



The Caltech Y NEWS

"Making a World of Difference"

Since
1916

Announcements

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Welcome back Athena!

Caltech Y Executive Director, Athena Castro, returned April 16th from a brief leave. Athena was missed by all and is warmly welcomed back – especially by the Caltech Y staff, the Y Student Executive Committee and the Y Board of Directors.

June Wicks '08 honored with campus leadership award

by Greg Fletcher, Y Staff

It is with great excitement that we announce this year's recipient of the Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen Memorial Award – June Wicks! The prize is given in memory of Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen, an exceptional student leader, who was very involved on campus contributing to the quality of student life. The prize recognizes outstanding student leaders with a cash prize of \$500.

June's leadership and contribution to campus are unquestioned. Of significant note, June served as the 2006-07 President of the Caltech Y Student Executive Committee (ExComm); a co-coordinator of, and repeat site-leader for, Make-A-Difference Day; a



repeat coordinator for the Huntington Tea Event; and a leader of numerous group trips to local museums and landmarks. In addition, June participated in community service projects including the inaugural 2005 summer service trip to Costa Rica. June was also involved in music at Caltech as an accomplished violinist.

The selection committee noted June's service, dedication, and commitment with admiration and stated that her "enthusiasm, encouragement to other students, and actions serve as an inspiration." She will be honored, along with the other campus leadership awardees, at a luncheon on May 18th in the Library of the Athenaeum.

Vickie Pon '08 receives Campus Academic Award

by Greg Fletcher, Y Staff

It is exciting to see in the *California Tech*, "Math, fruit flies, and video games for scholars," by Marissa Cevallos, the announcement that Vickie Pon was honored at the 2007 Undergraduate Academic Awards as this year's recipient of the Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award! The prize is given to a chemist or biologist who has shown academic promise and made recognized contributions in

research to Caltech. Vickie's research on how fruit flies detect scents is one of these noted accomplishments.

In addition to her academic and research endeavors, Vickie is very active on campus and, of course, with the Caltech Y. She is currently serving as a Vice President, and immediate past secretary, for the Y Ex-Comm. Vickie is particularly active in volunteer activities with the Y, notably as a Co-Coordinator of the 2005 Make-A-Dif-

ference Day and as a repeat site-leader other years. She has led groups of volunteers to the Boy's & Girl's Club and to work projects with Rebuilding Together, Pasadena. As if Vickie's leadership roles on the Y Ex-Comm haven't been enough, she also works at the front desk welcoming visitors and taking calls as one of our front line faces for the Y. Vickie has also been involved in ASCIT – as Secretary.

See Vickie's photo in
[Meet the ExComm](#)

Announcements (continued)

Student ExComm adds more new members

by Ilia Shadrin '08, ExComm

The Caltech Y Student ExComm voted in four new members during the month of April. This brings the total ExComm membership to 18 – an all-time high in recent memory, and the maximum allowed under the Y Bylaws. Thus, no new members can be added until graduating students create vacancies.

Congratulations and welcome to the new ExComm members, who are:

Natalie Becerra '08

Leon Liu '10

Pradeep Bugga '09

Jonathan Tsai '10

Caltech Y 90th Anniversary Book

The Caltech Y 90th Anniversary Book has been delayed due to publication difficulties. However, the book will be available in time for the June Y Board meeting and will include the Caltech Y Annual Report.

Recent Events (April)

Y Friends Dinner celebrates 90 years

Dr. Carol Carmichael speaks on "The University and Sustainability"

by Toni Perpall, Y Board

On April 5th, Caltech Y Friends, students and guests filled to capacity the Main Dining Room of the Athenaeum to thank and toast the Y for "Making a World of Difference" for 90 years.

Amid bouquets of balloons attached to bottles of champagne, Board Chair, Rolf Hastrup, welcomed the Y Friends, students and guests. In addition to Caltech President, Jean Lou Chameau, and wife, Carol Carmichael, we were honored by the presence of Pasadena

Mayor, William Bogaard.

June Wick's virtuoso violin performance of J. S. Bach's Sonata #1 Adagio added a touch of culture to the evening. She also accompanied Peter Liu's light-hearted tribute to the Y, and the Happy Birthday Song led by Board member, Richard Beatty.

After a gourmet dinner, Greg Fletcher, the Y Student Activities Director, summarized the most recent activities including the RISE Program, Alternative Spring Break trips and Make-A-Difference Day.

Dr. Susan Murakami-Fisher, Friends Committee Co-Chair, then introduced Dr. Carol Carmichael, Caltech's own First Lady.

Carol's perfectly chosen topic, "The University and Sustainability," was enlightening and thought provoking. The Caltech Community will be hearing more on this subject.

It was a very special evening right down to the last custom decorated Y 90th cupcake!



