



The Caltech Y NEWS

"Making a World of Difference"

Since
1916

Announcements

Extra!! Extra!! — Read all about it!!

Inaugural issue of The Caltech Y News

With this issue, the Caltech Y is launching The Caltech Y News. Publication will be each month of the academic year to promote greater awareness of the Caltech Y by providing the Caltech community with timely announcements, reports on recent activities, and a calendar of upcoming events. As this inaugural issue occurs in mid-year, it is lengthier than normal as it includes highlights from the beginning of the academic year.

Preparation of the Y News is a shared effort with contributions coming chiefly from the Y Student Executive Committee (ExComm), the Y Staff, and Y Board members.

Gunilla Hastrup, of the Y Board, has volunteered to serve as compiler/editor this year.

Distribution is via email, with hard copies available as required. Each issue is also posted on the Y website. Distribution is being made to members of the Caltech community who are or have been involved with, contributed to, or expressed interest in the Caltech Y. To opt on or off the distribution list or send comments, please contact the Caltech Y office (see last page).

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Caltech Y receives new outreach grant — RISE

Tutoring program in coordination with Pasadena Unified School District

by Jill Perry, Caltech Public Relations

Thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the State Treasury Department under a California Educational Facilities Authority (CEFA) bond, Caltech students will offer free tutoring twice a week in math and science to Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) 10th- and 11th-graders. The Caltech Y and the Caltech Office of Student Affairs received the grant to administer the 3-year program, Reaffirming and Increasing Scholastic Endeavors (RISE),

to help PUSD students become better college applicants through a series of intense tutoring sessions geared to the PUSD curriculum, admissions seminars, and financial aid workshops. The Caltech Y will work closely with PUSD students and families to explain that college is an attainable goal for hard-working students regardless of socio-economic background.

"This program gives Caltech students the opportunity to share their talents with the PUSD students, while giving back to the community as a whole,"

said Athena Castro, Director of the Caltech Y. "The program is a collaboration between Caltech and PUSD that will benefit students in a partnership of knowledge sharing."

The program kicked off in November with tutoring sessions at Caltech. The students will also take campus tours to other local universities and will attend seminars to better understand the college application and financial aid process.

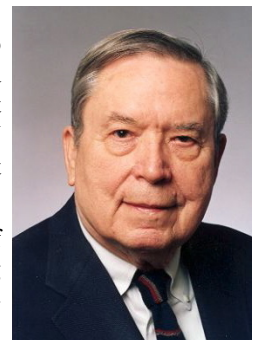
George Housner endowment gift

by Nancy Lan, Y Board

The Caltech Y has just received a generous endowment gift of \$192,000 from George Housner, the C.F. Braun Professor Emeritus of Caltech. In making the gift, Professor Housner said, "Though I have interests in helping undergraduate and graduate students develop daily life skills before they leave Caltech, usage of the yearly distribution from the endowment is at the discretion of the Caltech Y Executive Director with the approval of Student Executive Committee and Board of Directors."

In recent years, Professor Housner has also been a generous benefactor of the Institute, and the Y has already benefited from his Student Discovery Fund, which has co-funded Y activities such as the recent DC/NY student trip (see "Recent Events" report, below).

Professor Housner is one of the pioneers of earthquake engineering and his outstanding contributions have received worldwide recognition.



Recent Events (October – January)

Caltech Y celebrates 90th anniversary

by Toni Perpall, Chair 90th
Celebration, Y Board

The Caltech Y's 90th Anniversary celebration began October 5, 2006, with a campus-wide event. Over 100 Friends of the Y enjoyed a Wine and Cheese Reception in Dabney Gardens while viewing a display of awards and

photos of the Y's past 90 years.

Banners waved at the coinciding barbeque for students, faculty and guests. Co-sponsored by Campus Life, the party rocked to a live band and featured prizes for those with lucky tickets.

The evening concluded in the Fairchild

Amphitheater with the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, by Al Gore.

All who attended, including Caltech's new President, Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau and his wife, Dr. Carol Carmichael, expressed their appreciation for a grand event epitomizing the spirit of the Caltech Y.



