



# The Caltech Y NEWS

"Making a World of Difference"

Since  
1916

## Announcements

### Caltech Y selects 07 Studenski Award recipient *Studenski Memorial Award will go to Elena Hartoonian '07*

*by Candace Rypisi, Y Board*

Elena was contemplating fundamental questions about how she wants to live her life while she was struggling with some personal adversities. She found herself drawn to the arts while studying science. She also found a passion for dance as a form of artistic expression that lives in the moment. Elena feels she will benefit from completely immersing herself in the art form of flamenco dancing, which gives the dancer complete freedom of expression. The natural setting for flamenco is Seville and Jerez in Spain. There she will spend six weeks this summer going to flamenco school and be exposed to internationally known artists.



For 33 years the Studenski Memorial Award has provided Caltech students opportunities for "better understanding of self and to

explore possible directions for the future." The Award is funded by an endowment given to the Caltech Y by the Studenski family in memory of Paul Studenski, who was killed in an automobile accident on a trip across the country.

Paul was born in Connecticut, where he developed an early passion for automobiles and computers. He learned about Caltech from a friend who was both a race car driver and an alum. Paul applied, enrolled and, in 1972, graduated with both a bachelor's in biology and master's degree in electrical engineering. After graduation, Paul traveled through Europe where he became more and more interested in the role of technology in addressing the needs of the people. He was on his way across the country to continue his graduate studies at Cornell when his life came to a tragic, and early, end.

Over the years, Studenski winners have explored such diverse topics as the role of local medical providers in rural Nicaragua and environmental needs and policy in Tunisia. Others have explored less developed passions, such as a love of filmmaking. The one thing that the recipients have in common is that they were at a "crossroads" in their life. The Studenski specifically provides funds for students to explore, grow, and expand their horizons in ways that might not be possible during the rigorous demands of the Caltech academic year.

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## Recent Events (March)

*by June Wicks '08, ExComm*

On Sunday, March 4th, we had the privilege of taking a group of students on a private tour of the Gamble House. Built in 1908 by Pasadena's very own Greene brothers, the house is a piece of art worth visiting! Twelve of us, including, Gunilla, Rory, Dominic and I, got a special behind-the-scenes tour led by Gunilla's friend Barbara Dahn, a

### Gamble House Tour

docent at Gamble House. We had a great time! The house is a beautiful mixture of practicality and craftsmanship that used the most beautiful wood and didn't overlook a single detail – we realized what a treasure we had right in our own backyard! Thank you Gunilla for getting us such a priceless opportunity!



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## Winter Decompression

by Ilya Shadrin '08, ExComm

On March 10th, the live music coming from Winnett could be heard almost everywhere on campus with rock songs played by talented student bands, The Sixth Chamber and The Moneyshot Mafia. The front page of The California Tech declared, "Decompression rocks the roof of Winnett" in its following edition. Decompression is a Caltech Y sponsored event that takes place every term, the weekend before finals week. It offers an evening full of live music, delicious free food (grill

items, bagels, fruit, drinks), and a fun-themed atmosphere so that the students can relieve the stress of going into finals week. This term Decompression had a Crayon theme, and everyone enjoyed drawing on colored paper with crayons while having a few laughs with their friends. Roughly 40 volunteers signed up to help with the setup, the shifts, and cleanup and, besides getting free T-shirts, as always they were happy to help create a stress-relieving environment before the onset of finals week.



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## Midnight Breakfast

by Gunilla Hastrup, Y Board

Students, exhausted from tests and exams, were invited by Caltech President Jean-Lou Chameau and his wife, Carol Carmichael, to midnight breakfast at the Chandler, Tuesday,

March 13. The event was sponsored by Student Life and supported by Tom Mannion's cooking class students. This was a HUGE SUCCESS!

Although not sponsored by the Caltech Y, this event deserves mention in the Y News, as several Y Board members and Y Friends contributed by making crepes – even flipping some of them – cutting up fresh strawberries and filling in where needed from before midnight until 2 am – or was it 2:30 am?! Our very special board member Tom Mannion was there, of course, making

it all happen. Jean-Lou Chameau and Tom Mannion were kept extremely busy at the "omelet-to-order" station!

Thank you Jean-Lou for this new tradition, which makes a perfect compliment to Decompression!



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## Alternative Spring Break '07 Activities

### Tecolote, Mexico

by Abdul Ahad Tariq '08, ExComm

The Alternative Spring Break trip to Mexico took students to the community of Tecolote, which is ten miles outside Tijuana. The four days were spent building bookshelves for what will become a new public library for the town of Tecolote at El Centro de Comunidad community center. Our group also visited sites such as the old U.S/Mexican border, various impoverished areas of Tijuana, and

Casa de Migrante migrant house, where students had the chance to eat a meal and interact with migrant workers, some of whom had been recently deported from the U.S.

