



# The Caltech Y NEWS

## "Making a World of Difference"

Since 1916

### Announcements

#### **Y RISE Program advances into 3<sup>rd</sup> year**

*by Alycen Chan, RISE Coordinator*

*Reaffirming and Increasing Scholastic Endeavors (RISE)* is a tutoring program sponsored by a State grant and administered by the Caltech Y to help prepare Pasadena Unified School District students for college entrance.

The RISE Program started its third year with a bang! The tutoring began on October 13. We already have nearly 50 students signed up to be tutored in the program, and there are 40

tutors from the Caltech community. Applications are still coming in and we are filling up fast!

The program continues to expand and we now serve students from 8th to 12th grade in all math and science subjects. In addition, several Institute departments, including Student Education, Admissions, Financial Aid, Minority Student Affairs, the Career Development Center and the Counseling

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Center, will be offering monthly workshops to help RISE students prepare for college life and make informed decisions about their future. It's sure to be another great year for RISE!

### Recent Events (Oct)

#### **1st Annual Y Golf Tournament**

*by Don Brown, Y Board, Iliia Shadrin '09, ExComm, Christopher Kealey, Marketing & Development Director*

On October 10, the Caltech Y hosted its First Annual Golf Tournament and Auction at Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena. Throughout the morning and the afternoon, Friends of the Caltech Y, Caltech staff, students, profes-

sors, and community members enjoyed golf, camaraderie and, of course, the warm California Fall weather. The evening consisted of both a silent and a live auction, selling items generously donated to the Y by local businesses



**Toni Perpall, Volunteer Leader**  
lot of fun for all.

Forty six players competed for the best team (four players each). After all was

said and done, and after many golfers spent the day pulling their balls out of the Arroyo wash and various sand traps, 3 teams came away victorious. First Place went to the foursome of John D'Auria, John Suarez, Tom Jarrett and Roc Cutrie. Second Place went to the foursome of Jim Cowell, Ken Hargreaves, Bill Irwin and John Onderdonk. Third Place went to the



**Carolyn Ash on the go**

sors, and community members enjoyed golf, camaraderie and, of course, the warm California Fall weather. The evening consisted of both a silent and a live auction, selling items generously donated to the Y by local businesses



**Student Volunteers: Peter Liu '09, Sunny Chun '10, and Paul Fleiner,**



**Three of the winning team with Athena**

threesome of Graeme Fordyce, Torrey Spinks and Myron Laduc. And last but not least Chuck Adams, John Gee, Jim Black & Janet Black scored the most points, which is great in basketball. Not so much in golf. Congratulations to everyone who came out and played.

## [Y Golf Tournament](#) (continued)

Student leaders from the Y ExComm volunteered throughout the day and helped distribute auction awards to excited winners. We had over 100 dinner guests, many of whom won auction items or took home prizes. Jim Endrizzi, International Student Program Advisor, took home the wide screen TV. Other dinner guests won gift certificates and bottles of wine. If you missed it, the live auction was especially entertaining with our own Y Board member Jim Workman as the auctioneer.



**Threesome: Mike Stefanko '70, Prof John Brady and Bob McQuinn**

Together, let's thank the Auction Team for the wonderful plan of action they put together. Their efforts brought about the revenue success we are proud to say got us over the top. After balancing revenue and expenses the net income was approximately \$13,500 for the Caltech Y.

As a means of increasing the Y's endowment, this Annual event has great future earning potential. Next year will prove to bring in even more funds for the Y's student programs. Don't miss next year's event!

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## **SASS Election Series events**

The *Social Activism Speaker Series Committee* (SASS) kicked off the year by coordinating a series of programs focused on the upcoming elections:

### **Debate Viewings**

by Leon Liu '10, ExComm

A series of debate viewings were held at the Caltech Y west wing as a part of the month of election related programming coordinated by the *Social Activism Speaker Series* (SASS).

On Friday, September 26, about 75 Caltech students and staff attended the viewing of the **Foreign Affairs Presidential Debate**.

On Thursday, October 2, the viewing of the **Vice Presidential Debate**, was attended by 50 people.

