Frosh Camp Shortened
Events Pack Schedule

By Alex Roper
STAFF WRITER

With the start of a new academic year comes a new class of frosh. As in previous years, freshmen arrived early for a few days of orientation prior to the start of rotation and classes. Due to recent budget cuts across Caltech, however, some significant changes were made to frosh camp such as venue, length, and activities.

Student attitudes about the newly shortened frosh camp were primarily negative, though some felt it still realized its goals successfully, if not as well as in previous years.

"Frosh camp didn’t seem to be as much fun this time. I think it’s supposed to be a time where you bond with your class in addition to being part of the official orientation. I highly recommend that the boat competition be brought back," said Jamie Tayar, a sophomore frosh camp UCC from Blacker, "cramping so many things in to the time made the prefrosh really tired even before rotation started." She also suggests shortening the required seminars from two hours to one, as the message is not always complex enough to merit the lengthy presentation and this would free up more social time, and a shorter message is often better remembered.

In previous years, new freshmen arrived Sunday, leaving a full week before the start of classes. After arriving on campus, they departed the next morning for frosh camp, held at Ventura Beach or Lake Arrowhead resort and longer ago, Catalina Island. This trip was for three days and two nights. Although much of the time was devoted to official orientation discussions and seminars, there was a good amount of down time for students to get to know each other in an unstructured way.

Structured social activities included the beloved boat race, in which new students compete in teams to build the fastest rubber band or balloon powered boat to complete a race, as well as a dance and talent show. After returning from frosh camp, there were a few more days of orientation related activities on campus, during when rotation started as the upperclassmen returned.

This year, however, all of frosh camp was held on campus, the total length of orientation was reduced by three days. Despite this decision, shortening, two additional seminars were added. In order to accommodate the greater density of required courses, the boat race and dance were eliminated, and unstructured discussions and seminars, there was a good amount of down time for students to get to know each other in an unstructured way.

Work in Progress

Construction Continues

By Monorina Mukhopadhy
STAFF WRITER

Science is constantly mutating, expanding, moving forward, outward. It is only fitting, therefore, that an institute dedicated to the exploration of the terra incognita should likewise expand its borders and its buildings. Amongst the sprawling late-Spanish architecture of the Caltech campus, the shiny chrome and glass novelties most recently added to campus easily attract the attention of those who are new or returning from a summer away.

One of these buildings is the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Center for Information Science and Technology, more popularly known as the "Green Building" in reference to the green color of its glass walls and its environmentally-friendly design. With its glass facades and minimalist design, it is archetypal of the way in which the average layperson views the hallowed world of computer and information sciences. Rated by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), it is a model of Caltech’s commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability.

It brings together all the disciplines that work together under the broad umbrella of the term: “Information Science and Technology,” making it more convenient for researchers and professors from different departments to collaborate.

Ann Harvey, administrator for the Institute of Quantum Information and Center for the Physics of Information, gave eloquent praise for the new workplace. So far the computer scientists housed in it also have had only good things to say about it and are pleased with the new addition to the Caltech campus.

This feeling, however, might not be in sync with the views of conventional architects. Like an anonymous student, they say the new building is "archetypical of the way in which and minimalistic design, it is known as the "Green Building" and Technology, more popularly called the "Green Building" after its completion.

"The choice of language was another sore point. Until this year CS1 taught Scheme, which is a good pedagogical language, according to Vanier, but can be a bit hard for complete novices and is not widely used in practice. Some courses come away from CS1 unprepared to program for SURFs, which tend to require more common languages like C."

"The new course teaches Python, which is a fairly lightweight," yet ubiquitous language used by companies such as Google, said Vanier. Moreover, Vanier plans to draw the programming exercises from real-world problems, such as numerical simulation. He has already polled the students for their programming interests. He hopes to give students a leg up when applying for SURFs requiring coding.

But the previous CS1 has not gone away. It is now called CS1 Made More Accessible

By Casey Jao
STAFF WRITER

Heeding the grumbles at last spring’s Student-Faculty Conference (SFC), the computer science department has retooled the introductory programming course CS1. The course now targets specifically students with little or no programming experience and teaches basic programming skills in the Python language.

Students are greeting the course enthusiastically. Over a hundred students showed up to the first lecture, crowding a hall designed to accommodate only seventy-eight. Mike Vanier, the course instructor, is looking for a new room.

"I don’t have any programming experience, but it seems like a good introduction," said Scott Yantek, a freshman enrolled in the course.

