



The Caltech Y NEWS

"Making a World of Difference"

Since
1916

Announcements

Y Board Votes For Endowment Campaign at Annual Retreat

by Carolyn Ash, Y Board Chair

Happy new year!

An enthusiastic and energetic quorum of Y Board members gathered at the Altadena Country Club on Sunday, October 21, for its annual retreat. We welcomed 15 new members to the Board and renewed continuing acquaintances following the summer hiatus.

Through a series of presentations and significant discussions, the Board considered whether to undertake a campaign to increase the Y's endowment to set its future on a robust financial footing.

ExComm members Abdul Ahad Tariq,

Peter Liu, Ilia Shadrin, and Rory Perkins inspired us with wonderful stories of their Y experiences doing community service, outdoor adventures, and educational travel. They presented an overview of the activities planned for this year and a long and enticing wish list of events they hope to plan in the near future (sign me up to see Maya Angelou and the Dalai Lama!).

Frank Dryden, quondam Board chair and former Development Committee chair discussed the history of funding and fund raising for the Y. Athena gave an informative, data-filled presentation of student participation in Y events, long-term program funding,

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and a snapshot of the current Y program budget.

Carel Otte, Development Committee chairman, outlined the strategy for the first phase of the proposed campaign. Following deep discussions, the Board voted to proceed with the campaign.

Now the work begins! Our ambitious agenda awaits us, and our investment of time, effort, and, yes, money will richly benefit the Y far into the future. Avanti!



Recent Events (October)

Cooking On a Budget

by Peter Liu '09, ExComm

On Tuesday, October 9th, Rory Perkins and Peter Liu hosted the first of the *Housner Life Skills Series: Cooking On A Budget*. Together, they prepared information for students on where to shop in Pasadena, tips and advice on how to get started with cooking, and a short recipe list of the 5

dishes to be made that night. Undergrads and grads came out to learn the new recipes and tips in Tom Mannion's home. The night ended with hands holding happy bellies and smiles all around.

This event was a great first step in the new *Life Skills Series*, a monthly series, which aims to develop daily life

skills and is made possible through the recent endowment gift from George Housner.

We would like to express special thanks to Tom Mannion for graciously opening his home (and for providing great dessert!).



First event of *Explore LA Series* features Pasadena Art Night

by Ilia Shadrin '09, ExComm

Pasadena Art Night was the first event in the new Caltech Y *Explore LA Series*, designed for students to explore and experience all that is offered in the greater LA area.

At 6pm on October 12th, all Pasadena museums and exhibits of cultural and musical interest opened their doors to let in visitors free of charge. We gathered a group of 20 students, both graduate and undergraduate, at the Caltech Y around 7pm and handed out

pre-made brochures, maps and bus routes, as well as information sheets regarding the kind of art/musical entertainment present at each of the 13 destinations. We broke up into smaller groups to accommodate a variety of interests, and took advantage of the free buses to get around to the cultural attractions. At the highlight of the night, a group of us attended a Body Percussion show, where the performers enlightened us on how to use our own bodies to create sounds that mimic those of Mother Nature, such a

trembling thunderstorm. Wearing smiles and amazed – "that was cool!" – expressions on our faces, we walked back to Caltech to enjoy the rest of the evening.

We all agreed that next year we should give ourselves more time to look at other paintings, listen to symphonies and watch international dances because, as we all realized that night, Pasadena is really quite rich in art and culture

Adventure in Zion National Park

by Rory Perkins, Grad, ExComm

Looking for a great way to kick off the year, 32 graduate and undergraduate students joined us on a weekend trip to Zion National Park in Utah, Oct 12-14. For some it was a first camping and hiking experience, for most it was a first time to Zion. The deep canyons and fall colors make Zion one of the most spectacular natural places in the world at this time of year.

One group, led by Mayank Bakshi, braved a knife-edge crawl to Angels

Landing. *"The Angels Landing Trail is one of the most famous and thrilling hikes in the national park system. Zion's pride and joy runs along a narrow rock fin, with dizzying drop-offs on both sides. The trail culminates at a lofty perch, boasting magnificent views in every direction."* [<http://www.zionnationalpark.com>]

A second group, led by Abhishek Saha, plunged waist deep into 51-degree water to hike up the Narrows. *"The Zion Narrows is unlike any other hike*

on Earth. Imagine walking upstream through a river, picking your way past slippery, round river rocks as you delve into a narrow, towering canyon. 1500-foot walls of smooth sandstone rise on each side of you, drawing your gaze upwards and your mouth agape." [<http://zionadventures.com>]

The trip also featured a night of campfire and a game of Mafia. With two nights of camping and plenty of hiking, the trip was a great get away.

The Social Activism Speaker Series presents Chris Mooney

by Asa Hopkins, Grad Student,
SASS Committee

The Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series (SASS) hosted journalist and bestselling author Chris Mooney on October 18 and 19. Chris gave a very interesting public lecture on the evening of the 18th based on his new book, "Storm World: Hurricanes, Politics and the Battle Over Global Warming". He spoke about the "perfect storm" of circumstances which led

to the possible link between hurricanes and global warming rocketing to the top of the news. The lack of scientific consensus on whether such a link exists was exacerbated by media coverage of a "conflict" among scientists, enabled by a lack of pre-planning among scientists of how to deal with this type of media coverage.

