Caltech Launches Brain Study Program with $8.9 Million Gift from Eli Broad to Fund 24 Researchers and Six New Labs

By CALTECH PR

For years, scientists have worked to study each of the 100 billion neurons in the human brain. But while they understand individual neurons, they’ve been stumped by how neurons work together, how they encode information, and how they generate thoughts, emotions, and actions.

That pioneering area of study is behind the Broad Fellows Program in Brain Circuitry at the California Institute of Technology, announced today and made possible through an $8.9 million grant from the Broad Foundations and philanthropist Eli Broad.

The funding will enable the program to establish six neuroscience labs at Caltech and hire 24 researchers over the next five years.

“Caltech is one of the country’s greatest research institutions, and in the last five years, the education of the brightest young minds in science to devote their research talents to uncovering the mysteries of the brain,” said Eli Broad, founder of the Broad Foundations.

While scientists have made tremendous progress in recent years in understanding the brain’s overall activity, the interactions between neurons—which hold the clues to mental diseases such as Alzheimer’s, autism, and schizophrenia—are still a mystery.

“We have no idea how these neurons are assembled in groups of 50 to 100,000 to generate conscious thoughts,” said Christof Koch, Treednelle Professor of Cognitive and Behavioral Biology and Professor of Computation and Neural Systems at Caltech, who will serve as director of the Broad Fellows Program. “We truly believe that the best way to learn about small neuronal networks is to find a few brilliant young neurobiologists, engineers, or physicists with innovative ideas on how to record and manipulate networks of nerve cells. Then, if we provide them with the funding for research assistants and equipment to develop the relevant technologies, all we need to do is get out of their way.”

“Neuroscience is becoming an increasingly multidisciplinary exercise,” said Michael Dickinson, director of Bioengineering at Caltech, who will serve on the selection committee for the Broad Fellows Program. “Future progress will depend on a creative mixture of expertise in biology, engineering, and mathematics. An exciting feature of this program is that it will provide talented young researchers with a borderless research environment from which to pursue programs from different perspectives.”

Koch and his colleagues will hire the first two Broad Fellows in Brain Circuitry later this year, and will hire two more in 2007 and an additional two in 2008. One of the six Broad Fellows will receive funding to hire up to three assistants, for a total of 24 researchers and 72 assistants overall, which will be housed in Caltech’s Division of Biology.

“Each of the fellows will be able to devote up to five years to their projects, without having to worry about finding another postdoctoral appointment in a year or two or limiting themselves only to research that will lead to tenure,” Koch said. “These researchers will be at a level between postdoctoral fellow and assistant professor, which means that they will be very independent and won’t have to worry about the tenure clock.”

“The freedom that comes with these fellowships should foster quicker collaborations among fellows and members of the Caltech community,” added Dickinson. “An important role of the selection committee will be to recruit a diverse array of young researchers with complimentary skills.”

The program is designed to give researchers the freedom and flexibility to advance their work in whatever way is most productive, and may include the development of specific technologies or the invention of new instruments. The Broad Fellows will be given individual space to do their work in the Beckman Laboratory of Behavioral Biology on the Caltech campus.

The program will be under the direction of Koch and a committee of other Caltech faculty members including Dickinson; Michael Arbib, the Hanson Jr. Professor of Biology, Computing and Neural Systems; Todd Gingrich, the BOD” Gingrich in a heated election. The winner of the competition was whoever was the first to finish 29 consumed tacos or, failing that, whoever finished more of the taco’s outer–inner inter­ nal. In the event of a tie, a video that was made of the event could be analyzed to determine who finished their last taco first. Physical contact and removal of articles of clothing were banned due to prior incidents.

The competition started early enough. Fifty-four soft and six hard Del Taco tacos, costing $1.09 for three on Wednesday night, up from $1.00 last year, were placed before the competi­tants. Also provided were about a dozen cups clear of liquid of what I was assured was water and more packets of hot sauce than the eye could survey without watering.

