



The Caltech Y NEWS

"Making a World of Difference"

Since
1916

Announcements

ExComm members receive the Lucy Guernsey Service Award

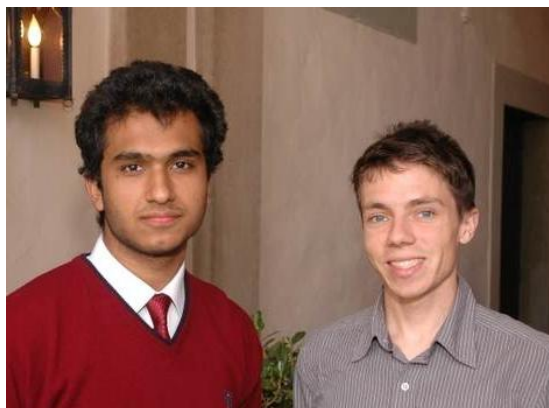
by Athena Castro, Y Executive Director

The Lucy Guernsey Service Award was established in 1991 by the Caltech Y ExComm in honor of Lucy Guernsey, the Y's Executive Director from 1989-1991, in recognition of her leadership, dedication to students, and diligence to furthering the Y's commitment to volunteerism. The award is made annually to one or two students for exceptional service to the Y and the community, involvement with on- and off-campus service projects, as well as leadership in community and volunteer service efforts.

Abdul Ahad, a junior and current co-vice president of the Y ExComm, is one of this year's recipients. His commitment to service and the Y is evidenced by his outstanding leadership over the last two years as Make-A-Difference Day coordinator, Alterna-

tive Spring Break (Biloxi and Mexico) leader, and participation in various community service projects, such as Rebuilding Together, Pasadena. Abdul is currently coordinating a Y summer service trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, to help with the on-going hurricane relief efforts.

Dan Feldman is the second recipient of the Lucy Guernsey Service Award. A graduate student in environmental



Abdul Ahad and Dan Feldman

science and engineering, Dan has dedicated three years (and going) as the Reading-to-Kids program coordinator. Every month, Dan recruits and arranges transportation for groups of Caltech students to read to kids at Magnolia Elementary School in Los Angeles. In addition, he has chaired the Caltech Environmental Task Force (CETF) for the last two years and has led this student organization in the successful planning and implementation of the annual Earth Day celebration at Caltech.

Thanks to Abdul and Dan for their dedication and service. Like Lucy Guernsey, they exemplify the spirit of service, and they have indeed made a world of difference!

<u>Contents</u>	<u>page</u>
Announcements	1
Recent Events	2
Meet the ExComm	4
Coming Events	4
Calendar	5
Y Contacts	6

Vamsi Chavakula '08 receives Strauss Scholarship

by Athena Castro, Y Executive Director

ExComm member, Vamsi Chavakula, has been awarded a Strauss Scholarship by the Donald A. Strauss Scholarship Foundation, whose goal is to empower students to carry out their vision for social change in the public arena. The foundation awards scholarships to students who create an innovative project that serves the commu-

nity and has a direct public impact. Vamsi's project, "Spreading Enthusiasm for Science," aims to develop a curriculum in the sciences to infuse "fun" in science learning. He hopes to bolster enthusiasm and direct the natural curiosity of the next generation of scientists and plans to work with the local Boys and Girls Club as well as other schools and after school centers in the Pasadena area.



Dominic Alletto completes Caltech Y internship

Time Well Spent: Reflecting on my time at the Y

by Dominic Alletto, Y Staff

In case we haven't met, my name is Dominic Alletto, and I am the outgoing Student Activities Coordinator at the Y. As a native of beautiful Southern California, I have spent the last two years completing my Master of Education degree in College Student Affairs at Azusa Pacific University.

As the Student Activities Coordinator, I have had the pleasure of working with the Caltech Y staff and ExComm members on everything from Decompression and MAD Day, to board meetings and Friends dinners. As I prepare to leave my internship at the Y for a job as Coordinator of Student Development at Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo, I have been giving great thought to the things I have learned at the Y.

The greatest lesson I have learned is the value of investing in the lives people. The Y has consistently been

investing in student life for 90 years now and I believe the students, staff, and board are "making a world of difference." I am confident that many of the students who have been involved



with the Y, whether they have held leadership roles in the ExComm, participated in a service trip, tutored a high school student, or have experienced the beauty of the earth on an outdoors trip, will go on to become agents of change in the world.

Leaving the Y, I am fulfilled in the idea that I have contributed to making the world a better place. I would like to thank the students, staff, and board members for welcoming me into the Y community and giving me the opportunity to be a part of something wonderful. In conclusion, I would like to quote the great anthropologist Margaret Mead as a reminder and encouragement to the all those who are a part of the Y to continue the work of developing responsible citizens of the world. "Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Y Board elects officers and new members for 07-08

by Tony Leonard, Y Board

The Caltech Y board elected a slate of officers to serve the new academic year. The board will be chaired by **Carolyn Ash**, who recently retired from the Institute position of Student-Faculty Programs Director, which

administers the Surf and many other student programs. **Lee Fisher**, **Peter Mason** and **Barbara Heublein** were reelected to the positions of vice president, treasurer and secretary, respectfully.

