



The Caltech Y NEWS

"Making a World of Difference"

Since 1916

Announcements

Y Board selects Studenski Award recipient

2008 Studenski Memorial Award will go to Erin Flanagin '08

by Gunilla Hastrup, Y Board

Erin is a senior at Caltech and finds himself at a "crossroad" in his life between medicine and public health. Last summer, Erin worked at the Huntington Hospital shadowing doctors. To add to his perspective, he will



enroll now in a program called "Hike for Humanity," run by International Service Learning (ISL), which seeks to provide medical care to the most remote and neglected parts of countries around the world. The specific project Erin will take part in is a three-week endeavor in Tanzania in August. Erin will travel on several four- to five-day backpacking trips to rural villages, work in free clinics and make house visits with a team of medical professionals. He will be trained to do basic medical work by supervising medical staff and provide care to local families.

The Studenski Award was established in the memory of Caltech student, Paul Studenski, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1973 while taking time away from the academic community to get a fresh view of his life, his future and himself. According to Paul Studenski's family wishes, the grant shall be awarded annually to a Caltech student with intellectual promise and

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who would benefit from a period of time away from the academic community in order to obtain a better understanding of him/herself and his/her plans for the future. Over the years, the Studenski Award recipients have been selected by the Student Relations Committee of the Caltech Y Board and have explored many diverse topics. The one thing that they have in common is that they are at a "crossroad" in their life. The Studenski Award specifically provides funds for students to explore, grow and expand their horizons that might not be possible during the rigorous demands of the Caltech academic year.

New members and officers elected to Y ExComm and Y Board

Caltech Y ExComm

by June Wicks '08, ExComm

It is my great pleasure to announce the new members and officers who have been elected to the Caltech Y Student Executive Committee (ExComm). The new members are:

Leslie Tong '10 Pronay Kothari '11
Boyuan Sun, Grad

Here is the lineup the new ExComm officers, representing the Y as the next round of student leaders:

President: Iliia Shadrin '09
Undergrad VP: Pradeep Bugga '09
Graduate VP: Boyuan Sun, Grad

Secretary: Sunny Chun '10
Treas/Hist: Jon Tsai '10

Congratulations to all of you, we are all looking forward to a great year!

Caltech Y Board

by Bob Perpall, Y Board
Nominating Comm Chair

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that the following nominees have been elected by the Y Board and have agreed to serve for a three-year term beginning in June of 2008:

Frank Dryden Debra Hall
John Gee Barbara Gee

Shantanu Sharma Elissa Habernict
David Levy

Additionally, the following have been elected and agree to serve as officers of the Board for the 2008-09 term:

Chair: Carolyn Ash
Vice Chair: Susan Murakami
Secretary: Connie Kofahl
Treasurer: Peter Mason

There were many other very qualified nominees for Board membership and the committee has documented its prioritized list for use next year.

Year-End Reports

Message from the Caltech Y Board Chair

Carolyn Ash, Y Board Chair

We celebrate the end of the academic year and the approach of summer! Students breathe a sigh of relief as the last exam is submitted and they prepare for summer research, jobs, or travel.

At the Caltech Y, we celebrate too! This year brought a rich array of programs, activities, and events to also help students prepare for the rest of their lives. Students hiked, biked, explored nature, traveled, assisted the community, engaged in political activism, learned to lead, led, helped fellow students, provided entertainment, identified and invited speakers, decompressed before exams and after. The Y creates a nurturing space and encourages students to balance their academic pursuits through its many offerings. This year was amazing, and we now look forward to next year.

The Y Board of Directors is an energetic and committed group that invests

time, effort, talent, and money to support the work of the Y. I have greatly enjoyed working this year with this remarkable group. In particular, I thank fellow officers Lee Fisher, Peter Mason, and Barbara Heublein for their counsel and collaboration. We bid Barbara adieu from the Board this year and thank her for her excellent service as Secretary over the past five years. Lee will step down as Vice Chair, and we thank him for his strong support and service in that role and look forward to his continuing membership on the Board.