While the score was neck-and-neck for the first half of the competition, the tie turned when Dan, traditionally known as a stamina eater, began to fal­ter. Josh seized this opportunity to perform his signature “traffle shuffe” maneuver, in which he hypnotically jiggles his belly to suppress the appetites of all those foolish enough to observe him. After the seismic waves died down, time was called and the number of discarded taco wraps was counted.

At the end of the contest, a solemn silence descended on the spectators as we contemplated the tremendous eating feats that had been performed before us and mused on the nature of pri­mate man. After doing this for a couple milliseconds, we hun­grily devoured the remaining tacos and made fake jokes about not eating for the time came to tum in for the night.

Look forward to updates on future Caltech Talclympics games like Taco poker, Taco soccer, and Taco bikini contest. Final score: Dan-11, Josh-16.
BoC Secretary

George Hines

If you read my statement last week, skip to the next paragraph. If you didn’t, here it is again: I regard the spirit of the law as more important than its letter, and Caltech’s one-sentence honor code embodies the “spirit of the law” philosophy. The honor system is expounded in name by many schools, but is most often a nice euphemism for the rule book. Such is the case at a college in my home town where my dad worked, and he scoffed at the idea, having seen the code’s enforcement often fail. This and other observations and conversations of and about the behavior policies of other schools has strengthened my conviction that the honor code is vital to that ethereal concept of what Caltech is, and may be one of the reasons Caltech’s tradition that still remains. It is a privilege to uphold it.

Knowing full well that Jean is a tireless worker on all things Associated Students of the California Institute, I look forward to shoultering some of those responsibility so that she can commit more time ASCIT and to implementing her ideas for the needed restructuring of the board.

Meghan Crowley

After having served as a BoC Rep this past year, I am deeply committed to upholding the Honor Code and would like the opportunity to serve as BoC Secretary. The Honor Code is an integral part of Caltech life. Specifically, the Honor Code expects students to be responsible and accountable for their actions and challenges students to adhere to a higher standard of academic conduct. The Honor Code is much more than a set of rules; rather, it defines the Caltech experience by giving students great privileges and immense freedom. I believe in honesty, respect, and compassion and intend to carry out my job according to these principles. I firmly believe that all protection decisions must consider the defendant and what is best for them in addition to considering the best way to protect the Caltech community. In addition, cases must be heard in a timely fashion so that defendants do not forget the facts and so that cases do not last for longer than is necessary. I am very committed to doing the BoC Chair’s “black work” to make sure that cases run as smoothly as possible. I will be a senior next year with very few assignments, so I will have plenty of time to dedicate to the Board of Control and improving the Honor System.

Deeprak Mishra

If elected, I have three priorities: better representation, better communication, and reopening the ASCIT’s most important decisions. This past year was marked with many administrative decisions that were not representative of the student body. Many upperclassmen and administrators made decisions that will affect our lives here at Caltech. I hope with the upcoming board program changes, it is imperative that students have a voice in future decisions. I intend to help keep the students informed and also in turn keep the administration informed of our sentiments. Vote for Me.

Ellen Hsu

There have been many new administrative changes this past year as a freshman at Caltech. This school is so unique in every way, and for that reason I couldn’t imagine myself anywhere else. Caltech is a place where students can take their education into their own hands and make the most of the institution. However, a freshman, I feel as if there has not been effective circula­tion of news, especially among our class, concerning decisions that will affect our lives here at Caltech. This ignorance has prompted me to seek a position on the ASCIT board, for I believe that the student body should be well informed of administrative decisions and be active par­ticipants in the decision-making process. If the student body wants to have a say in decisions that determine their future, they first must be well informed of any and all aspects of the issue. Since this knowledge rests in the administration, it is important for the freshman class to have a representative on the board willing to build a positive relationship with the administration and to bring up the students’ needs and concerns. With this bridge of communica­tion, the student body can really do to express student opinions to the administration and use this knowledge to help the various student clubs and organizations on campus, and I hold this to be an important task, so our various extra-curricular activities comprise an integral part of our everyday lives. However, it is also important that the BoC rise to the occasion when additional jobs come about. This may include a broad variety of tasks from simple chores to serving as a repre­sentative of the student clubs and organi­zations on campus, and I hold this to be an important task, so our various extra-curricular activities comprise an integral part of our everyday lives.