On Tuesday, October 7, 64 attended the viewing of the **Town-Hall Presidential Debate**. Fox 11 television channel was present at this viewing to interview students, who were featured on their 11 PM local news telecast.

On Wednesday, October 15, 52 attended the viewing of the **Domestic Affairs Presidential Debate**. This viewing was covered by the Pasadena Star News, which featured the event on their first page.

Light snacks were provided for the debates, and all the participants had fun.

### **Supreme Court talk**

by Ilia Shadrin '09, ExComm

On Tuesday, October 21, a total of 35

students and staff gathered in the Caltech Y multipurpose room to listen to Prof. Morgan Kousser's engaging talk on "**The Supreme Court and the 2008 Presidential Election.**"

Since the President of the United States has the power to appoint Supreme Court Justices, Prof. Kousser discussed the changes that might arise in the Supreme Court following the election. He mentioned that the nature of the financial crisis and the uncertainty in the country's future has already made this election an "extraordinary one," adding that a conservative, or Republican, president would also bring "extraordinary" changes to the Supreme Court. Prof. Kousser also explained some debatable terminology used in cases brought to the Supreme Court, finishing with a discussion of current issues (abortion, search & seizure, federalism) facing the Supreme Court that could change drastically with the next president.

Prof. Kousser later answered quite a few questions from the audience, bringing a very informative and incisive talk to an end.

### **California Propositions Information Lunch**

SASS hosted an information lunch on the numerous California State propositions on October 29 at the Center for Student Services. A presenter from the League of Women's Voters provided an overview of all of these ballot measures so that we would be better

informed when voting on November 4. The lunch talk was attended by 55 students and staff.

### **Women & the 2008 Election**

On October 1, the Caltech Women's Center hosted guest speaker Jean Schroedel, Chair of the Politics and Policy Department at the School of Politics and Economics, Claremont Graduate University. In her talk on "**The 2008 Elections: What Does It Take For Women To Really Crack The Glass Ceiling?**" she spoke about women's participation in the elections, and more broadly addressed the meaning of this presidential election for women.

### **Coming Out Day**

Paula Jones, a leadership and management development expert spoke on **Making A Difference: How Authentic Leaders Change Their Worlds**. The program was also an event for the National Coming Out Day, hosted by Prism. She came to speak on leadership as a personal act – consisting of setting a vision and inviting others to help us fulfill it. Leaders who are authentic develop greater trust and influence than leaders who are not. In this year's battle against Proposition 8 to preserve equal legal rights for LGBT people under the California Constitution, we all must be authentic, honest leaders. Those who attended (30) explored how to be authentic leaders in this historic election and every day.

## Recent Events (continued)

### **Full Moon Hike**

by Nicole Bouley, grad

On October 8, we went on a full moon hike to Echo Mountain, located only a few miles away at the end of Lake Ave. The hike is 5 mi with a 1400 ft elevation gain.

The evening was clear and bright, giving us great views over the entire Los Angeles area, even to the ocean. We had two trip leaders and seven participants; most of the participants were first year undergrads or grad students who did not know others in advance. When we reached the top, we explored the old ruins of the Mt Lowe Railway and a hotel and took a social break.

Everyone enjoyed themselves, and the trip was a nice way for the participants to connect with other new students at the beginning of the school year.

### **Adventure 101: Great Hikes in the LA Area**

by Elaine To '10

Attending the Adventure 101 seminar was an adventure in itself! When I initially walked into the October Adventures 101 lunch talk at the Caltech Y, I thought it was another meeting. I soon found out I was in the

## **Y Outdoors events**

wrong place, but decided to stay anyway. It was a meeting to introduce hiking in the Los Angeles area to those interested. Some were amateur hikers, some were pros, who had never before been in Los Angeles. I walked in as someone completely new to the idea, who had never even considered hiking as a past time. Nevertheless, everyone was able to learn a lot from the talk.

It started with an overview of areas near Los Angeles with trails, such as the Angeles National Forest, Santa Monica Mountains, and Griffith Park. Keeping our wellbeing in mind, however, before the presenter, grad student Colette Salyk, began describing the various wonders and marvels of the specific trails, safety was discussed first. I had always known that hikers should be prepared for every eventuality, but I never thought about what went into it. Water, food, layered comfortable clothing, and a map were among the things I knew have to be brought. But now, I also know that toilet paper and non-cotton clothing (cotton loses its insulating abilities if it gets wet) are essentials as well. Additional supplies are needed if planning on spending the night on the trail, most of which are available through the Caltech Y.