The board also elected sixteen new

board members, including spouses, who are encouraged to participate on the board. The board seeks membership from the Caltech faculty, staff, alumni, JPL and the community.

Congratulations and welcome to the following new board members:

Abel Bourbois - alum**

Marshall Cohen - faculty*

Marjorie Gooding - staff

Fred Shair - faculty*

Bill Burrows - staff

Shirley Cohen - community*

Cathy Jurca - faculty

Howell Tyson - alum

John Casani - JPL

Dean Elzinga - alum

LeVal Lund - alum

Dorothy Tyson - community

Lynn Casani - community

Robert Nathan - JPL

Jim Workman - alum*

* Former Board member

** Former ExComm member

[Recent Events](#) (May)

Caltech Y Alumni Brunch

by Athena Castro, Y Executive Director

The Caltech Y held its annual brunch

for Caltech alumni during Reunion Weekend on Sunday, May 20th. Approximately 30 alumni and guests

attended. A good time was had by all reminiscing about the Y, catching up, and enjoying the wonderful company!

Screening of *China Blue* highlights Fair Trade Month

by Peter Liu '09, ExComm

Since May is designated Fair Trade Month, on May 11 graduate student Andrea Choe and Ten Thousand Villages partnered with the Y to present a screening of *China Blue*, a docu-drama about a typical blue jeans factory in China and the fair trade issues that surround it. The story follows a 17-year-old girl, who leaves

her home to work in the factory to help support her family, and the owner of the factory, who must run his business at an optimum, even if it means delayed wages and 20 hour work days.

Ten Thousand Villages is a store on Lake Ave and San Pasqual that recently had its grand opening. It sells only fair trade goods, from coffee to

garments to baskets. They had a table at the screening outside Sherman Fairchild Library and even raffled away some free merchandise. About 65 people attended, enjoyed some ethnic music, the open bar, and the thought-provoking movie. (Some even stayed to help clean up!)

Social Activism Speaker Series

by Peter Liu '09, ExComm

The Social Activism Speaker Series (SASS) is one of many Educational Programs organized with the Caltech Y.

Kevin Sites

On May 8, SASS presented Kevin Sites, one of the world's most respected war correspondents, who discussed his experiences covering global war and disaster. Sites helped pioneer solo journalism, traveling and reporting without a crew. His assignments have taken him all over the world, including the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, South America, and Eastern Europe. During the day, Sites

conducted a roundtable session, which was attended by about 20. At an evening program attended by about 100, in addition to describing his experience as a photojournalist, Sites emphasized the importance of critical awareness of news consumption and knowing about world events. His presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Reagan Demas

On May 22, the final speaker in the SASS 2006-07 speaker series was Reagan Demas, Director of Operations in Africa for the International Justice Mission (IJM). IJM is an international human rights agency that rescues

victims of violence, sexual exploitation, slavery and oppression. It is an organization that I have personally committed myself to because of the work they do in seeking justice for the poor and oppressed in parts of Africa and Asia. We held a small roundtable of about six others who met and talked to Reagan about the organization and international issues. His talk was entitled, "The Power of One," addressing the nature of the work of IJM, as well as the power and the responsibility that an individual has to fight injustices around the world. Between 30 to 50 people came to Beckman Institute Auditorium to hear him speak.

Sandstone Peak Hike

by Mary Dunlop, Grad Student

Sandstone Peak is the highest point in the Santa Monica Mountains at 3111 ft, but thanks to a geology student, we learned that the rock formations that give it its name are actually granite, not sandstone.



The Caltech Y Outdoors committee organized a trip to this remote, misnamed region above Malibu on Saturday, May 12. A group of ten

undergraduate and graduate students hiked the 6-mile loop and enjoyed views of the ocean from the peak at lunchtime.

The hike begins by looping around behind Sandstone Peak into a wide canyon with views of granite cliffs, where we saw rock climbers and encountered a large sunbathing snake, and then climbed out onto a ridge, which summits the peak, before descending to the trailhead.



Reel People, Real World Video and Lunch Series: *Chicano!*

by Greg Fletcher, Y Staff

Spanning the years 1965-1975, this four-part series explored the saga of Mexican-American social activism.

Combining archival footage and current interviews, the series charted the struggles of Mexican Americans to reclaim the name Chicano and fashion

it into a term of pride and self-determination. Lunch was provided at the screenings, which were held on four Thursdays in May.