As the undergraduate community of Caltech, we find ourselves in trou­ble. Unfortunately, this trouble is more egregious than others, but in general, we can agree that things are headed in the wrong direction. Time and time again, now, it has been suggested that one of our core problems, among oth­ers, is a severe lack of communica­tion. As we have struggled to find footing in compromising with the administration, it seems that we have been perceived at times to be a disor­ganized and misunderstanding group. It is my belief, as well as that of many others, that the BoD holds the key to solving this ongoing problem. The coming year needs a Board of Directors that not only sees the importance of constant contact and exchange of ideas with the faculty and administra­tion, but also of effective commu­nication with the undergraduate population as a whole. Todd is de­termined to see these goals realized, but this is not a job that one person can accomplish. I feel that as a BoD, I will be capable of lending my sup­port to this cause. While the position of BoD is somewhat vaguely de­scribed, it is certainly one that offers flexibility in the responsibilities that may be assigned. The primary function of the BoD is to maintain communication between the BoC and the various student clubs and organi­zations on campus, and I hold this to be an important task, so our various extra-curricular activities comprise an integral part of our everyday lives. However, it is also important that the BoD rise to the occasion when ad­ditional jobs come about. This may include a broad variety of tasks from simple chores to serving as a repre­sentative of the student clubs and organi­zations on campus, and I hold this to be an important task, so our various extra-curricular activities comprise an integral part of our everyday lives.

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Over the past year, we have been well-served by our current CRC chair, Jeremy Leibs. Jeremy is a good friend (and roommate) of mine and I share his belief that the CRC is vital to protecting student life. I’m going to be a senior next year and, despite having broken plenty of rules over the past few years, I feel that the campus rules are important and beneficial. Their strength, however, lies in the Honor Code and the understanding that each infraction must be weighed individually.

On the whole, we are safe and responsible. I will work towards reasonable fire and drug and alcohol policies on the principle that our honor code is fundamentally about trust: these policies should build trust, not erode it. Among the complicated realities of substance use, there is a important truth: when drinking and drug use need not be hidden and the decisions of the CRC must balance liability and deterrence concerns with its impact on student safety and undergraduate life. Caltech is not like other Caltech members. How­­ever, in recent times, it has been taken out of context.

As you all know, communication with the administration and faculty is at an all time low. Undergraduates have been the last to be notified in many important changes to the Caltech environment. Graduates and students have a different perception of the Honor Code than we do. The administration enforces it out of context. As student chair of the Conduct Review Committee, and as a voting member of the ASCIT Board of Directors, I will help to rebuff student relations with the faculty and administration; facilitate education of the Honor Code among undergraduates, graduates, faculty and administration; graduate, faculty, and administration; and responsible. I will work to help maintain the undergraduate community in spite of the many conditions that threaten it. To this end, I will support finding social activities to bring the houses together and counter the effects of the South House renovation and the increasing pressure for students to live off-campus.

With the campus facing a lot of unpleasant news, the CRC doesn’t need radical changes—it needs good reps and a chair that can serve student life, ensure that is to deal with students who have committed a violation of sorts that is not sent to the BoC. It is important to have someone in a position like this that can deliver a realistic view to the administration, in order to be upfront with them while keeping the social structures and activities of Caltech intact. I promise to keep this realistic viewpoint towards the administra­tion, while letting the students continue to do what they usually do, which makes Caltech such a unique place.

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The second job of the CRC is to be an active voting member of the ASCIT. I have seen many problems with the way the administration has labeled the budget and want to do as much as I can to fix the rift that has occurred between the administration and the students while keeping the interests of the students at heart.