"I signed twenty-something cards the other day," said Mike Vanier, the course instructor. "This is a brand spanking-new course." He estimated that it will take two to three years to flatten all the bugs. "Hopefully we’ll get it right after a few tries."

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What Happened to Undergraduates?

By Chris Kennelly  

eDitor-in-Chief

In past issues of The Tech, we reported on budget cuts and their foreseeable impact on undergraduates. Specifically, in February, we reported “the back section of Winnett—currently packed with textbooks and gifts—will likely become a meeting area or student lounge.” Student protests were created and given to the administration for consideration.

Eight months later, the Caltech Bookstore is no longer selling textbooks—as expected—but the back of Winnett is still unlikely. North House renovation/reconstruction have been discussed for years yet no definite plans have been made to do anything with them.

The fabled Student Center is continually on the horizon. With the continued existence of the Bookstore in the longest sense of the name, a makeshift solution seems even more unlikely.

With the completion of the Schlinger Laboratory building in the winter, 3 construction projects will have been completed in a year with renovations on Robinson starting at the close of the last academic year.

This isn’t a question of whether Caltech has the money whatsoever: it’s a question of priorities: however unclear they might be. We’re able to find money from somewhere for solar panels, but not for undergraduates.

The SASC isn’t enough. Amongst finished rooms, only a few music practice rooms, 3 study-work rooms, a practical physics lab, and the SPECtRE library are readily available on a South Master. Another group of rooms have dedicated purposes, such as the Hall of Justice (the ASCIT-IHC room) on a combination lock, the ASCIT Social Storage room on a Medeco, The California Tech office, and a meeting room for the BoC. Maintenance rooms do little to give space to groups of students for working on sets.

Efforts to motivate trustees to support anything for undergraduates seems to have only worsened conditions. Rather than remember that for decades, the administration has allowed undergraduates to be unique, trustees have taken issue with the murals of the houses. It should be hard to be surprised that the student houses have murals: They were there well before the South House renovations and they continue today. Why anyone is surprised is even more confusing.

Surveys of why students don’t study on campus seem to have become forgotten rather than abandoning them at opportune moments. Bemoaning the “expense” of undergraduate education does little for anyone. Instead, we’ve seen a hiring freeze in all but name and lecturer budgets slashed.

Merit scholarships were slashed away in two rounds, the first in the 2008-09 academic year with the disappearance of Axline and Lingle awards and the second over the summer with the elimination of Upperclass Merit awards. Tuition has continued to rise as we’ve set a price to appear “competitive” to other institutions. Lest we forget, being competitive with other institutions might be a start.

We’re flexible.

Join us Monday or Friday at noon for lunch at Broad Cafe, or send tech@caltech.edu an email if you’re interested in being a part of the Tech.

Write or take pictures when you can. We pay up to $30 for news articles.

Intellectual Creativity

By Brian Merlob  

Undergraduate

I love Caltech, not only because the community is so personal, but also because of Caltech’s emphasis on rigor and research. However, I find it strange that the enthusiasm that professors put into providing such rigorous classes isn’t always shared by the students who take them. It could be that Caltech has created a culture of which our students and improvement, and to which I offer a rhyme:

New student governments come and go.  
Never happy with the status quo.  
They seek to make Tech a better place.

...and intriguing.

1. My ideas are far from perfect, but I’ve thought about them for a long time, so I’d love any comments you’d like to give - email me anytime! (Merlob@caltech.edu)
2. The Tech is published weekly except during vacation and exam periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT). All expressions herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers. By submitting an article for publication, you are giving permission for it to be published on the Internet at http://www.caltech.edu/tech.  
3. The Tech reserves the right to edit and make attachments, including the author’s name, for clarity, style, or space without notification.

The advertising deadline is 5 PM Friday, all advertising should be submitted in electronic form as a PDF file. All advertising must be submitted by e-mail only, no faxes or telephone orders. Ads are sold on a space available basis, not a guarantee of space. All advertising is subject to approval by the ASCIT-IHC (Merlob@caltech.edu). (Merlob@caltech.edu)
The California Tech is obligated, under the ASCIT Bylaws, to publish the minutes of the Board of Directors. The BoD minutes are published as-received and without further abridgment. For unabridged versions of the minutes, consult Laura Conwill, ASCIT Secretary.

The Editors include minutes from IHC meetings, excerpts from the ARC’s meetings, and other announcements voluntarily as a service to the community.

Top: The new Fleming prefrosh parade into Blacker Courtyard during this year’s Flem Caroling.