ExComm participates in the Student Faculty Conference

by Vickie Pon '08, ExComm

On April 5th, the biennial Student Faculty Conference held many panels in a day-long conference that attracted many students, faculty, and staff to hear presentations and discuss many issues of student life and academics of

Caltech. Many committees that had worked hard throughout the school year presented on topics such as undergraduate education, research, quality of life, the Honor Code, and the curricula under each of the academic divisions.

Five of the Y ExComm members served on one or more of the committees and presented at the conference: Vamsi Chavakula, Sunny Chun, Vickie Pon, Susan Shen, and Abdul-Ahad Tariq.

It was a successful day!

Student Outings

The renovated Getty Villa

by June Wicks '08, ExComm

On Saturday, April 7th, Sunny Chun and I led a group of 50 students to the Getty Villa.

The Getty Villa was commissioned to be by J. Paul Getty and inspired by a Roman country house in Herculaneum, Italy. It was recently reopened after a nine-year renovation project, so we were eager to see the new "old" Getty! Despite fear of rain, a great mix of undergraduates, graduate students and post-docs happily boarded our charter bus and spent a beautiful day in sunny Malibu!

Amidst sparkling marble and colorful plaster decor are housed the antiquities collections of the Getty Museum. My favorite part of the museum was finishing up the day in the beautiful-

smelling herb garden. Sunny most enjoyed this month's special exhibition: *Stories in Stone: Conserving Mosaics of Roman Africa*, which showcased mosaics from the national museums of Tunisia. According to Sunny, it was interesting because they showed you a kind of blueprint of where these floor pictures



Sunny Chun '10 at the Getty

are placed in huge bathhouses or amphitheatres.

The sculptures and artifacts were interesting, the gardens were beautiful and, in the end, we couldn't have asked for a more perfect day!

Joshua Tree National Park

by Rory Perkins, Grad,
ExComm

Eleven participants drove out to Joshua Tree National Park for a three day camping trip, April 6, 7 and 8. Highlights included: heavy traffic on the 10, the not-nature trail, gas-guzzling SUV's, scenic desert views, and late night games of mafia. Thanks to Michelle Stempel and Ashley Jones for organizing and leading the excursion.

International Week – International Food Fair

Greg Fletcher, Y Staff

International Week is coordinated by International Student Programs, The Caltech Y, and the International Clubs of Caltech. A complete schedule of the International Week events was included in the April issue of The Y News.

The International Food Fair, on Friday, April 13th, concluded a week featuring intercultural group discussions, guest speakers, foreign films, and fun on the



football (soccer) field, and it gave more than 400 attendees a taste of the world around them. With 17 different countries or regions represented, there was an amazing diversity of foods and drink to sample. Many of the clubs began preparing food the day before and joined the Caltech Y and International Student Programs staff and volunteers in coordinating the spectacular event. Flags from the countries waved in the breeze under blue skies as the weather cooperated with the outdoor event held at Avery Courtyard. A live performance of Hawaiian guitar completed the setting. The areas represented included: Asia, Romania, Brazil, China, Iran, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, India, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela.

The official events of the "Week" actually concluded with two Caltech Dance Shows on April 13 and 14, and extended into the next week with a screening of the documentary *Invisible Children*, and a Video Lunch telling the story of a group of Arab-Israeli widows' attempt to gain financial independence by starting their own business.

It was a very full and fun week plus!



Other Events

Pre-Frosh Weekend

by Vickie Pon '08, ExComm

On April 19th, *Quantum Hoops*, a film by Rick Greenwald, showcasing the history of Caltech men's basketball, was shown during Pre-Frosh Weekend to about a hundred pre-frosh students, and others at the Y. Everyone filled up on ice cream floats and watched attentively the pro-Caltech film. Afterwards, everyone had the chance to talk with the director himself and two senior basketball players featured in the film, David Liu and Chris Yu, who also attended the showing. The Y ExComm members were excited to see

Ben Turk, from the Caltech Y Board of Directors, featured in the film. The ExComm members that helped set up and run the event agreed that this was a great substitute for *Real Genius*, which the Y traditionally shows during Pre-Frosh Weekend. *Quantum Hoops* showed the motivation, determination, nerdiness, and all the other great qualities of aspiring athletes and all other students at Caltech.

Earth Day Fair

by Athena Castro, Y Staff

The recent inclement weather did not hinder Caltech's Earth Day Fair, held on Friday, April 20th. Long supported

by the Caltech Y, the annual Earth Day Fair is organized and sponsored by the Caltech Environmental Task Force (CETF). Representatives from various environmentally related groups squeezed under a tent and cheerfully distributed information and raised awareness about environmental issues such as shade grown coffee and recycling. CETF members also handed out plants grown in recycled containers. Despite the rain, members of the Caltech campus enjoyed cake, food, and music while learning more about environmental issues.