Special kudos to the committee chairs Peter Mason (Finance), Ben Turk (Student Relations), Tom Mannion (Friends), Frank Dryden and Carel Otte (Development), Susan Murakami (Public Relations), Lee Fisher (Personnel), and Bob Perpall (Nominations). These dedicated individuals and those who served on the committees put forth Herculean effort this year to foster the

work of the Board and to support the Y and its programs.

Rolf and Gunilla Hastrup work tirelessly each month to gather articles for the newsletter and prepare it for publication. The newsletter provides a terrific overview of the Y and the people associated with it. I always enjoy reading it, and I always learn something new. I hope you do too!

It was such a pleasure to work with Peter Liu, ExComm Chair this past year. Peter gave interesting and comprehensive monthly reports to the Board on ExComm activities and programs, and he provided capable leadership of the ExComm. He is an articulate spokesman for the Y and for the students. Congratulations, Peter, on a job well done!

I wish everyone a happy summer! I look forward to the fall and another banner year for the Caltech Y!

Message from the Caltech Y Executive Director

Athena Castro, Y Executive Director

What a fantastic year! The Y ExComm and various student committees had a busy year. We have hiked, camped, watched “*Wicked*” (twice), volunteered for many community organizations, worked hard during spring break (Mexico, Owens Valley, and New Orleans), fed lots of students during *Decompression*, screened hundreds of t-shirts, listened to and were challenged by various speakers, spent countless hours in meetings, had a ton of fun, and ate lots of pizza! Whew! And those are just a few highlights of the year.

All of the events that you have been reading about in the monthly newsletters are initiated and led by students,

the Y ExComm and student committees, namely the *Outdoor Adventures Committee* and the *Social Activism Speaker Series Committee*. They deserve much of the credit and praise for a wonderful year! They are a dedicated group of leaders committed to the Y and enriching student life at Caltech.

In addition, the Y could not operate without the support of the Y Board of Directors. Many, many thanks to this devoted and enthusiastic group of volunteers! Special thanks also go to the co-editors of this newsletter, Rolf and Gunilla Hastrup, who have spent countless hours gathering and compiling articles in order to generate this monthly newsletter!

Although the school year is coming to

an end, the activity at the Caltech Y is by no means slowing down. The ExComm and staff are busily planning for end of the year activities including the *Huntington Tea*, *Decompression*, the annual *Yosemite/Centennial Grove Trip* in conjunction with the Gnome Club, and the *International Service Trip* in collaboration with Ken Pickar’s *E/ME 105 Class*. These events only take us through the first week of July and, then, who knows what Summer ExComm will plan for the remaining summer?

We’ll give you the full update in October when the newsletter starts up again. In the meantime, I hope you all have a wonderful summer. See you in the Fall!

Year-End Reports (Continued)

RISE Program report

by Alycen Chan, Y RISE Program Coordinator

This year the Caltech Y RISE Program served 60 students from the Pasadena Unified School District, and expanded the tutoring to students ranging from grades 8 to 12. The Caltech undergraduate and graduate students were very gracious with their time and energy, and, because of this generosity, the program was able to have enough

tutors to maintain a ratio of two students to one tutor throughout the academic year.

RISE students also attended trips to local area colleges including the Claremont Colleges, Chapman University, and Occidental College. In addition, RISE staff and students helped in the creation of a promotional video to generate more support for the program.

Thank you to all the tutors, Y staff and board members, and many in the Caltech community for their support of the RISE Program. The program has provided critical support in math and science to students who really need it.

Next year we hope to continue to make an impact on students in the Pasadena community.