As your CRC chair, I will fight to preserve student life, ensure that benign offenses aren’t unjustly punished, and give students a fair, pragmatic CRC.

Matthew Ornelas-Ku

"No member of the Caltech community shall take unfair advantage of any other member of the community." This is the code that you and I agreed to observe and uphold when we enrolled here at Caltech. It is the essence of our freedoms and responsibilities in the Caltech society, and it is a good standard to follow even when we are not interacting with other Caltech members. However, in recent times, it has been taken out of context.

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With the campus facing a lot of unpleasant news, the CRC doesn’t need radical changes—it needs good reps and a chair that can serve as a student advocate and provide a counterbalance to the faculty and administration voices on the committee. If you elect me as CRC chair, I will fight to preserve student life, ensure that benign offenses aren’t unjustly punished, and give students a fair, pragmatic CRC.

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ASCIT Secretary
Liz Howe

I'm going out on a limb here and assume that most people don't know who I am. I've been known to hide under my desk rather than answer a knock at the door (ever since someone said I was a short order cook outside the pheasants). So what would a recluse like me into the world of political intrigue and budget voodoo? I mean, I haven't been involved in student government since I was a proud parking lot patrol leader but I knew I had to learn that your need to change a thing matters to me, and what we are and **budget voodoo?**

Yes, I am extremely serious. A strange thing strikes me when I think of what Caltech is, what it means to me, and what we are in danger of losing. Ever since I first put my toe on this campus as a naive high school student I felt like I was coming home. I had discovered a place that, in its very attitude, was perhaps more socially real than any other place than I had been before. It isn't acceptable for this haven of brilliance to get caught up in the way of a mediocre, quick-cut, the-deficit, automatic institution. No. I want to help you balance the budget. What I do argue is that we need to add something to the address is the need for student planning and involvement in the process. The administration is making too many changes too fast. Some of them are simply bad business (profiting $50 per student for secretary is both a desire to have the right to be heard and make sure your voice is heard. I aim to enhance and expand the role of ASCIT Secretary to include the following:

1. Prove the **ASCIT Secretary** can be a mediator between the administration and students. If you have something to say, any thoughts, ideas, arguments, or confusion about what is going on, the ASCIT Secretary should be able to make sure your concerns are routed to the correct people and committees. You have the right to be heard and the right to have all your questions answered.

2. Act as a BoD PR head, keeping you up-to-date via emails and postings with summaries of important changes that have been made around campus, and any potential changes that can use student input before they are finalized.

The dramatic changes in student affairs and every other department due to the structural deficit in the General Budget may have surprised you. But what should really shock you is that these budgetary decisions should also know about these changes, and yet the majority of the UG student body did not know about these changes, and I think you'll be looking at the social committee's events. At the risk of taking a few minutes, I'll delve into the details.

3. Take minutes at every BoD meeting and make sure you are able to read them in the Tech and online promptly (within 3 days of the meeting, as in the by-laws). I don't know when this is going to happen, but as a former secretarial assistant for the ASCIT budget. I hope to be at your next meeting just one and half weeks ago.

The role of ASCIT Secretary is to keep Caltech informed of the BoD's activities. Among other things, ASCIT takes minutes of the Board of Trustees, the Caltech Y, and I know about club funding, taking minutes, and the importance of "community" at Caltech, and everything else a secretary does. As ASCIT Secretary, I will listen, keep you informed, and make sure your voice is heard.

**"Oklahoma Dan" McLaury**

With the amount of noise surrounding the Institute's looming financial crises, it's easy to develop a sort of tunnel vision and forget about the other issues facing the campus. I know that a week ago, between the first round of ASCIT elections and the highly anticipated town hall meeting, something called the "Academics and Review Committee" was the last thing on my mind. But then someone... I'm still not sure who... decided to nominate me for the office of Director of Academic Affairs. My first thought, of course, was to erase my name from the list, but that idea that some anonymous person had come up with the idea that I'd be good for the job and made me feel little research.