Meet the ExComm

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

Shankar Kalyanaraman,

by Dominic Alletto, Y Staff

Shankar is a graduate student studying computer science. Originally from India, Shankar's family lives in Madras, India. Outside of his research interests in rationalizability of games, complexity theory and pseudorandomness, Shankar plays the violin (South Indian classical music), and enjoys writing fiction, biking, hiking and climbing.

Finishing his second year as a member of the ExComm, Shankar has led numerous outdoor trips to Zion, Big Sur, Sequoia, Y-Hike 2003, and a Thanksgiving backpacking trip. In addition to his involvement in the Y Outdoors Committee, he has also

participated in Make-A-Difference Day, the Costa Rica International Service Trip, and the Caltech Tsunami



Relief Effort. Some of Shankar's future goals are to Climb Mt Rainier and/or Mt Denali. An adventurer at heart, one of Shankar's most memorable moments was when "I went on a trip to Alaska last year, came face-to-face with a bear cub (luckily Mother Bear was nowhere to be seen), got stuck in a mudslide and had to call for help so that the others could get choppered out by two military helicopters belonging to the Alaska State Guard."

Last, when asked what he likes most about the Y, Shankar replied, "Everything – people, outdoor trips, social activism, and cultural events."

Coming Events

by Greg Fletcher, Y Staff

Although the summer time marks the season when the Y shifts gears into conducting equipment inventory and refurbishment, follow-up reports to grant organizations and funding sources, updating systems, wrapping up programs, and the general "save this until summer" list... As always the Y will somehow be active with student programs as well. Some of our highlights for the coming months are:

Decompression

(Saturday, June 2)

As the 2006-07 academic year winds down, the Y will close out the year with Spring Decompression – as always, the best way to de-stress from the term prior to finals. The spring event will be held at the Caltech Y featuring great board games and as always BBQ and entertainment.

Summer Highlights

The Huntington Tea

(Sunday, June 3)

Students join faculty, and staff for tea, pastries, and finger sandwiches in the Huntington Tea Room, and then stay for the day to explore the renowned Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. It is a very popular and wonderful opportunity to interact with others outside of the campus environment, and to experience all the Huntington has to offer.

Graduation Reception for

Ben Park

(June 8)

Immediately after Commencement, the Caltech Y will hold a reception for graduating ExComm member, Ben Park, in the Y Lounge. Congratulations Ben and best wishes in future endeavors. You have made a world of

difference at Caltech and the Y!

Yosemite – Centennial Grove Trip

(June 13-15)

A large group of students, and even some alumni, join us for our annual camping and hiking trip to Yosemite National Park and the Caltech Centennial Grove in the Sierra National Forest. The Caltech Centennial Grove is a section of the Sierra containing five giant Sequoias, and Yosemite is one of the most spectacular natural places in the world. With two nights of camping and plenty of hiking available, this trip is a great getaway. The trip is sponsored by the Graduate Student Council, the Alumni Association, International Student Programs, and the Caltech Y.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Reel World Video	2 Y Board Mtg Decompression
3 Huntington Tea	4	5 ExComm Mtg	6	7	8 ExComm Graduate Reception	9
10	11	12	13 Yosemite Centennial Grove	14 Yosemite Centennial Grove	15 Yosemite Centennial Grove	16 Union Station
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

The Caltech Y

The Caltech Y is an independent 501c3 organization formally affiliated with the California Institute of Technology. The Y mission is to enrich student life and challenge students to grow into responsible citizens of the world.

Contact Information

Phone: (626) 395-6163
 Fax: (626) 395-8890
 Email: 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*	Daniel Erickson	Constance Kofahl	Susan Murakami	Don Pinkerton	Betty Sirri
Carolyn Ash	Steve Frautschi	Nancy Lan	Richard Murray	Jane Pinkerton	Norri Sirri
Richard Beatty	Dave Gillies	Gretchen Leonard	Kenneth Oslund*	Vickie Pon*	Deborah Smith
Natalie Becerra*	Kevin Gunning	Tony Leonard	Carel Otte	Jean-Paul Revel	Douglas Smith
Donald Brown	Gunilla Hastrup	Leon Liu*	Ben Park*	Candace Rypisi	Abdul-Ahad Tariq*
Pradeep Bugga*	Eric Hochberg	Martin Lo	Rory Perkins*	Ilia Shadrin*	Jonathan Tsai*
Vamsi Chavakula*	James Huang*	Tom Mannion	Robert Perpall	Susan Shen*	Benjamin Turk
Sunny Chun*	Shankar Kalyanaraman*	Doreen Mason	Toni Perpall	Allan Sheno	June Wicks*
Frank Dryden	Harry Kawahara	Sharyn Miller			

The Caltech Y News

Editor: Gunilla Hastrup

Published monthly Oct-Jun (except Jan). Distributed via email (primary) or hardcopy (upon request)

To send comments, be added to or opt off the distribution list, contact the Caltech Y office or email to ynews@caltech.edu.

The Caltech Y respects all email addresses and will not share or spam your address.