Recent Events (May)

African Health Symposium

by Greg Fletcher, Y Student Activities & Community Services Director

The Caltech Y organizes countless events from start to finish. In addition to this, or perhaps because of our reputation for this, we also have the opportunity to contribute to the efforts of others who are doing some great things on campus. Students with a purpose in mind often seek out the Y for funding, assistance, advising, or all

of the above, in order to make their plans a reality. The African Health Symposium, on May 3rd, was one such opportunity.

The African Health Symposium was a half-day of talks on HIV and malaria, featuring a presentation from Caltech President Emeritus – and Nobel Laureate – David Baltimore, as well as others from the Fogarty International Center of the NIH, Caltech Faculty, the Tanzania Project of the Huntington

Hospital, the Naval Medical Research Center, and Interactive Teaching AIDS.org. The African Health Symposium was coordinated by two graduate students working with the GEANCO Foundation, whose goal is developing medical and educational facilities in Nigeria. Along with some logistical support from the Y, the organizers received funding and had a number of students from the Y ExComm involved in assisting with the event.

Day Hike

by Shankar Kalyanaraman, Grad Student

The Caltech Y organized a day-hike to Mt. San Geronio on May 3. At a height of 11,499 ft Mt. San Geronio is the tallest peak in Southern California. With an elevation gain of 5,700 ft over 8 miles of trail, the hike, not surprisingly, came with an 'extremely strenuous' tag (ice-axes and crampons were highly recommended).

We had a diverse and excellent group of people including a postdoc, an un-

dergrad, a visiting student from Denmark, a visiting scholar from Amsterdam and four grad students, and were able to complete the hike successfully even though most of it was off-trail because of the snow!

Wilderness First Aid

by Leslie Tong '10, Excomm

On the weekend of May 16-18, thirty members of the Caltech community participated in the Wilderness First Aid class taught at the Caltech Y by instructors from the Wilderness Medicine Institute of the National Outdoor

Leadership School. Those who took part learned the basics of CPR, patient assessment, and wound treatment. There were both classroom lectures and hands on practice scenarios, complete with fake blood. The 20-hour course spanned all three days of the warm-weathered alumni weekend, and participants found relief in sharing lunch with alums on Sunday. Special thanks go to sponsorship from the Caltech Y, the Alpine Club, ASCIT, and GSC.

Recent Events (continued)

International Week and Semana Latina provide a busy week

May 5 through 9

by Greg Fletcher, Y Student Activities & Community Services Director

International Week

International Week opened May 5 with the film screening of “Marwa” with filmmaker and Caltech alum, Iram Parveen Bilal ‘04. The 19-minute film focused on an Iraqi girl serving as an interpreter for the captain in charge of the American operation. Iram Bilal is also a former recipient of the *Studentski Award*, who used the award funds to explore documentary filmmaking.



Greg Fletcher, Iram Bilal, Athena Castro and Jim Endrizzi

After graduating with a BS in Environmental Science & Engineering, Iram began her career in film at the prestigious Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California. She graduated in 2007 with her MFA in film. Iram has since directed two short films, “*The Turn of the Key*” and “*Marwa*.” “*Marwa*” was a semi-finalist at the 2007 Angelus

Film Festival and was accepted into the 2008 Kustendorf Film Festival, where it began its rounds of the festival circuit. Marwa was also a finalist in the Best Drama category in the International Family Film Festival. The post-screening discussion with Iram focused on the issues of the film, the challenges and rewards of filmmaking, and the role that the Studentski Award played in launching Iram’s new direction.

International Week also featured a screening of a film highlighting the artistic treasures of Korea, and a lunch talk on Nigeria by a Caltech Nigerian student who shared his experiences and perspectives on his home country.

The International Food Fair and Culture Show concluded another successful International Week at Caltech with close to 700 people sampling a taste of another culture. Over 15 international student clubs, representing a range of cultures and providing sample foods and performances, participated in sharing a little of their home with those of us here at Caltech. The event was held in Avery Courtyard and on Moore Walk from 4:30 to 6:30 on Friday, May 9 – a great way to bring in the weekend. With appetizers, entrées, desserts, and beverages, as well as traditional dance, exotic instruments and fashion, the International Food Fair and Culture Show was truly a global showcase.