Tall Ship sails with Y Friends

by Doreen Mason, Y Board

On October 14, the Y Friends hosted a day trip on the sailing ship "Exy Johnson," courtesy of the Los Angeles Maritime Institute. We sailed out of

San Pedro Harbor into the Catalina Channel on a full day sailing trip. About 40 Y Friends and students attended, and were strongly encouraged to help in the sailing of the ship. A few sore hands and tired muscles aside, all agreed that we had a wonderful day.

We were fortunate to have Lydia Jewell on board to tell us about Irving and Exy Johnson. Lydia sailed around the world with them on their tall ship "Yankee". The Johnsons led many trips around the world in the 1930s and 1950s with crews of young volunteers.

The ships "Exy Johnson" and "Irving

Johnson" were built and are sailed by the Los Angeles Maritime Inst. They are used primarily to provide youth with real-life challenges that develop knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to live healthy, productive lives.



Friends Dinner with Michael Brown

by Susan Murakami, Y Board

The first Y Friends Dinner of the year was held Nov. 7, at the Athenaeum. We were pleased to welcome Caltech's new president, Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau, and his wife, Dr. Carol Carmichael, to their first Friends Dinner.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Michael Brown, Professor of Planetary Astronomy. He entertained and educated us all with the story of how his group has discovered previously unknown objects in the Kuiper Belt including Sedna and UB313, the first object

larger than Pluto. He discussed why the discovery of "Xena" drove home the need for astronomers to answer the question, "What is a planet?" and why the International Astronomical Union ultimately voted to "demote" Pluto, give UB313 the name Eris, and call

(continued on next page)

Friends Dinner (continued)

them dwarf planets.

The evening was capped by an auction of an artist's view of Eris looking back toward the sun, signed by Dr. Brown. (The artwork was purchased by the

Perpalls and donated to Dr. Chameau to grace the President's house).

The Friends of the Caltech Y are primary supporters of the Caltech Y, and it is through their generous contribu-

tions that the Y is able to continue its long-standing mission of reaching out to the Caltech community with fresh ideas, student programming, and active community service.

Social Activism Speaker on Politic Issues and Religious Rights

by Rory Perkins, Grad, ExComm

On Nov. 15, Reverend George Regas, former Rector of All Saints Church, Pasadena, spoke at Caltech for the Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series (SASS). He talked about the right of religious institutions to address politics, a subject motivated by the IRS

decision to challenge the tax-exempt status of All Saints Church after a sermon by Rev. Regas just before the 2004 election. This case bears national implications on which issues religious organizations, and other non-profit organizations, may take a stand on without jeopardizing their financial

existence. Rev. Regas was welcomed by the 135 people attending.

SASS was developed to promote awareness of global issues and challenge members of the Caltech community to seek ways of addressing world needs.

Fall Decompression

by Vamsi Chavakula '08, ExComm

Decompression is one of the most recognized Y events, and this past term it was held at the Winnett Center from 7 to 10 PM on Dec. 2. Like its namesake, its purpose is for students to unwind during finals week with a night of food

and entertainment. Our theme was the death of Pluto, the planet, and all volunteers were given a screened T-shirt with the phrase, "Pluto: You will always be our favorite little ball of ice. Thanks a lot Mike Brown." The A cappella group, Out of Context,

performed a trio of songs, while students munched on burgers, fruits, and GORP trail mix. Attendance was in the hundreds, but there was enough food and a good time was had by all.

Student trip to DC/NY huge success

by Abdul Ahad '08, ExComm

Caltech students explored US policy and decision making on this stimulating trip to the nation's Capital and the home of the UN during the December holiday break. Cultural exploration and site seeing were mixed in with informative and challenging discussion sessions to include many involved in developing science and other policy for the nation. The DC/NY trip was co-sponsored with the International Student Programs Office and co-funded by the Institute Student Discovery Fund endowed by George Housner. This was one of many educational events organized by the Caltech Y and the Alumni Assoc.

Global warming: man-made or natural

Most in the scientific community are confident in the research showing that global warming is a man-made phenomenon and a serious concern for our future. There are, however, some skeptics who claim otherwise. Wednesday, Jan. 10, Dr. Fred Goldberg, guest speaker, presented his case that there is no human effect on climate change on a global scale. He was joined and successfully challenged by JPL scientist Dr. Ralph Kahn and attending Caltech students. Attendance was 130.