[Meet the ExComm](#)

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

Vickie Pon '08

by Dominic Alletto, Y Staff

Current ExComm Vice President Vickie Pon is one of Caltech's finest student leaders. Originally from Littleton Colorado, Vickie grew up with her mother and younger sister, with whom she still speaks everyday. As an undergraduate majoring in biology, Vickie has done small research projects in biochemistry, behavioral genetics, and microbiology, but now her passion lies with pharmacy. This summer Vickie will be doing clinical pharmacy research on drugs used by pregnant women at the University of Washington, Seattle. While in Washington, Vickie will be applying to pharmacy schools in hopes



of becoming a hospital pharmacist or clinical research pharmacist.

As a member of the Y for over two years, Vickie has served on the ExComm Committee as Secretary and has participated in several events such as: MAD Day, Decompression, Martin Luther King Service Day, and other community service projects. When asked what she likes most about the Y, Vickie responded, "The Y gives EVERYONE the chance to do ANYTHING for which they have a passion. My favorite part of the Y is how we, students, are able to reach into the community outside the Caltech bubble and make a difference in the lives of others."

Coming Events (May-June)

Student Activity Highlights

by Dominic Alletto, Y Staff

Outdoor Hikes

As the school year winds down, the Y ExComm continues to keep the Caltech student body busy with outdoor events. Taking advantage of the beautiful spring weather, the outdoors committee is planning a full Moon hike and other day hikes.

Semana Latina

At this year's Semana Latina, students will enjoy a cultural performance and food at this noontime activity, currently scheduled over three days, May 17, 18 and 19. Semana Latina is coordinated by Club Latino and supported by the Caltech Y and other campus groups.

Social Justice Events

As part of the Y's mission to encourage students to become critically engaged leaders in the world and local community, the Y is presenting two renowned speakers focusing on international issues and civil rights.

Kevin Sites (*Social Activism Speaker Series*). Celebrated journalist Kevin Sites will speak Tuesday, May 8th on his work across the world. As a solo journalist, Sites has a vast amount of experience reporting on assignments in

various countries, including the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, South America, and Eastern Europe.

Reagan Demas (*Social Activism Speaker Series*). As the Director of Operations of the International Justice Mission (IJM) in Africa, Demas will speak, on May 22, about the work IJM and other organizations are doing to advocate for human rights.

Fair Trade Movie Screening

On May 11th, partnering with local non-profit Ten Thousand Villages, ExComm and other groups will screen the 2005 documentary film, *China Blue*, directed by Micha Peled. This award winning film follows the life of Jasmine, a young worker in a Chinese jeans factory, hence the title. The documentary discusses both alleged sweatshop conditions in factories in China and the growing importance of China as an exporting country on a global scale.

RISE Program

by Alycen Chan, Y Staff

With the school year quickly coming to a close, the RISE Program is getting ready for some end of the year activities. We have planned our last campus visits for the year. One will be our very own Caltech and the other

will be to USC. In addition, we are planning a luncheon to show our appreciation to the tutors who have dedicated their time and energy to working with the high school students of Pasadena. It's really been a great year for the program, and the students are already asking us about the start date for next year.

Yosemite – Centennial Grove Trip

Greg Fletcher, Y Staff

Always a great way to kick off the summer, on 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.

Y Open House and Alumni Brunch

A Caltech Y Open House and Alumni Brunch will be held Sunday, May 20, in conjunction with the Caltech Alumni Seminar Day and Reunion Weekend. This event is scheduled from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. All alumni and

guests are invited to stop by the Y facilities, become re-acquainted with the Y, enjoy good food and chat with friends.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 RISE Tutoring ExComm Mtg	2 RISE Tutoring SASS Mtg Full Moon Hike	3 RISE Tutoring Reel World Video	4	5 Chancellor Place
6	7 RISE Tutoring Y Board Mtg	8 RISE Tutoring SASS Kevin Sites ExComm Mtg	9 RISE Tutoring Y-Outdoors Mtg	10 RISE Tutoring Reel World Video	11 Semana Latina: Noon Concert Fair Trade Movie: China Blue	12 Reading to Kids Day Hike
13	14 RISE Tutoring	15 RISE Tutoring ExComm Mtg	16 RISE Tutoring SASS Mtg	17 RISE Tutoring Semana Latina Reel World Video	18 Semana Latina	19 Union Station Semana Latina
20 Alumni Brunch	21 RISE Tutoring	22 RISE Tutoring ExComm Mtg SASS Reagan Demas	23 RISE Tutoring Y-Outdoors Mtg	24 RISE Tutoring Reel World Video	25 RISE Campus Tour	26
27	28 RISE Tutoring	29 RISE Tutoring	30	31		

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. 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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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*	Iliia 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			

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