International Week is coordinated by the Caltech Y and International Stu-

dent Programs, and, this year, coincided with *Semana Latina* – providing a very full week of culture and celebration.

Semana Latina

Another longstanding cultural program is *Semana Latina*, coordinated by the Caltech Latino Associations – Club Latino and CLASES – with assistance from the Cultural Programming Group, the Caltech Y, and with theme meals from Caltech Dining Services.

Noon times, throughout the week, featured colorful cultural performances including: the “Latin Sol” – a 10-piece band featuring a blend of salsa and Afro-Cuban rhythms; the “Mariachi Divas” musical group; the “Escuela de Baile Tradicional” group performing traditional Peruvian dance to the music of the “Victor Vento Live Peruvian Band”; and culminated with Brazilian Samba music and dancers. Each performance gathered a crowd of around 100 to watch over lunch, and often enticed people from the crowd to dance and interact with the performers.

Semana Latina also featured a talk the following week from Gustavo Arellano – OC Weekly journalist, editor, satirist and author of the book and nationally syndicated column, “Ask A Mexican”. Campus Life provided free tacos to the crowd of over 60 who gathered for the discussion in Winnett Center.



Scenes from the international Week Culture Show
(Photos by Jonathan Tsai ‘10)

Meet the ExComm

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

Leslie Tong '10

by Molly Jones, Y Student Activities Coordinator

It is often hard to know when you've passed Leslie Tong on campus. She is typically a speeding blur as she zips by on her skateboard with her tennis racket in hand and a pile of books in the other. From being a star player on the tennis team to playing the guitar



and piano, and, of course, being a top-notch student, it is impressive that Leslie has time to eat, let alone participate at the Caltech Y.

Leslie's first introduction to the Y was during a pre-frosh week trip to the local Boys & Girls Club. During high school, Leslie served as President of the Interact Club, a Rotary supported school organization focused on serving the community, so, the Y and its programs were a natural fit for her interests once she arrived at Caltech. With a bit of persuasion from her fellow Lloydies, Peter Liu (former ExComm President) and Vickie Pon (former ExComm VP), Leslie started attending ExComm meetings during her sophomore year. She feels that the Y plays a vital role on campus as its programs provide opportunities for student enrichment and motivate cross-house socializing.

As she wraps up her sophomore year, Leslie still has a while before she needs to decide on her post-Caltech plans, but she is currently thinking that

she'll go on to graduate studies in biology. Research she's been conducting on embryonic neural crest cells in lampreys (a freshwater jawless fish) is exciting Leslie about biological research and confirming that she is on the right path for now.



Voices of the Y Board

Peter and Doreen Mason Y Board Members

The Caltech Y means many things to us. We enjoy the Y as a way of getting to know a great group of students, staff and board members. Such things as *Make a Difference Day*, and service at *Union Station* encourage the students to know and help others, especially the less fortunate. The programs that the Y puts on are very valuable in teaching students and us about things that are going on at Caltech, and in the wider world. Its independence from the formal Caltech structure allows it to bring in different and valuable points of view.

As nursing director of the Caltech Student Health Center in the 70s, Doreen



was on the Y board and enjoyed working with the students. When the first female students arrived in 1972, it was a challenge and very interesting. Among the things she remembers with pleasure was working with Margery Pings to put on the first *Decompression*. We're delighted to see it continues and is enjoyed.

An important contribution to our happiness is that we met through the Y. We began to share our lives and activities, a considerable part of which revolved around the Y. The final happy result is that we married as a result of meeting at the Y.