As we navigated around Mexico, eating at taco stands and visiting a bazaar, students had the opportunity to practice their Spanish if they already knew some or learn a few common phrases. The trip combined community service with cultural immersion to make it a memorable experience for everyone.



(continued on next page)

## **Alternative Spring Break** (continued)

### **Owens Valley, CA**

*by Leon Liu '10*

The Alternative Spring Break trip to the Owens Valley began with the team setting out onto the Owens Lake with Mike Prather from the Owens Valley Committee, who shared about the history of the Owens Lake and the environmental issues at stake: The Owens Lake was dried out in the early part of last century due to the redirecting of the Owens River to supply the water needs of Los Angeles County, which damaged the original ecosystem. The second day, the team first cleaned an area in the desert that had been heavily trashed with old appliances and shotgun shells. The



team then took a trip to an aqueduct and learned more about the environmental issues from Chris Plakos, of the LA Department of Water and Power, who gave the group another perspective to consider regarding the issues and response to the crisis. During the third day, the team planted dead vegetation using “vertical mulching” techniques in areas where plants were previously trampled by vehicles in order to hide off road tracks and enforce the use of roads. During the remainder of the day, many in the group chose to visit the historic Japanese Internment camp at Manzanar, where the participants watched a documentary film and learned about the history of Japanese internment during WW II in the United States, returning to campus the next day.

### **Santa Cruz Island**

*by Gretchen Aleks, Grad*

On Friday, March 23rd, a group of ten Caltech undergraduates, graduate students, and post-docs set sail for beautiful Santa Cruz Island, part of the Channel Islands National Park. The

trip was a great finale to spring break, with breathtaking scenery, abundant wildlife sightings, and friendly camaraderie within the group.

We enjoyed spending two and a half days based at Scorpion Harbor, during which we hiked extensively. The terrain varied from grassy, rolling hills to steep mountain ridges. We had incredible views of the island's central valley and of coves and intricate rock formations along the shoreline. We also spent time relaxing on two of the island's beautiful beaches, and were fortunate to see porpoises, seals, and humpback whales while on the ferry from Ventura Harbor, and enjoyed seeing miniature foxes playing in the campsite.

All the participants said they would happily return to the island for more hiking or kayaking in the future. It was a great Y outdoors trip, allowing participants to experience a part of Southern California none of us had visited before, and making us aware of the beautiful, fragile ecosystems only a short distance from home.

*by Peter Liu '09 ExComm*

This year, for Make-A-Difference Day we had a really enthusiastic ExComm group to lead sites, and we also asked non-ExComm members to lead. Our enthusiasm was so infectious that even the non-ExComm members started attending meetings regularly and became highly enthusiastic themselves. Thirteen different sites and a central management team saw a total of 130 participants volunteer. From envi-

## **Make-A-Difference Day**

ronmental projects like: cleaning the beach with Heal The Bay, trail maintenance with Santa Monica Trail Coalition (featured below), city's tree projects with the Huntington Botanical Gardens; to physical labor helping organizations like: Rebuilding Together and Vista Nova Home for the Blind (featured below) to do cleanup and maintenance; to visitations to convalescent homes, children's schools, and even volunteering for Quiz Bowl, a science competition.

A lot of help came from staffers and volunteers who worked with coordination at the Y, as well as from Board members who helped drive from morning until the very last site came back. We probably couldn't have asked for a smoother day, nor for a better catered BBQ from La Caravana Restaurant. And as for icing on the cake, a Final Four game accompanied the great meal.



**Boys & Girls Clubs Team**



**Hillside Team**

(continued on next page)

## Make-A-Difference Day (continued)

*by Rory Perkins, Grad, ExComm*  
**Trail Maintenance.** Thirteen Caltech students helped the Santa Monica Trails Coalition maintain part of the Backbone Trail. Volunteers learned how to properly trim back encroaching vegetation and dig water bars for drainage. The trip also included lunch on pocketed sandstone formation and a scenic view of Catalina Island.

*by Susan Shen '09, ExComm*  
**Vista Nova Home.** Seven students visited Vista Nova Renaissance Home,

a community for blind residents, as their Make-A-Difference Day site. The afternoon began with a lively music recital. Students performed on the piano, guitar, and violin. One of the residents was a professional musician and played several blues pieces. The delighted audience clapped and tapped their feet to the beat. After the music recital, the students worked on redecorating the home. They discussed design ideas with the residents, repainted a room, and painted the entrance gate. The

students also helped trim the herbs in the garden, which had been planted during last year's Make-A-Difference Day. The garden is growing nicely, and the residents enjoy having the herbs as part of their diet. The day ended with delicious refreshments, prepared by Vista Nova's chef, a well-deserved treat after an afternoon of hard work!