The question of "framing" science for public and media consumption, and the need for modern communications

training for scientists, dominated the conversation at our follow-up roundtable discussion with Chris on the morning of the 19th. Overall, more than 70 people attended the various events with Chris over the course of his visit. If Chris's name seems familiar, you may notice that he is a return speaker for SASS. In 2005 he visited to speak about his first book "The Republican War on Science".

Y Friends Dinner with Ken Libbrecht

by Susan Murakami, Y Board

The Caltech Y was proud to have Dr. Ken Libbrecht as our guest speaker for the first Friends Dinner of the 2007-08 academic year. Dr. Libbrecht received his BS in physics from Caltech in 1980 and his PhD from Princeton in 1984, after which he came back to Caltech, and is currently the Director of the Physics department.

A stellar group of 74 attendees, including 9 students, were treated first to an illustrated explanation of crystal growth, specifically the growth of snowflakes. Dr. Libbrecht showed us how he is growing snowflakes in the

laboratory in order to study the physics of snowflake crystal growth. He then treated us to a myriad of pictures of different snowflake forms and a discussion of why and how they form the structures they do, and why each snowflake looks different! Then came a dazzling display of really beautiful snowflake photographs taken in the field. For those of you that missed his talk, his beautiful photographs are available in any of his four published books, and calendar, available at the Caltech bookstore.

The talk and gathering were a wonderful way to open the academic

year for the Friends! Please don't miss the next Friends event, an outing to Lake Cachuma for eagle watching and a visit to the Santa Ynez Winery, January 26, 2008.



Caltech Y Community Service Events

Community Service Fair

by Molly Jones, Y Student
Activities Coordinator

The Caltech Y Community Service Fair held on Friday, October 26th successfully stirred up interest in local non-profit and campus-based organizations. Undergraduates, graduates and campus staff stopped by participant tables to learn more about the services offered and requests for volunteers. Opportunities varied from walkers needed for the Posada AIDS Walk, which will be held on December 1st, to tutors for the homeless children served by School on Wheels. The aroma of cooking kettle corn and the spinning plates of a circus performer helped add to the festive spirit of the

lunch time event. Participating organizations included: AIDS Service Center, American Cancer Society, Boys & Girls Clubs of Pasadena, Caltech Classroom Connection, Five Acres, I Have a Dream Foundation, Northeast Trees, Pasadena YMCA, Planned Parenthood of Pasadena, RISE Tutoring, Rosemary Children's Services, School on Wheels, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Silverado Senior Living, Tree People and Union Station.

Housing-Housing Fair

by Sunny Chun, ExComm

On Oct 23, the Salvation Army and Union Station put on the 4th annual Homeless to Housing Connect fair. The Fair does much more than connect

people in need of shelter with housing agencies. The Fair also offered free lunch, shower, water, and computer services. Many agencies were set up to help connect the homeless with basic needs such as food stamps, employment services and benefits, medical care & flu shots, and much more. The Caltech Y brought a total of 5 volunteers to the event. Volunteers were asked to help in various ways. but mostly as ushers to help vendors or agencies find their tables and to help people shuffle from one place to another to meet their needs. Ushering people was a measure taken for helping to bring order to a very hectic fair. It was generally believed to be a success and many people were helped that day.

Explore LA Series success continues with “Wicked”

by Peter Liu '09, ExComm

I'm glad to report that the musical “Wicked” on Oct 30, another event in the new Caltech Y *Explore LA Series*, was a great success.

We had over 100 students sign up for a lottery to buy tickets at \$20 (which was

made possible with a subsidy from the Caltech Y and the Moore Hufstедler Fund), and 14 lucky grad and 6 undergrad students were selected. While all of the grad students drove themselves to the Pantages Theater, the undergrads used LA's Metro system and, fortunately, were not caught in

any delays. The entire trip went smoothly and successfully and, due to the popularity of the event, the ExComm is currently planning a second trip to return and bring more students in the future.

Coming Events

The Caltech Y November Programs . . .

by Greg Fletcher, Y Student
Activities Director

Jumping off of the successful October kick-off events for the *Explore LA Series*, the *Housner Life Skills Series*, and the *Social Activism Speaker Series*, along with other great events like the Zion Trip and the Community Fair, the Caltech Y's programming calendar shows no signs of a let up in November.

- Next stop in the *Explore LA Series* is visiting the Museum Of Tolerance (tentatively scheduled for Dec 2). The museum receives 350,000 visitors annually and includes a Holocaust Section with testimonies of Holocaust survivors as well as a Tolerancenter, that covers issues of prejudice in everyday life, and a Multimedia Learning center with a collection of archives.

The *Explore LA Series* encourages students to join the Caltech Y on an adventure each month – from the mountains to the ocean – exploring museums, shows, cultural experiences, sporting events, outdoor adventures, and more.