Greetings from an Ex ExComm

Yuki Takahashi '01

The Y really helped me stay connected to the outside world while living in this very unique and selective environment that is Caltech. Having grown up in a very homogeneous country, Japan, and having gone to high school in a small Michigan town, I thought Caltech was a pretty diverse place. Looking back, I realize that this campus was a very closed little bubble, if it hadn't been for the Y. I appreciate, more than back then, the importance of the Y, especially at such a science and engineering focused place.

My interest in community service was what first got me into the Y. I volunteered in many projects and started going to the meetings. I found the members of the Y to be very friendly and nice, and often times silly in a healthy way. I believe it was Athena who kept up such an inclusive and cheerful atmosphere. After my four years, I looked up to Athena as, what I then called, "the coolest person" I met at Caltech.



With Athena at Graduation

I remember starting out with *Project Angel Food*, in which we delivered food to HIV patients at their homes. Caltech and the immediate surroundings seemed like such a safe, peaceful, and beautiful area full of greens, but through this project I was able to see parts of Pasadena that I hadn't known existed. Plus, it was the first time I had seen and talked to people with HIV, dissolving many preconceptions. Helping with *Union Station* also provided me opportunities to interact with

homeless persons, which probably helped me have less of a culture shock when I moved to Berkeley for graduate school. I think my experience with people in various life circumstances through the Y helped me become a kind of person who can smile and talk to the homeless in Berkeley and elsewhere rather than ignoring them. Events like the *LA Hunger Cleanup* were great for meeting active people from other campuses and communities, which didn't happen much otherwise.

The Alternative Spring Breaks had to be my favorite because they exposed us to ways of living that was so foreign to me at the time. I participated in the Tecolote project three times and made one trip to the Earthtime Ranch in Arizona. The first trip to Tecolote was my first time spending more than a few days in a country other than Japan and the US. It strengthened in me the desire to explore other cultures and learn their languages.



Playing with children in Tecolote

The Earthtime Ranch in a Native American reservation introduced me to a lifestyle that I didn't fully appreciate at the time, except its contrast to the life of a Caltech student who is always chased by homework deadlines. Looking back, I identify with many of their values as I now live in cooperative housing at Berkeley, where we compost all our food scraps to grow vegetables, heat our water with our solar panels and, in general, try our best to minimize our impact to the environment.

After graduating, I had the chance to go to the UK for a year to do master's research thanks to a Fulbright grant, which I probably wouldn't have received if it wasn't for my involvement in projects through the Y to round out my profile. I returned to Berkeley for a PhD program. There are many activism and community service groups at Berkeley, but I have yet to find something quite as welcoming and inclusive of graduate students as the Y.



On Mauna Kea with Gunilla and Rolf (taking picture), 2003

I have been working on a cosmology project in collaboration with Professor Andrew Lange, so I have had many chances to spend time back at Caltech. Coincidentally, Y board member Pete Mason and I are working in the same group, and have shared 2 trips to the South Pole to set up and service our telescope. This year I will be working at Caltech all summer, so I'm looking forward to participating in and helping out with the Y activities again!



With Pete Mason on top of our telescope bldg, South Pole, 2005

Coming Events

by Greg Fletcher, Y Student
Activities & Community Services
Director

As many students head out on vacation and others shift gears into their SURFs, the Y shifts gears, as well, 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:

Life Skills Series: Nutrition

Friday, May 30

Students, feeling tired, unmotivated or worn out, will be offered an opportunity to find out why, for some, what they are eating plays a role, and to make a change by learning the life skill of nutrition. Students will join us for lunch to discuss ways that they can incorporate more nutritious foods in their diet and develop healthy eating patterns while at Caltech that can last a lifetime. Under the direction of Wendy Lompata, the Caltech Health Educator, they'll explore inexpensive ways to eat healthy and dispel some myths about diet and nutrition.

The Huntington Tea

Sunday, June 1

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

Summer Highlights

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.

Decompression

Saturday, June 7

As the 2007-08 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.

Grad Reception

Friday, June 13

Immediately following commencement, the ExComm will have one last chance to gather with those members who are graduating. Families and friends are welcome as we celebrate those leaders, active with the Y, who are graduating.

