, do I have the concoction for you. If you go to the dollar tree, you can get four (4) cans of cotton candy faygo for one dollar and twenty five cents (\$1.25). This drink,,,,, oh this drink,,,,, this soda has changed me. It's made me a better bird. Everything good in my life, I can attribute to cotton candy faygo. The flavor is just

unmatched. The pure unapologetic artificiality of the flavor is so beautiful. It's bright neon blue is more beautiful than the sky above. Idk what the fuck they make this shit with but whatever it is it's gotta be mOthErfUckIn MirAcLEs :o) God he is so tasteyyy, nothing can compare. You would be doing yourself a disservice if you didn't go down to the dollar tree and buy every single can they have. This shit is literally life changing, I swear. If you try him and think otherwise you literally are so incorrect and you should come fight me in the dennys parking lot.

—quail

Uh,,, um,,,, hey quail,,,, uh,,,, \*blushes\*,,, uh,,,, so,, I've,, been crushing pretty bad on someone \*looks away bashfully\*,,,,, theyre really handsome and witty and smart and gives great advice,,,,, \*flushes\* god,,, someone like that would be my absolute dream,,,, angway,,,, uh,,, what uh,,, what would you say if someone had a crush on you???? PURELY THEORETICALLY OF COURSE!! Haha,,,, <pleading emoji> <eyes emoji>

hm, what an interesting predicament you've found yourself in. I personally don't think anyone's ever had a crush on me, so it's a moot point. I think whoever you're youre crushing for sounds like a swell individual though. Honestly, if you weren't already crushing on this person I'd go after them myself haha. I think you should go confess to them yourself :) Hell, you could even say just exactly what you've said here! I think it would work great :D Only a fool would let such a genuine confession go over their head. You should really try reaching out to this individual, don't just tell me!

—quail

**Hey quail, One of my friends is really into horses. It's his birthday soon. Do you have any recommendations for a fun food to make for him? I think cake is boring**

I have the perfect recipe for you!  
All you need is  
🐾 one jar  
🐾 calpico - either lychee or white peach flavor  
🐾 gelatin (can be subbed for agar agar powder if your friend is vegan)  
🐾 a small horse figurine

It's super easy to prepare! Only a few short steps!

- 🐾 heat a portion of your calpico
- 🐾 add in your gelatin (according to the ratios on the package)
- 🐾 stir until the gelatin is dissolved
- 🐾 add in the remaining cold calpico
- 🐾 pour into a jar
- 🐾 add your figurine
- 🐾 allow to set
- 🐾 serve :)

I'm sure your friend will love it! People always love it when I serve this at parties.

—quail

To submit questions for next issue's "Question the Quail", scan the QR code above.

# Fill Out Your TQFRs!


Sing the praises of your favorite professors and TAs!

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# Man vs. Mannion: Competitive Restaurant Reviewing

*Want to be the next to take on the Mannion? Email [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)*



## HK Macau Bistro



**Nora Xiao**

*has been waiting for this moment since February*

Shredded chicken. This was the unsung hero of the meal. Expertly seasoned and cooked to tender perfection, it delivered a burst of umami with every bite.

Sweet & sour pork. This pork came with an ideal crispy shell that hugged juicy chunks of meat, topped off with a sweet-and-tangy sauce that didn't drown the dish but enhanced it. Pineapple chunks added a zing of acidity that made the whole thing addictive. One of the most balanced renditions of this classic dish I've had in a while.

Curry Beef. Finally, a dish that lived up to its "curry" moniker! The beef chunks were tender and well-marinated, while hearty potatoes soaked up the flavorful sauce. It didn't steal the spotlight, but it played its supporting role to perfection.

Curry noodles with pork. Comforting? Yes. Exceptional? Not quite. The noodles were chewy, the pork was well-seasoned, but the curry itself seemed to have forgotten to RSVP. It's a solid choice if you're not feeling adventurous but won't leave you raving.

HK-Style combo. This was the sampler platter of the meal. The BBQ pork hit the flavor notes you'd expect—smoky, savory, and sweet. The steamed chicken, while tender and served with a nice ginger pulp sauce, was a bit overshadowed by the shredded chicken's brilliance. Still, a respectable showing.

Service was speedy, and while the staff wasn't overly dotting, they got the job done efficiently. The eclectic mix of dishes on the menu—from French fries to filet mignon—was surprising, though it hints at Hong Kong's history as a melting pot of East and West. While it's a 10-minute drive to make the trek, the food makes it worth the trip—at least once.

Would I come back? Absolutely. The pineapple buns and shredded chicken have earned a permanent spot in my cravings catalog. The rest of the menu, while tasty, gives me room to explore more of what this bistro has to offer. If you're in the mood for nostalgic Hong Kong flavors with a touch of whimsy, HK Macau Bistro is worth a roll of the mahjong dice.