Enjoying the BBQ at the end of a successful MAD Day

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## Meet the ExComm

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Each month the Caltech Y News interviews a member of the Student Executive Committee (ExComm)

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### Benjamin Park '07

*by Dominic Alletto, Y Staff*

Benjamin Park, known as Ben, has been an active member of the Y ExComm for two and a half years. Ben's parents live in Korea along with his younger sister. Transferring to Caltech his sophomore year, Ben immediately got involved in Y programs, such as: MAD Day, Decompression and Chancellor Place service projects. As a junior, Ben worked as the treasurer of the ExComm.

Ben's research interests are in immunology, specifically focused on the transcriptional regulatory network in T-cell development. In the future, Ben



aspires to become a neurosurgeon and is also interested in earning an MBA. Outside of school, Ben enjoys a wide variety of hobbies and interests like sports and music. A true renaissance man, he enjoys meeting new people and playing a wide range of sports, such as: football, basketball, baseball, tennis, weight lifting, and soccer. When he isn't on the sports field, Ben takes pleasure in cultivating his passion for music by singing and playing the flute and guitar.

When asked what he likes most about the Y, Ben remarked, "The humanitarian activities such as various local and global service projects. I also enjoy talking to the Y staff."

## Coming Events (April-May)

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### Friends Dinner with Carol Carmichael

by Susan Murakami, Y Board

Our upcoming Friend's Dinner on April 5 will feature Dr. Carol Carmichael, who will speak on *Universities and Sustainable Development*. Dr. Carmichael was the senior research

scientist for a research program in environmentally conscious design and manufacturing at Georgia Tech. She re-located to Pasadena in September 2006 with her husband, Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau, President of Caltech.

We will also be celebrating the Y's 90th Birthday with some fun surprises! Please come help celebrate, and get to know Caltech's "First Lady"!

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### Student activity highlights

by Greg Fletcher, Y Staff

Coming off one of the heaviest programming periods, with Decompression, Alternative Spring Break, and Make-A-Difference Day all within the past month, you would think the students of the Y would be ready to take a well deserved break, but you would be wrong. With camping trips to Joshua Tree, International Week, Pre-Frosh Weekend, and a string of social awareness programs on the horizon, they have just caught their stride.

#### Joshua Tree Camping

This weekend, April 6-8, a group of hearty adventurers have plans to take in the sites and sounds of Joshua Tree National Park for a three day camping trip. With lots of hiking during the day, and some great star

gazing at night, it will surely prove a wonderful time away from the city and campus.

#### Getty Museum Tour

Students will tour the recently redone Getty Villa Museum on Saturday, April 7.

#### Pre-Frosh Weekend

In addition to hosting potential students, the Y will have several events happening to showcase the Y to those

who might one day be joining the ExComm themselves. On Thursday night, we will be showing *Quantum Hoops*, which chronicles the final week of the 2006 Caltech basketball season – following a team searching for a single win - in the midst of a 21 year losing streak. The film will also get many pre-frosh into the Y facilities, where we can give them a quick overview. The Y will also be featured on a panel discussing life beyond the classroom.

#### Social Justice Events

by Peter Liu '09, ExComm

I'm really excited about a number of programs we have in the pipeline, especially because I am deeply passionate about many of them.

**Invisible Children.** On April 18th, a team from Invisible Children will be screening a documentary about children living in war-torn Uganda. In order to flee abduction by rebel soldiers into fighting, these children commute every night in search of safety for a few hours' rest. The documentary itself has sparked a nationwide movement across college campuses and churches to help impact and influence the people of Uganda.

**Kevin Sites** (*Social Activism Speaker Series*). Along the same lines, the next SASS speaker is Kevin Sites, a

journalist who has covered areas in Afghanistan, Iraq, Colombia and other conflict areas. He will be speaking to the campus May 8.

**Reagan Demas** (*Social Activism Speaker Series*). Later the same month, on May 22, Reagan Demas, the director of operations of the International Justice Mission (IJM) will also come to campus to speak. IJM is a human rights agency that rescues victims of violence, sexual exploitation, slavery, and oppression. This is an organization that I personally support and am incredibly glad to have invited to speak on campus.