- Our fall **PALAC** (Pasadena Area Liberal Arts Center) event will feature June Wicks and Abdul Ahad Tariq facilitating a discussion around an article from the journal “Current Anthropology”, which explores how the advent of cooking might have complicated the male-female relationships of early humans. Along with Board Member Norri Sirri, the team

will welcome to campus members of the community interested in this unique learning opportunity.

- Our leaders from the **Y-Outdoors** committee are also on the move following the October Zion trip with two day-hikes and a full-moon hike planned for November. All three trips will feature the local beauty of the San Gabriel Mountains, and provide Caltech students, including novices and experienced outdoor enthusiasts, an exciting opportunity to explore our local area.

- Up next in the *Housner Life Skills Series*, the Caltech Y will be coordinating workshops looking at personal financial planning, budgeting, and managing credit; and before the holidays – a program on photography. The programs will feature experts from within our affiliated community – the Caltech Federal Credit Union and our campus photographer.

The *Housner Life Skills Series* is a monthly workshop series bringing real life applicable skill instruction to Caltech students.

- Returning to Ramo Auditorium on Wednesday, November 14th, as one of the featured speakers for the **Social Activism Speaker Series** (SASS), photo journalist **Kevin Sites** will discuss his book, “In The Hot Zone: One Man, One Year, Twenty Wars,” and the accompanying documentary, “A World Of Conflict.” The memoir puts a human face on global conflict as he makes his way around the world

covering virtually every world conflict. The documentary contains searing, never-before-seen images of combat and its lingering impact on civil society.

About half of the world's poor suffer from waterborne diseases, and more than 6,000 people, mainly children, die each day by consuming unsafe drinking water. On Thursday, November 29th in Beckman Institute Auditorium - **Engineers for a Sustainable World** and the **Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series** will present **Peter Cleary** who will discuss a personal mobile water-purification tool designed to turn any surface water into drinking water. These devices have been proven to be effective against waterborne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, dysentery, and diarrhea, and removes particles as small as fifteen microns.

- Among other events, November also includes **National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**. At Caltech, the week will kick off with our monthly meal service at Union Station Homeless Shelter and conclude with the Thanksgiving Dinner In the Park event, also coordinated by Union Station Foundation.

Both opportunities will take Caltech students out into the community to make a tangible difference while gaining awareness and insight into some of the issues facing members of our community.

Meet the ExComm

by Molly Jones, Y Student
Activities Coordinator

Growing up in Mansehra, Pakistan, Abdul Ahad Tariq never dreamed of the possibilities that have been provided to him through Caltech and the Caltech Y. During his childhood, Abdul moved numerous times with his family due to his father's work in the army. In 2001, it was the search for better education for their sons that brought the family to Brooklyn, NY. Abdul is now a senior majoring in both Chemistry and Physics, and has been active at the Y for the past three years.

It was the passion and the people which attracted Abdul to the Caltech Y. At the Y, "Making a Difference" is more than just a statement that appears on shirts and cups; it is a philosophy. Whether in the Y lounge or out in the field, we strive to manifest this ethos.

Abdul Ahad Tariq '08

To me, that's the best part of serving with the Y.

Abdul has grown to become an exceptional leader at the Y as he has taken on coordinating numerous programs, particularly those focused on community service. A few of the major programs that he has helped lead include two Alternative Spring Break trips, one to Mexico and another to Biloxi, Mississippi, the 2007 Make-A-Difference Day, the 2006 DC/NY Trip and the upcoming DC Science Policy trip.

Since freshman year, Abdul also has been working with Professor James Heath to develop mathematical models to chart the progression of cancer. He hopes this quantitative, engineering approach to understanding the disease could reveal additional insights into its behavior. He hasn't yet decided what area of research he will pursue during his graduate studies. For now, he



simply hopes that his life work will be filled with intriguing and challenging questions which he can help to solve.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 RISE Tutoring- Winnett	2 SASS Mtg	3 Day Hike
4	5 RISE Tutoring- Caltech Y Y Board Mtg	6 ExComm Mtg RISE Tutoring- Winnett Boys & Girls Club Tutoring	7 RISE Tutoring- Caltech Y Y Outdoors Mtg	8 RISE Tutoring- Winnett PALAC	9	10 Reading to Kids
11	12	13 ExComm Mtg RISE Tutoring- Winnett Boys & Girls Club Tutoring	14 RISE Tutoring- Caltech Y SASS Kevin Sites	15 RISE Tutoring- Winnett	16 RISE Tour at CMC	17 Union Station
18	19 RISE Tutoring- Caltech Y	20 ExComm Mtg Boys & Girls Club Tutoring	21 Y Outdoors Mtg	22 Thanksgiving Dinner in the Park	23	24 Full-Moon Hike
25	26 RISE Tutoring- Caltech Y	27 ExComm Mtg RISE Tutoring- Winnett Boys & Girls Club Tutoring	28 RISE Tutoring- Caltech Y	29 RISE Tutoring- Winnett SASS/ESW	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.

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