As it turns out, the duties that the ASCIT bylaws explicitly give to the SAR Chair aren't all that important; there are more important things to do, and some of them are simply bad business (profiting $50 per student for secretary is both a desire to have the right to be heard and make sure your voice is heard. I aim to enhance and expand the role of ASCIT Secretary to include the following:

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**Vickie Pon**

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Discover the mechanism of the nuclear decay force

- The electron consists of a neutrino (whose energy divided by \( c^2 \) is the electron mass) which has three path components:
  - Inertial path - spiral path with radius \( (10^{19})m \) to balance centrifugal and thrust forces.
  - Electrostatic path - spiral path upon which the smaller inertial spiral is superposed. This produces the electrostatic field \( (10^{-15})m \) radius.
  - Angular momentum path - circular path upon which the electrostatic spiral is superposed to produce the electron angular momentum \( (10^{-15})m \) radius.
- Neutron is proton combined with electron which has a collapsed angular momentum path.
- Nuclear decay occurs when the proton neutrino flow output at velocity \( v \), aligned precisely to force electron neutrino to the Bohr radius.
- The strength ratio of the weak to strong interaction is the square of the nucleon radius divided by the Bohr radius \( (10^{-15}/10^{-19}) = 10^{14} \).

For more information and to access the book, visit [www.physicsunifiedtheory.com](http://www.physicsunifiedtheory.com)
In this short space, I have a chance to explain some of the ideas I’ve come up with while thinking and watching events during the past few months. However, keep in mind that I will represent the House presidents as Chair. Any ideas that you pass through will be something I will look to and consider. Furthermore, as I’m around the other Houses so much, I will be readily available with any approach with ideas or criticisms. In addition to being visible around the Houses, I know that I can be someone other people can rely on to get things done - given the chance. I may not be the sharpest tool in the shed that is Tech, but who is? I think everyone can point to some other person who is amazing at what he or she does. Well, best, this is my thing: I am a people person who enjoy the give and take of discussion, which will be pivotal over the next year as we move forward together. At least we all hope they’ll be done before then.

I would like to thank Kim Pop or Peter Foley, who both were amazing doing all that being IHC Chair entails, but I have no job, done, and done well.

I know that many of your votes mean so much to me. I may have been annoying or have passed off at least a few people at times. I’ve been here, but I’ve changed a bit in that time. (Who hasn’t?) I’ve decided tech is not going to be the next few years, and I have to do my part too. Being the IHC chair is where I can help people best and ease the bumpy road that is being a wait behind-the-ears-fan. Rest assured that, whether win or lose, you’ll be seeing a lot more of me before I graduate.
The recent town hall meeting proves the success of student organization. Immediately after its conclusion, Margo Marshak instituted a committee to develop alternatives to the despised seven-day board program. However, it also highlighted an important problem—the lack of communication between administrators and students. We cannot let the momentum of this day fade until tensions flare up again. I feel that, as representatives of the student body, ASCIT and the Tech are uniquely poised to continuously advocate the student position.

The role of a student newspaper is to inform the student body of administrative and other happenings that affect them, and to give a voice to the underrepresented. Caltech prides itself on the autonomy given to its students, but as recent events have shown, students who lack the time to write similar to the letters to the editor found in many newspapers, where they want in their courtyards and we could take care of the rest.

This next year is going to be a fun, busy year, especially with the re-opening of the south houses. With the right social team in place, we can ensure that our social budget is used to its full potential and that there are enough varied social activities to make sure that every group on campus has a great time.

We ended Dima’s term as social director with a significant budget surplus. This is our money, earmarked for our having fun, which is just sitting in some bank account. I promise this will not happen with me. I am not advocating wasting money, but we could have had at least one or two additional significant parties with our budget. Better planning and keeping a closer eye on our monetary position could have enabled us to have a large blowout interhouse-style party last weekend. With all the talk of budget cuts around campus, we are blessed with a surplus and what do we do? Sit on it until it’s too late to do anything fun.