**Tom Mannion**  
*last issue's wiener*

HK Macau Bistro is located at 708 E. Las Tunas Dr. in San Gabriel. It is in the same strip as Chongqing Special Noodles – a long time favorite of mine. What initially caught my eye for HK Macau Bistro is the 8am to 12am daily operating hours. It has been much harder to find decent late night places in the area since the Covid shutdown. The restaurant seats around 60 people in a setting best described as Asian diner. There is a very large neon skyscape sign on one wall and street signs from various Hong Kong/Macau neighborhoods scattered on other walls. Many of the tables are topped with mahjong boards and tiles which are then covered with a glass top.

We started with a Buttered Pineapple Bun. One important note to mention is that Hong Kong pineapple buns do not have an pineapple in them – the pineapple comes more from the appearance. These buns had the standard crunchy crumb cake-like topping. If I were to order these again I would order one of the pineapple bunch sandwiches on the menu.

The HK Style Sweet and Sour Pork was quite nice. A crispy corn starch based coating covered a fatty but tasty meat. The morsels were puffy and crunchy and the pineapple appeared to be fresh. What made this dish stand out was that the vinegar was used perfectly, not too sweet, not too sour – near perfect. Not sure what made this "HK style", but I would certainly recommend it.

The Curry Brisket Lo Mein failed in one major way – there was absolutely no curry flavor in the dish at all. The brisket was nicely cooked with an appropriate amount of smoke present in the bark. The noodles had decent texture, but, like the long grain rice served with other dishes, were a bit dry.

The Macau Beef Curry did have a nice curry flavor. The potatoes were browned before adding to the curry and were enjoyable both from a textural and flavor perspective. The meat was very fatty. But among the connective tissue I found tasty pieces of beef. The kitchen at this restaurant must really do a lot of advance preparation. There are over 200 items on the menu, yet the dishes all come out quickly – even those with meats that must have been braised for hours.

The Two Meat Plate was fine. The two meats were chicken wings and Char Su pork. The wings had a tasty gelatinous skin that went well with the ginger sauce accompanying them. The Char Su pork game with a soy sauce based sauce and was fine, but nothing special.

Saving the best for last, the HK Style Shredded Chicken was awesome. This dish is served cold. By serving it cold, no one part of the dish releases enough volatiles to take over the flavor profile processed through the nose. As you eat this dish, the textures and flavors come to life in your mouth with no warning from the nose. The result is an amazing gelatinous chicken skin which had been marinated before steaming to achieve a perfect balance of taste, texture, flavor and color. When combined with the cilantro, sesame seeds, green onion, and light sauce what results is a truly awesome flavor profile. I would probably order this very early in your meal, even as an appetizer.

HK Macau Bistro was worth the visit. Only one dish disappointed, and a couple really impressed me. This is not where you would go for a gourmet meal, but the fact that there is somewhere, not far from campus, where you can get tasty, authentic Chinese food at all hours is a win for all!

*Who reviewed it better? Let us know at [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)*

# This Moment in Time: A Celebration of Ephemerality

Michael Gutierrez  
Culture

At the beginning of the fall term, the Caltech Pond Bridge was transformed by artist Lita Albuquerque into a gold foil installation — the largest she has made to date — dubbed *This Moment in Time*. It's part of a larger art exhibit at Caltech called **Crossing Over: Art and Science at Caltech**. Presented as part of the Getty's PST ART: Art & Science Collide program, Crossing Over spans six distinct indoor and outdoor venues on Caltech's campus, featuring an array of scientific drawings, paintings, photographs, films, instruments, molecular models, and rare archival materials from the histories of Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). **The exhibits are only here until December 15th, so make sure to go and visit them before winter break!**

Apparently, some people couldn't wait until December 15th to walk over the bridge, which has been gradually sullied with footprints over the course of the term. This came as somewhat of a disappointment to Albuquerque.

"I guess people aren't used to seeing art in this kind of setting," she remarked during an interview with the *Tech*. "It [being an inconvenience] was certainly something I thought about, but I hoped that people would see the beauty and walk around it. But how do people actually respond to such annoyances? Not with a ton of care, it seems."

While not intended to be an inconvenience, Albuquerque reflected that "in a way, [the bridge] calls for people to interact with it — human intervention." She had hoped that the human intervention could be more controlled. "Once it's uncontrolled, it's something else. It's still interesting, but not the original intention."

Even so, Albuquerque remains very pleased with how the exhibit turned out.

"Every time you see it, it's another 'moment in time.'"