Next came descriptions of the trails in each area, with recommendations and advice that one cannot always find in a trail guidebook. For example, when discussing one of the trails, she mentioned that there was a waterfall along the path, and this was where most people tended to hike, admire the view, then go back. So, up until the waterfall is reached, the crowds are too large for one to enjoy the seclusion of nature. But if we continue following the trail past the waterfall, it gets even more beautiful. There were also trails with views of the Pacific Ocean and others best taken in the fall. It was clear that Colette had a significant amount of hiking experience and she was glad to share her knowledge, which invigorated the entire meeting. Step by step, trail by trail, Colette portrayed the unique qualities of each trail in loving detail, while keeping it succinct and informing us of all the need-to-know stats.

Although I attended the Adventures 101 seminar by pure accident, and had never truly thought about hiking as a hobby, I now find myself excited to plan my first hiking adventure!

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## **Hispanic Heritage Month talk**

by Athena Castro, Y Executive Director

In honor of *Hispanic Heritage Month*, Tom Valdez, a research scientist at JPL, spoke to a group of over 40 students and staff on Tuesday, October 28, in a talk entitled, "**Where Your Research Can Take You.**" Clearly

passionate about his work, Tom spoke about his current research – designing composite electrode structures for PEM-based fuel cells and electrolyzers. A major contributor to the Direct Methanol Fuel Cell Program at JPL since 1991, Tom has received various NASA New Technology Awards and has published technical papers in sci-

entific journals.

This program was sponsored by the *Cultural Program*, which includes the Caltech Y, Minority Student Education, the Women's Center, and the International Student Programs Office.

## Recent Events (continued)

### Community Service Fair 2008: A Sweet Success

by Susan Shen '09, ExComm

First, tables with orange and black tablecloths began appearing along San Pasqual Walk. Shortly thereafter, chubby pumpkins sat proudly on a table. Then, a band of pirates stormed through, brandishing their weapons and shrieking. The usually sleepy walkway was transformed – but, after all, it was Halloween. Rather than asking for treats, however, passersby visited the booths at the Community Service Fair, interested in finding out how they could better serve the people around them.

On Friday, October 31, about two-dozen groups from Caltech, Pasadena,

and the Los Angeles area came to the *Community Service Fair*. They represented a breadth of volunteering opportunities, including tutoring (e.g., Caltech Y RISE Program and ASOSAL Volunteer Tutors), health care support (e.g., AIDS Service Center), environmental projects (e.g., Tree People), and science education (e.g., California Science Center). During the two hours of the fair, Caltech's *Out of Context a capella* group gave a performance, and a pumpkin-carving contest was held.

Although passersby said, "Sure, I'll sign up," instead of "trick-or-treat," they did have the opportunity for sweet

rewards. The Caltech Y gave away slices of cake embellished with the words "*Community Service Fair 2008*" and a colorful spider web design. Moreover, at each booth, representatives gave raffle tickets to those who were interested in volunteering. Raffle ticket-holders had the chance to win a Jamba Juice gift certificate. Besides these tangible treats, those who had signed up for volunteering walked away from the fair with a feeling of warmth, knowing that they would have the long-lasting, deep reward of doing good in the community.

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## Coming Events (Nov)

### The Caltech Y: Voting for another great month in November!

by Greg Fletcher, Y Student Activities & Community Services Director

With one of the more exciting elections of the last few decades kicking off the month, it is hard to think of much else – but some great programs from the Y make it a little easier. Some of the highlights include:

#### **SOCIAL ACTIVISM SPEAKER SERIES (SASS)**

• **Sam Childers – Angels of East Africa Children's Village** (November 5) – A decade ago, when Sam Childers came to Sudan to aid in removing land mines from the area, the former biker saw first hand the devastation that the unstable political environment had produced – torture, murder, disease, and starvation. He also learned of horrific stories of the untold number of children that were abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army – the primary rebel group in northern Uganda and New (South) Sudan. Sam knew he wanted to make a permanent difference in Sudan and take active steps to serve the people of the region. He then had a vision for an orphanage and fearlessly bought 40 acres of undeveloped land in the middle of the LRA conflict zone.