The opening of the South Houses next year requires a party of a magnitude here since the demise of Interhouse. We can use all four floors, professional DJs, live bands, several hundred people, everyone on campus. If the ASCIT social team gets the same budget as last year, we can do this without any financial burden on the South Houses; they would only be in charge of suggesting what they want in their courtyards and we would take care of the rest.
I carry small Asian men on my back, let me carry ASC­it to prosperity.

John Senn

For those of you who don’t know me, I was the Co­Chair of the primary authors of Bitches from Hell, or that guy who pays his tuition with poker winnings, or even that nitwit who attempted some inane stunt on The Facebook a year ago. I’m not going to tell you why I’d do a great job as ASC­it Treasurer. I believe that all of the candidates for the office will take the job seriously and understand the time commitment to make sure ASC­it finances run as smoothly as possible. And I’m not going to tell you my positions for major BoD issues in the coming year. We’re almost all against 7­day board and the shortening of Prefrosh Weekend. We all oppose the administration’s utter disregard for undergraduates in their recent decision making. We will all do our best to insist that administrators consider student input, and we will fight to preserve the community and traditions that all of the Caltech undergrads are fortunate enough to share. And I will fight to let you in on why I aspire to serve as the next treasurer.

Over the past couple of years, and especially the past couple of months, I’ve done a lot of complaining about certain administrative decisions and especially the manner in which they are reached. It is in these moments that we realize that crit­icisms are constructive and offer alter­native solutions. We want to take a more active role in improving student life. I want to gain a better understand­ing of how administration reaches decisions and how administration determines whether or not it should spend money. As treasurer, I can gain a bet­ter understanding of how the school is really run. Hopefully I will be able to contribute to lasting structural improve­ments in the information in the financial standing of ASC­it.

There are many of you who are not satisfied with the current state of the Stewardship Committee. I am. I will determine the best way to sat­isfy the Stewardship Committee. I also understand that the Stewardship Committee is an organization that has been criticized by both theadmin­istration and students, and I know that it changes. ASC­it’s recent editions of our rant column have been controversial articles has been, in many ways, a reflection of the attitude of ASC­it’s members to the BoD some time earlier than the admission of­fice decide to accept. However, I know that I have extra­mural activities, which will make me a valuable addi­tion to the BoD.

It’s been a rocky year for the BoD and I believe that the only way things are going to change is if the attitude of those people in it changes. ASC­it’s role in the undergraduate community has been criticized by both the administra­tion and the students. I believe that the attitude of those people in it changes. We need to work together and attend weekly meet­ings. My trying to convince you how I want to contribute to the BoD would be insulting to your achieve­ments. Seriously, all of us probably passed the ,qualifications of being a student. I know that when I enter the BoD, the administration and the students are going to change is if the attitude of those people in it changes. ASC­it’s role in the undergraduate community has been criticized by both the administra­tion and students, and I know that it changes. ASC­it’s recent editions of our rant column have been controversial articles has been, in many ways, a reflection of the attitude of ASC­it’s members to the BoD some time earlier than the admission of­fice decide to accept. However, I know that I have extra­mural activities, which will make me a valuable addi­tion to the BoD.

I hope the upcoming year will be relatively conflict free, though I do foresee possi­ble issues coming up in the fu­ture, and I am prepared to deal with them as they come up. For example, the new Caltech fire policy may be a source of conflict for many of you who feel that the $500 fine might be unfair. I might be called in to help with the whole procedure that would be best to deal with complaints. Other than that, no term of office has been relatively free of large sticky issues.

I will do my best to bring inter­esting solutions to the BoD and I will do my best to bring interesting solutions to the BoD. I will do my best to bring interesting solutions to the BoD. I will do my best to bring interesting solutions to the BoD.

I hope that you I was confident! Ekta Bhojwani

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