*This Moment in Time* by Lita Albuquerque. Photo Credit: Chris Hanke, Michael Gutierrez

## From the Exhibit Plaque:

Lita Albuquerque's installation *This Moment in Time* commemorates the first exhibition of her work at Caltech's Baxter Art Gallery in 1974. Her use of artificial gold leaf refers to the origin of gold and other elements through stellar nucleosynthesis, a process first theorized in 1946 by astronomer Fred Hoyle (1915-2001) and later refined by Caltech physicist William Fowler (1911-1995) in collaboration with Hoyle and Margaret (1919-2020) and Geoffrey Burbidge (1925-2010). Their landmark 1957 paper "Synthesis of the Elements in Stars" (also known as "B2FH" for the initials of its authors) provided compelling theoretical and experimental evidence that nearly all the chemical elements in the universe originated in nuclear fusion reactions within stars. This was the finding that later prompted astronomer Carl Sagan (1934-1996) to famously exclaim that "we are made of star stuff."



# Regarding the A in STEAM

Theodore Havel  
Culture

This past summer I was walking on campus when in a window I saw something I would not expect to see at a technical school — a flyer with the following poem printed on it:

I don't care how God-damn smart  
these guys are: I'm bored.  
It's been raining like hell all day  
long  
and there's nothing to do

and a photo of Caltech's first and only poet in residence, Richard Brautigan.

The more I thought about it, however, I realized that there is a strong connection between science and poetry. They both have ways of drawing our attention and awareness to what we otherwise might not see. Poetry can simplify the complex in the same way that the scientific method can. In this way, the two are not dissimilar.

Around 1939, Carl Sagan wrote

It is an exhilarating experience to read poetry and observe its correlation with modern science.

It is believed that he wrote this for his high school newspaper in his middle teens, and it remains true to this day.

Katie Mack is a Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics, currently holding the Hawking Chair in Cosmology and Science Communication at the Premier Institute in Canada. Her poem *Disorientation* was publicly released on the North Carolina State College of Sciences News website at the beginning of 2019. It reads as follows:

I want to make you dizzy

I want to make you look up into the sky and comprehend, maybe for the first time, the darkness that lies beyond the evanescent wisp of the atmosphere, the endless depths of the cosmos, a desolation by degrees

I want the Earth to turn beneath you and knock your balance off, carry you eastward at a thousand miles an hour, into the light, and the dark, and the light again. I want you to watch the Earth rising up to meet the rays of the morning sun

I want the sky to stop you dead in your tracks on your walk home tonight, because you happened to glance up and among all the shining pinpricks you recognized one as of the light of an alien world

I want you to taste the iron in your blood and see its likeness in the rust-red sands on the long dry dunes of Mars, born of the same nebular dust that coalesced random flotsam of stellar debris into rocks, oceans, your own beating heart

I want to reach into your consciousness and cast it outward, beyond the light of other suns, to expand it like the universe, not encroaching on some envelope of emptiness, but growing larger, unfolding inside itself

I want you to see your world from four billion miles away, a tiny glint of blue in the sharp white light of an ordinary star in the darkness. I want you to try to make out the boundaries of your nation from that vantage point, and fail

I want you to feel it, in your bones,

in your breath, when two black holes colliding a billion light years away sends a tremor through spacetime that makes every cell in your body stretch, and strain

I want to make you nurse nostalgia for the stars long dead, the ones that fused your carbon nuclei and the ones whose last thermonuclear death throes outshined the entire galaxy to send a single photon into your eye

I want you to live forward but see backward, farther and deeper into the past, because in a relativistic universe you don't have any other choice. I want the stale billion-year-old starlight of a distant galaxy to be your reward

I want to utterly disorient you and let you navigate back by the stars. I want you to lose yourself, and find it again, not just here, but everywhere, in everything

I want you to believe that the universe is a vast, random, uncaring place, in which our species, our world, has absolutely no significance. And I want you to believe that the only response is to make our own beauty and meaning and to share it while we can

I want to make you wonder what is out there. What dreams may come in waves of radiation across the breadth of an endless expanse. What we may know, given time,

and what splendors might never, ever reach us

I want to make it mean something to you. That you are in the cosmos. That you are of the cosmos. That you are born from stardust and to stardust you will return. That you are a way for the universe to be in awe of itself.

This poem had such a profound effect on me as a 12-year-old in quarantine that I recorded it in my own voice in GarageBand and laid Lo-fi beats that I wrote over it.

Returning to the theme of rain mentioned in Brautigan's poem, I leave you with one of the most famous poems on Earth:

so much depends  
upon  
a red wheel  
barrow  
glazed with rain  
water  
beside the white  
chickens

—William Carlos Williams,  
Physician & Poet, 1923

### The California Tech Journalistic Principles

#### The News-Opinion divide

All articles shall be clearly and explicitly labeled as either News or Opinion/Editorial.