MLK Service Day: Brightening up the community

by Vickie Pon '08, ExComm

In conclusion to a week devoted to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 32 Caltech undergraduate and graduate students devoted their Saturday, Jan. 20, to volunteer projects in the community for MLK Service Day. Early in the morning, a group of students volunteered with Rebuilding Together at a local home of an elderly couple unable to do all the repairs their house needed. After six hours, these students were still smiling from the tremendous results of their yard work and major indoor cleaning that helped prepare the house for future construction. In the afternoon, another group set off to Chancellor Place, a local assisted liv-

ing residence, to visit and brighten up the day of many residents. Later that night, a third group of students helped prepare and serve a dinner at Union Station, a local homeless shelter, and mingled with the people there. Overall a long, rewarding day resulted in many Techers making a difference in the local Pasadena community, in remembrance of Dr. King.

MLK Week also featured many other events commemorating the history of the Civil Rights Movement and raising the issue of civil rights today. Over 200 Caltech community members participated in the events of MLK Week:

- A breakfast program on Wed., at the

Citrus Café, with author and activist Eric Mann, who talked about civil rights today

- A showing on Thurs. of the film, *Bringing Down a Dictator*, about the student movement that defeated Milosevic in 2000, and how they implemented tactics used by Dr. King and American students during the Civil Rights Movement

- A lunch program on Fri. at the Athenaeum with Dr. John Slaughter, the President and CEO of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, on the topic of why scientists should care about civil rights.

Community Service Fair

Friday, Nov. 3, the Latin sound of Son Real's folk music drew people to the Red Door Patio for the annual Community Service Fair. 22 service agencies from around the Pasadena area visited campus for lunch to share about their organizations and volunteer opportunities for the Caltech Community. Agencies included: American Cancer Society, Camp Laurel, Planned Parenthood, and the Jackie Robinson Center, to name just a few.

Full-Moon Hike

by ColetteSalyk, Grad, Y-Outdoors

On the ever-popular Y-Outdoors full moon hike, 15 Techers hiked to the top of Echo Mountain on Nov. 5 in the light of the full moon (and a few headlamps). This wonderful hike – just a few minutes drive from Caltech – includes great city views as well as a bit of local history. After an invigorating climb to the top, we stopped for snacks, conversation, and enjoyed the cool breeze, before heading back. Everyone had a great time and made it home safely, in spite of those pesky rattlesnakes and tarantulas.

Other Y activities

“The America Play” at Boston Court

by June Wicks '08, ExComm

On Friday, Nov 10, Abdul and June took a group of about 20 students to the Boston Court's showing of *The America Play*. It was an interesting piece about an African-American who, after being told many times that he bore a striking resemblance to Abraham Lincoln, became obsessed with the hero's legacy. He lived his obsession by becoming an entertainer playing Abraham Lincoln and, as a result, became a legend in his own right. The event was a great success, and we'll definitely be bringing groups to Boston Court again in the future!

Video Lunch

Fall term featured the first three installments of our Reel People, Real World Video Series – with lunch and discussion:

- *Maid In America* (Oct.) introduced the audience to three Latina immigrants in pursuit of their own *suenos Americanos* (American dreams).

- *Man Without Pigs* (Nov.) offered a rare glimpse into the antagonism aroused when conflict between custom and western values occur through the life of a doctoral student's return to his village.

- *100% Woman* (Dec.) explored the complex issues of gender identity as they manifest in the story of a transsexual athlete.

The movies were hosted by the Cultural Programming Group (CPG), of which the Y is a member.

Dinners in the Park

Each and every year the Union Station Foundation, who runs Pasadena's homeless shelters, organize community meals that serve thousands on Thanksgiving and Christmas Days. And each year Caltech student volunteers, coordinated by the Y, join in as well to organize games and activities for the many children there. There were 21 and 11 Caltech students participating on each day, respectively.