Yosemite-Centennial Grove Camping & Hiking Trip

June 18-20

Students looking for a great way to kick off the summer join us on a 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 get away. The trip, sched-

uled for Wednesday, June 18 to Friday, June 20, includes transportation, campsites, and food. No camping experience is necessary – in fact, often there are more participants on the trip with no camping history than seasoned outdoor enthusiasts. The trip is also primarily filled with international students, many seeing Yosemite for, perhaps, the only time in their lives.

Summer Service Trip – Guatemala

June 29 - July 12

Following two successful trips to Costa Rica, the Y has this summer teamed with the E/ME 105 class to offer a service learning trip to Guatemala. This unique trip will combine the implementation of basic technology projects, volunteer work, home-stay living, language training and adventurous travel during 14 days in the beautiful and culturally rich country of Guatemala. During our stay in a rural community, students will be living with carefully selected host families to improve their Spanish skills and beginning the process of understanding another culture. Service projects will allow students to experience the vision, cooperation, and patience crucial to "making a difference". These community projects will focus on practical applications of E/ME 105 class ideas. It will be a fantastic return to Central America for the Y and, hopefully, our first of many endeavors with the faculty of E/ME 105.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Huntington Tea	2 Board Mtg	3 ExComm Mtg	4	5	6	7 Decompression Explore LA: Body Works
8	9	10 ExComm Mtg	11	12	13 Grad Reception	14
15	16 Guatemala trip Spanish class	17	18 Yosemite Centennial Grove Trip	19 Yosemite Centennial Grove Trip Guatemala trip Spanish class	20 Yosemite Centennial Grove Trip	21 Union Station Homeless Shelter
23 SASS Framing Science for Media Guatemala trip Spanish class	24 SASS Framing Science for Media Workshop	24	25	26 Guatemala trip Spanish class	27	28
29 Guatemala Service Learning Trip	30 Guatemala Service Learning Trip					Through July 12 →

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 & Community Service Director
 Christopher Kealey - Marketing & Development Director
 Alycen Chan - RISE Coordinator
 Molly Jones - Student Activities Coordinator
 Carmelita Hearn - Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Carolyn Ash - Chair
 Peter Mason - Treasurer
 Iliia Shadrin - Student ExComm President
 Lee Fisher - Vice Chair
 Barbara Heublein - Secretary

Members (* indicates Student Executive Committee)

Robin Abraham*	Dean Elzinga	Shankar	Doreen Mason	Jane Pinkerton	Douglas Smith
Richard Beatty	Daniel Erickson	Kalyanaraman*	Sharyn Miller	Vickie Pon*	Boyuan Sun*
Natalie Becerra*	Samantha Foster	Harry Kawahara	Susan Murakami	Jean-Paul Revel	Abdul-Ahad Tariq*
Abel Bourbois	Steve Frautschi	Constance Kofahl	Robert Nathan	Candace Rypisi	Leslie Tong*
Donald Brown	Dave Gillies	Pronay Kothary*	Kenneth Oslund*	Fred Shair	Jonathan Tsai*
Pradeep Bugga*	Marjorie Gooding	Nancy Lan	Carel Otte	Susan Shen*	Benjamin Turk
Bill Burrows	Gunilla Hastrup	Gretchen Leonard	Rory Perkins*	Betty Sirri	Howell Tyson
Vamsi Chavakula*	Rolf Hastrup	Tony Leonard	Robert Perpall	Norri Sirri	Dorothy Tyson
Marshall Cohen	Eric Hochberg	Leon Liu*	Toni Perpall	Deborah Smith	June Wicks*
Shirley Cohen	James Huang*	Peter Liu*	Don Pinkerton		Jim Workman
Sunny Chun*	Catherine Jurca	Tom Mannion			

The Caltech Y News

Editor: Gunilla Hastrup

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