#### RISE Program

by Alycen Chan, Y Staff

The RISE Program continues its 4 day-a-week commitment to working with PUSD students. Recently, we took a couple of weeks off for the Caltech Spring Break and will also observe the PUSD Spring Break in mid-April. RISE looks forward to our upcoming campus visits. We are visiting Pasadena City College at the end of April as well as USC and our very own Caltech campus in May. UCLA and Occidental were both exciting visits for the students and they keep asking for more!

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### Y Open House and Alumni Brunch

This event will be held on Sunday, May 20, in conjunction with the Caltech Alumni Seminar Day and Reunion Weekend. The Y will have open house from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and all alumni are invited to stop by the Y facilities, become re-acquainted with the Y, enjoy good food and chat with friends.

## International Week (April 8 – 19)

by Greg Fletcher, Y Staff

Caltech will celebrate **International Week**, April 8-19, participating in intercultural group discussions, listening to guest speakers, enjoying delicious food from around the world, watching a foreign film, or having some fun on the football (soccer) field. International Week is coordinated by International Student Programs, The Caltech Y, and the International Clubs of Caltech. A complete list of events follows:

### Sunday, April 8

International Movies (Beckman Institute Auditorium):

7:00 PM The Hong Kong Student Association presents:  
*The Infernal Affairs*

9:00 PM Reception in BIA Courtyard between films

9:15 PM The Thai Club presents: *Oug-Bak*

### Monday, April 9

International Week Kickoff

6 - 7:30 PM Caltech Club Soccer invites everyone to play in a game at the South Field

8 PM Reception in BIA Courtyard

International Movie (Beckman Institute Auditorium):

8:15 PM The Association of Romanians at Caltech presents: *The Death of Mr. Lazarescu*

### Tuesday, April 10

Intercultural Discussion

12:00 PM Intercultural Group Discussion

Center for Student Services (bldg. #86), 2nd floor common area. RSVP requested – please email [isp@caltech.edu](mailto:isp@caltech.edu) to confirm your participation.

International Movies (Beckman Institute Auditorium):

7:00 PM The Organization of Associated Students from the Indian Sub-continent (OASIS) presents: *Umbartha*

9:00 PM Reception in BIA Courtyard between films

9:15 PM Friends of the Iranian Culture present: *Max*

### Wednesday, April 11

Lunch & Guest Speaker:

12 – 1:00 PM Tok Thomson speaks on the implications of technology for global identities.

Center for Student Services (bldg. #86), 2nd floor.

RSVP requested – please email [isp@caltech.edu](mailto:isp@caltech.edu) to confirm your participation.

International Movies (Beckman Institute Auditorium):

7:00 PM The Francofile Club presents: *The Russian Dolls*

9:00 PM Reception in BIA Courtyard between films

9:15 PM The Turkish Student Association presents:  
*Crossing the Bridge; The Sound of Istanbul*

### Thursday, April 12

Country Presentation & Lunch:

12 - 1 PM Life in Slovakia

Center for Student Services (bldg. # 86) Second Floor

RSVP requested please email [isp@caltech.edu](mailto:isp@caltech.edu) to confirm your participation

International Movies (Beckman Institute Auditorium):

7:00 PM The Caltech Chinese Association presents: *The Curse of the Golden Flower*

9:00 PM Reception in BIA Courtyard between films

9:15 PM The Italian Club Presents: *Don't Tell*

### Friday, April 13

International Food Fair (Avery Courtyard)

4:00 - 6PM International Food Fair (Food Fair costs \$3)

Join hundreds from the Caltech community at the Week's highlight event, featuring the many international clubs of Caltech – who have prepared sample foods from their home countries to share. Don't miss out on this once a year taste celebration.

Caltech Dance Show

8:00 PM Caltech Dance Show Ramo Auditorium. Must buy \$5 tickets in advance. Caltech Ticket office (626) 395-4652

### Saturday, April 14

Caltech Dance Show

8:00 PM Caltech Dance Show Ramo Auditorium. Must buy \$5 tickets in advance. Caltech Ticket office (626) 395-4652

### Wednesday, April 18

Movie Screening

7:30 PM *Invisible Children* – Ramo Auditorium

Come and discover the unseen. When three young Americans left in search of a story that could change the world, what they found was a tragedy that disgusted and inspired them. To see Africa through young eyes is funny, heart-breaking, quick, and informative – all in the same breath. See this film and be forever changed.

### Thursday, April 19

Reel People, Real World Video & Lunch

12:00 PM *Pickles, Inc* tells the story of eight Arab-Israeli widows trying to achieve financial independence and greater social freedom by starting their own pickle factory.