Coming Events (February – March)

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

Winter Term Highlights

by Greg Fletcher, Y Staff

As always, the Y will be active with student programs including outdoor trips, cultural events and, of course, community service. Some of our highlights for the coming months include:

RISE Tutorial Update

RISE tutoring goes to four nights a week! Following up on the huge success and need for more math and science tutoring, the Caltech Y is making a move to do tutoring Monday through Thursday. It is a big step and a huge commitment, and with the first extended sessions underway, the search for more tutors continues. February and March will also host our first Campus Tours to Occidental and UCLA, and our first Financial Aid Workshops at Caltech.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month and the Y, along with the Cultural Programming Group, has several programs on the books to celebrate

African American Heritage:

Jazz Night. We kick off the month with our annual Jazz Night, Feb. 9, from 5:30 to 8 PM in the Center for Student Services, coordinated in partnership with Minority Student Education. Join us for the peach cobbler and sweet sounds of Jazz.

African American Cultural Exhibition. Feb. 13 to 15 features the African American Cultural Exhibit, including:

- African Drumming, Music, and Dance – Tuesday at lunch outside Winnett
- An African Literary Lunch Talk – Wednesday at lunch in the Center for Student Services
- Art from the African Diaspora – Thursday at Dabney Lounge from noon to 7 PM

Winter Decompression

Even though we are more than half a term away, the ExComm is about to start planning and organizing for

Winter Decompression on the weekend before finals. As always, it will provide a good break for students as they prepare for the last push of the academic term.

Make-A-Difference Day

With the end of second term fast approaching, the ExComm is under heavy preparations for the '07 Make-A-Difference Day (MAD) on Saturday, March 31.

Alternative Spring Break

This year's trips will include a group heading just south of the border to Tecolote, Mexico, to work, live, and experience another culture for four days at El Centro de la Comunidad. The Owens Valley trip, which began years back, following a thought provoking Friends Dinner talk, will again have our group doing environmental service and learning about the intricate relationship between the big city and its neighboring lands.

Meet the ExComm

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

June Wicks '08

by Dominic Alletto, Y Staff

Current ExComm president, June Ki Wicks, is a junior chemistry major at Caltech. As a member of ExComm, June attended last year's service trip to Costa Rica. She has also been a key coordinator in organizing Decompression and Make-A-Difference Day.

Along with working at the Y, June enjoys playing the violin and talking with her twin sister who attends MIT.

Most recently, June has been working on a research project studying the bright blue protein Azurin. The project involves taking mutants of the protein and crystallizing them to see if the



mutations cause any significant structure change vital to electron transfer.

When asked what she likes most about the Y, June responded, "I love how being a part of the Y encourages and gives me the opportunity to do things that I otherwise wouldn't know how to make time for. The biggest draw of the Y, though, is the ability to share these opportunities with other people. We have such an amazing resource available to us with the Y, and it's great being able to spread the word!"

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 RISE Tutoring	2 RISE Campus Tour Full Moon Hike	3 Chancellor Place
4	5 RISE Tutoring Y Board Mtg	6 RISE Tutoring ExComm Mtg	7 RISE Tutoring Y-Outdoors Mtg	8 RISE Tutoring Real World Film Series	9 Black History Month Jazz Night	10 Reading to Kids Day Hike
11	12 RISE Tutoring	13 RISE Tutoring Black History Month Dance & Music ExComm Mtg	14 RISE Tutoring Black History Month Literary Speaker	15 RISE Tutoring Black History Month Art Show	16	17 Union Station
18	19 President's Holiday	20 RISE Tutoring ExComm Mtg	21 RISE Tutoring Y-Outdoors Mtg	22 RISE Tutoring Friends Dinner (Larry Wilson)	23 RISE Campus Tour	24 RISE Financial Aid Workshop Rebuilding Together
25	26 RISE Tutoring	27 RISE Tutoring ExComm Mtg	28 RISE Tutoring			

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 RISE Tutoring	2 RISE Campus Tour	3 Chancellor Place
4	5 RISE Tutoring Y Board Mtg	6 RISE Tutoring ExComm Mtg	7 RISE Tutoring Y-Outdoors Mtg	8 RISE Tutoring	9	10 Reading to Kids Decompression
11	12	13 ExComm Mtg	14	15	16	17 Union Station
18 Alternative Spring Break	19 Alternative Spring Break	20 Alternative Spring Break	21 Alternative Spring Break	22 Alternative Spring Break	23	24
25	26	27 ExComm Mtg	28	29	30	31 Make-A- Difference Day

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.

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

Alycen Chan - RISE Director
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

June Wicks - Student ExComm President

Members (* indicates Student Executive Committee)

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