Since that day almost 10 years ago, Sam and his soldiers and staff have built a functional compound and rescued more than 800 children. They currently sustain over 200 at the orphanage.

• **Morgan Simon – Executive Director, Responsible Endowments Coalition** (November 18) – Morgan Simon is the co-founder and executive director of the Responsible Endowments Coalition, a non-profit organization that supports over 70 colleges and universities managing \$150 billion across the country in implementing responsible investment policies. As an undergraduate at Swarthmore College, Morgan led the filing of the first student-led shareholder resolution since the apartheid era, successfully convincing Lockheed Martin to add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy and give domestic partner benefits. She has led trainings on responsible investment for hundreds of students across the country, in addition to working regularly with administrators and trustees. She was a Social Venture Network Innovation Award winner in

2007, and her work has been followed by national media such as the *Wall Street Journal* and *Washington Post*.

• **Andy Bales – CEO, Union Rescue Mission** (November 24) – Andy Bales has over 20 years of experience in community outreach and service as he leads Union Rescue Mission into a new era of unique and innovative services for the Los Angeles / Skid Row community. Established in 1891, the Mission has always served the most desperate men, women and children of the community.

He spoke on the challenges of "NIMBY" – *Not In My Backyard* – where service providers are often confronted by a community that is all for the providing services to the homeless, but don't want them to be near their homes or businesses. Andy has many awards and honors including being named as the 930th Point of Light by President George Bush in 1992, receiving the 1999 De Moines NAACP Community Service Award, and receiving the 2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Interdenomina-

## SASS Events (continued)

tional Ministerial Alliance of Pasadena. This talk is also part of the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week that the Y is coordinating.

### **Y-Outdoors Events**

In addition to another great Full Moon Hike in November, the *Y-Outdoors* Committee is planning a few other events for the month, including the big fall trip:

- **Day Hike – Sandstone Peak** (November 2) – Leaders from the *Y-Outdoors* are preparing to take a small group of adventurers out to the Santa Monica Mountains for a scenic hike to Sandstone Peak. With the moderate weather of the coastal mountains, it is sure to be a fun and enjoyable trip.

- **Grand Canyon: Camping & Hiking Trip** (November 7 – 9) – Caltech students looking for a great way to kick off the term can plan to join us on a camping and hiking trip to the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is one of the most spectacular natural places in the world and, with some great hiking and camping, this trip is a great get away. Imagine waking up at the Grand Canyon on a trip that includes transportation, campsites, and food. No

camping experience is necessary. It is sure to be a spectacular trip.

- **Adventure 101 – Safety In The Wilderness** – Following up on the successful October talk, the *Adventure 101* lunch series continues with a talk focused on “Safety in the Wilderness”. Two graduate students from the *Y-Outdoors* Committee will be sharing their experience in preparing to be safe when traveling in the wilderness. Many of our students venture into our local mountains, and beyond and, with some added knowledge, they can do so with a little more safety in mind. The *Adventure 101* series is designed to introduce students to opportunities, resources, and knowledge essential in expanding their adventure repertoire. With funding from the Moore Hufstедler Fund, the *Y-Outdoors* Committee will be coordinating one talk per month, including the October kick-off talk, which highlighted some of the great hiking venues in our local mountains.

### **Cultural and Outreach Events**

- **International Education Week** (November 17 to 21) – International

Student Programs and the Caltech Y collaborate on the coordination of a week of events around National International Education Week. The Y has invited speakers on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to look at Darfur, hunger and foreign policy, and a speaker from Amnesty International.

- **Hunger and Homelessness Awareness** (November 15 to 22) – Among other events, November also includes National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. At Caltech, the week plus will kick off with our monthly meal service at Union Station Homeless Shelter and will include with the Thanksgiving Dinner In the Park event at Pasadena’s Central Park. 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. In addition to these and the SASS event mentioned earlier, featuring Andy Bales, CEO of Union Rescue Mission, the theme week will also include a lunch talk on hunger and national policy.