News articles report on topics that have been thoroughly researched by Tech staff writers, and should be impartial to any one point of view. In a News article, the writer shall not insert their own personal feelings on the matter; the purpose is to let the facts speak for themselves. The Tech assumes full responsibility for all content published as News.

In contrast, Opinion articles (including Letters to the Editor) may be written and submitted by anyone on any topic; while the Tech will edit all published Opinions to ensure no wrong or misleading information, we do not otherwise interfere. Again, the role of the Tech here is to help the whole campus communicate their ideas and share their stories, not promote specific ones. Content published as Opinions do not necessarily represent the values of the Tech or our staff.

An exception to this is Editorials, which are written by Tech staff and represent official opinions of the Tech. Any information and sources in Editorials shall be held to the same standard as News reports, but there is no promise or expectation of impartial coverage.

#### Fair Reporting

All facts of major significance and relevance to an article shall be sought out and included.

If an assertion is made by a source about a specific person or organization, they shall be contacted and given a reasonable amount of time to respond before publication. In other words, no second-hand information or hearsay shall stand on its own.

Sources' opinions are just that — opinions. Expert opinions are certainly given more weight, as are witness opinions. But whenever possible, the Tech shall report facts, or at least corroborate the opinions. A reporter's observations at a scene are considered facts for the purposes of a story.

#### Sources

All sources shall be treated with respect and integrity. When speaking with sources, we shall identify ourselves as Tech reporters and clarify why we would like to hold an interview. Sources for the Tech will never be surprised to see their name published.

In published content, we shall put our sources' quotes into context, and — as appropriate — clarify what question was being answered.

We always ask that a source speak with us on the record for the sake of journalistic integrity. We want our audience to receive information that is credible and useful to them. Named sources are more trustworthy than unnamed sources because, by definition, unnamed sources will not publicly stand by their statements.

That being said, we realize that some sources are unwilling to reveal their identities publicly when it could jeopardize their safety or livelihood. Even in those cases, it is essential that the Tech Editor-in-Chief knows the identity of the source in question. Otherwise, there can be no certainty about whether the source and their quotes were falsified.

This also applies for Letters to the Editor and Opinion submissions to the Tech. If the author requests that their piece is published anonymously, they must provide a reason, and we shall consider it in appropriate circumstances. No truly anonymous submissions shall be published. Conversely, no submissions shall be published with the author's name without their consent.

When we choose not to identify a source by their full name, the article shall explain to readers why.

#### Corrections Policy

We strive for promptness in correcting all errors in all published content. We shall tell readers, as clearly and quickly as possible, what was wrong and what is correct.

Corrections to articles will be immediately updated on the online version of the Tech at tech.caltech.edu. If appropriate, corrections will also be published in the following Tech print issue.

#### Honor Code Applies

In any remaining absence of clarity, the Honor Code is the guiding principle.

# The California Tech CalGuesser

#17



Every issue we'll show you a different location on campus. Find the place and find the QR code hidden there to sign the log book and **maybe win a fabulous prize???**

*"On campus" is defined as the convex hull of the buildings shown on [caltech.edu/map/campus](https://caltech.edu/map/campus).*

*The QR code will be hidden somewhere within the pictured area.*

### CalGuesser #16 – November 12, 2024

Congrats, you found it!  
Leave your name/pseudonym, year/department, and date found :)

This week's fabulous prize is a ticket to visit the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Museum!  
We have 4 total to give away, courtesy of Gregory Miller. Thanks!!!

#### FABULOUS PRIZE WINNERS:

(solo finders can claim at most one ticket, groups can claim at most two tickets - regardless of group size. honor code applies!)

- 1. -> Alana Nisperos ticket 1 claimed!
- 2. -> to claim ticket 2, email tech@caltech.edu with subject line "CalGuesser #16 Winner 2"
- 3. -> <Kevin Kan(Blacker/EAS '93)> ticket 3 claimed!
- 4. -> to claim ticket 4, email tech@caltech.edu with subject line "CalGuesser #16 Winner 4"

Zachary Huang (Avery/Ven CS '26) (not a big fan of museums tbh)

Zhou Liang (Carnegie Science,24, found in Nov 13 9 am (too busy in coming weeks)

Alexi Stapf, Fleming/Lloyd 27' not interested in museums.

### LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS!

### The California Tech

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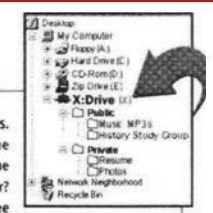
Richard Kipling

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## This Week in Tech History...

# December 3, 1999

# HOW TO KEEP TRACK OF THE SLUGS IN YOUR STUDY GROUP.




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