Center for Student Services (bldg. # 86) Second Floor

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: See the [Caltech Y website](#) for additional information and schedule

## April

<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>S</b>
1	2 RISE Tutoring <b>Y Board Mtg</b>	3 RISE Tutoring <b>ExComm Mtg</b>	4 RISE Tutoring	5 RISE Tutoring <b>Friends Dinner (Dr. Carol Carmichael)</b>	6  Joshua Tree Camping	7 Chancellor Place Getty Villa Tour Joshua Tree Camping
8 Joshua Tree Camping International Week	9 RISE Tutoring International Week	10 RISE Tutoring International Week <b>ExComm Mtg</b>	11 RISE Tutoring International Week	12 RISE Tutoring International Week	13  International Week	14 Reading to Kids International Week
15	16 RISE Tutoring	17 RISE Tutoring <b>ExComm Mtg</b>	18 RISE Tutoring  Invisible Children	19 RISE Tutoring  Reel World Video Lunch	20	21  Union Station
22	23 RISE Tutoring	24 RISE Tutoring <b>ExComm Mtg</b>	25 RISE Tutoring	26 RISE Tutoring	27	28  r
29	30 RISE Tutoring					

## May

<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>S</b>
		1 RISE Tutoring <b>ExComm Mtg</b>	2 RISE Tutoring	3 RISE Tutoring  Reel World Video	4	5  Chancellor Place
6	7 RISE Tutoring <b>Y Board Mtg</b>	8 RISE Tutoring SASS Kevin Sites <b>ExComm Mtg</b>	9 RISE Tutoring  Y-Outdoors Mtg	10 RISE Tutoring  Reel World Video	11	12  Reading to Kids
13	14 RISE Tutoring	15 RISE Tutoring <b>ExComm Mtg</b>	16 RISE Tutoring	17 RISE Tutoring  Reel World Video	18	19  Union Station
20  Alumni Brunch	21 RISE Tutoring	22 RISE Tutoring <b>ExComm Mtg</b> SASS Reagan Demas	23 RISE Tutoring  Y-Outdoors Mtg	24 RISE Tutoring  Reel World Video	25	26
27	28 RISE Tutoring	29 RISE Tutoring	30	31		

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## The Caltech Y

The Caltech Y is an independent 501c3 organization formally affiliated with the California Institute of Technology. Founded by students in 1916, the Y was organized to provide extracurricular activities planned and implemented by students as an opportunity to learn leadership skills and discover themselves. The mission of today's Y remains the same – to provide opportunities that will prepare students to become engaged, responsible citizens of the world. The Y seeks to broaden students' worldviews, raise social, ethical, and cultural awareness through teamwork, community engagement, activism, and leadership.

### Contact Information

Phone: (626) 395-6163  
Fax: (626) 395-8890  
Email: [caltechy@caltech.edu](mailto:caltechy@caltech.edu)  
Website: <http://www.caltechy.org>

Postal Address:  
Caltech  
MC 5-62  
Pasadena, CA 91125

Location:  
1350 San Pasqual St  
(West of tennis courts at  
SW corner Hill & San Pasqual)

### Y Staff

Athena Castro - Executive Director  
Greg Fletcher - Student Activities Director  
Christopher Kealey - Marketing/Development Director

Alycen Chan - RISE Coordinator  
Dominic Alletto - Student Activities Coordinator  
Carmelita Hearn - Administrative Assistant

### Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee

Rolf Hastrup - Chairman  
Lee Fisher - Vice Chairman

Peter Mason - Treasurer  
Barbara Heublein - Secretary

Peter Liu - Student ExComm President

#### Members (\* indicates Student Executive Committee)

Robin Abraham*	Steve Frautschi	Constance Kofahl	Susan Murakami	Don Pinkerton	Betty Sirri
Carolyn Ash	Dave Gillies	Nancy Lan	Richard Murray	Jane Pinkerton	Norri Sirri
Richard Beatty	Kevin Gunning	Gretchen Leonard	Kenneth Oslund*	Vickie Pon*	Deborah Smith
Donald Brown	Gunilla Hastrup	Tony Leonard	Carel Otte	Jean-Paul Revel	Douglas Smith
Vamsi Chavakula*	Eric Hochberg	Martin Lo	Ben Park*	Candace Rypisi	Abdul-Ahad Tariq*
Sunny Chun*	James Huang*	Tom Mannion	Rory Perkins*	Iliia Shadrin*	Benjamin Turk
Frank Dryden	Shankar Kalyanaraman*	Doreen Mason	Robert Perpall	Susan Shen*	June Wicks*
Daniel Erickson	Harry Kawahara	Sharyn Miller	Toni Perpall	Allan Sheno	

### The Caltech Y News

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