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## Meet the ExComm

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

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### **Christina Weng ‘11**

*by Heather Bixby, Student Activities Coordinator*

Meet a new member of the Y ExComm, Christina Weng. Christina is a sophomore from Charlotte, North Carolina, majoring in biology and a member of Lloyd House. Being involved in the Y this past year, she has kept busy participating in Y events such as: Huntington Tea, MAD Day, Decompression, Friends Dinners, and the Alternative Spring Break trip to Tijuana. Christina describes her experience at Tijuana as a life-changing event; living in a migrant house, building a playground and shelves, and volunteering at an orphanage opened her eyes to community needs and helped her recognize how she can



make a difference. Christina decided to join the ExComm because she felt she was ready to assume a more proactive role at the Y.

Along with working at the Y, Christina enjoys playing the piano, photography, tennis, dancing, public speaking, and lab work. She is also a Hixon Writing Center tutor.

Most recently, Christina has been working on a research project studying immunotherapy treatments for melanoma using tumor-specific T cells at the Baltimore Lab. The project uses immunohistochemistry to study the impact of various treatments of the tumor on the cellular level.

## [Meet the ExComm \(continued\)](#)

When asked what she likes most about the Y, Christina responded with excitement, “I love the freedom to do what I am really passionate about. At ExComm meetings, we are all able to

put forth our own ideas on what we would like to see happen and work together to make them become a reality. Furthermore, due to the wide range of events hosted by the Y every

year, I can pick the ones I am really interested in and devote my energy to those activities.”

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## [Voices of the Y Board](#)

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### Don & Jane Pinkerton

#### Y Board Members

Don joined the Caltech Y when he entered Caltech in September 1953 and he has never left! As an organization, it was particularly important to him as it was a social outlet, which helped him focus on the task at hand. Somewhat of a non-conformist, he enjoyed his involvement with the “*Leaders of America Speakers Series*,” which featured such notables as Ralph Bunche, William O. Douglas and a former prime minister of India.

Even when he graduated in 1957, Don maintained a close contact with those in the Y. Don has enthusiastically participated with the students in some of their endeavors. He has been a driver and has wielded a hammer for Make-A-Difference Day projects. Each year, when possible, we have visited Yosemite and Nelder Grove to see the Caltech Sequoia trees with the international graduate students, and this year at the golf tournament, Don golfed with three graduate students who let Don do the putting. It was a memorable experience for him.

As involved as we have been in the Caltech community, the Alumni Association, the Associates and now Don with the SURF project, we continue

with the Y Board. It is of interest to us us understand the world outside of



**Jane and Don on a tour of Iceland**

to interact with the students of the Institute who hail from countries worldwide. It is enlightening to learn of the interests and background from this diverse group of people, and helps

Southern California. We wish these outstanding young people every success.

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	RISE Tutoring	RISE Tutoring	RISE Tutoring SASS: Sam Childers	RISE Tutoring	Grand Canyon Camping Trip	Grand Canyon Camping Trip
9	Grand Canyon Camping Trip	RISE Tutoring	RISE Tutoring	RISE Tutoring	RISE Tutoring Full Moon Hike	Union Station Homeless Shelter
16	RISE Tutoring	RISE Tutoring SASS: Morgan Simon	RISE Tutoring	RISE Tutoring		
23						
30	RISE Tutoring SASS: Andy Bales			Dinner in the Park		

## 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](mailto: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  
 Heather Bixby - Student Activities Coordinator  
 Carmelita Hearn - Administrative Assistant

### Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee

Carolyn Ash - Chair  
 Susan Murakami - Vice Chair  
 Peter Mason - Treasurer  
 Connie Kofahl - Secretary  
 Iliia Shadrin - Student ExComm President

#### Members (\* indicates Student Executive Committee)

Robin Abraham*	Daniel Erickson	Rolf Hastrup	Leon Liu*	Jane Pinkerton	Boyuan Sun*
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Dean Elzinga	Gunilla Hastrup	Donkook Lim*	Don Pinkerton		

### The Caltech Y News

**Editor:** Gunilla Hastrup

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