Bottom: Prefrosh, except 77, watch for the canon to be fired and rotation to come to an end.

Nominate Your Favorite Professor for the Feynman Teaching Prize!!!

Here’s your chance to nominate your favorite professor for the 2009-10 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching! You have from now until January 4, 2010 to submit your nomination package to the Provost’s Office to honor a professor who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching.

The Feynman Prize is made possible through the generosity of Ione and Robert E. Paradise, with additional contributions from Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hurt. Nominations for the Feynman Teaching Prize are welcome from faculty, students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and alumni.

All professorial faculty of the Institute are eligible. The prize consists of a cash award of $3,500, matched by an equivalent raise in the annual salary of the awardee. A letter of nomination and detailed supporting material, including, but not limited to, a curriculum vitae, course syllabus or description, and supporting recommendation letters should be directed to the Feynman Prize Selection Committee, Office of the Provost, Mail Code 206-31, at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 91125. Nomination packages are due by January 4, 2010.

Additional information including guidelines for the prize and FAQ may be found at http://provost.caltech.edu/FeynmanTeachingPrize. Further information can also be obtained from Karen Kerbs (626-395-6039; kkerbs@caltech.edu) or Stacey Scoville (626-395-6320; staceys@caltech.edu) in the Provost’s Office.
In 1924, students at Notre Dame made history by defeating the KKK.

In 2008, one university made history by punishing a student for reading about it.

When a college student was found guilty of racial harassment simply for reading a book, he called on FIRE to help clear his name.

Join the thousands of students in FIRE’s Campus Freedom Network who are defending their rights on campus. Don’t wait until it’s too late.

Learn about Caltech’s stance on student rights:

www.thecfn.org/caltech

Because your liberty is a precious thing.
Here in Southern California, there are many options for delicious Mexican food! So why just go to Chipotle each weekend for a burrito when you can walk a few more minutes and spend a couple more dollars for authentic Mexican? Across from Target, El Portal is tucked away between Colorado Boulevard and Green Street. Definitely take advantage of the outdoor patio at lunchtime. We ordered the Halibut Steak ($13.50) and Enchiladas de Mole ($10.25).

The size of the halibut fillet was perfectly portioned for lunchtime. The fish was moist, and the cilantro-spiced sauce on top gave a lot of flavor. We, however, would have liked some more of this sauce in the dish. Vegetables, guacamole, and rice were served on the side. The veggies included broccoli, cauliflower, green beans, and carrots, and were delicious! They were not simply steamed, but drizzled with oil to make them creamier. The avocado flavor was overpowered by the tomatoes and onions in the guacamole, making it almost taste like salsa.

For those who do not know, mole sauce has a hint of cocoa in it, giving the sauce a smoky taste. This was delicious on top of the chicken enchiladas, offering a different perspective to Mexican food rather than tomato salsa. The chicken itself was shredded and moist. This entrée was served with beans and rice. The beans were delicious and not too heavy, but the rice, as in the halibut dish, was bland and did not add anything to the plate.

El Portal is a great place to try when a Chipotle burrito simply will not satisfy a Mexican food craving. Choose from the large array of Mexican and Yucatán specialties, and enjoy the pleasant service. Also of note are their margaritas, which come in both classic and fruity flavors. So head out and get to know your new House-mates at El Portal!
Abbreviated Frosh Camp Reduces Unstructured Interaction; No Boat Race

FROSH CAMP, FROM PAGE 1

social time was seriously reduced. On Thursday and Friday, the frosh were booked in official required events from 9 am until 1 pm with only two hours of free time aside from meals. Over these events, some of which were also open for official presentations, leaving barely any time for socializing.

Furthermore, rotation began early this year, with only two hours of unstructured time on Saturday and Sunday, there was barely any time for socializing. No one got to know each other before rotation. Pre-rotation socialization is important for the new frosh, as it is a huge part of forming and maintaining bonds across the term.

Holding the event on campus also brings other issues. One of the primary functions of a retreat-style frosh camp is to take the new students off campus for a few days to encourage parents to return home, rather than remaining. The trip off campus makes a cleaner and faster break between parents and the frosh. This year, there were still parents with their frosh on campus when the campus was empty.

With these cuts, however, came a great reduction in cost. Although orientation fees are still being tabulated, Caltech saved at least $100,000 on lodging and $10,000 on transportation compared to last year, according to Dimitrios Sakellaris, Chief Administrator of Student Affairs. Presumably there were also savings due to food being provided by Caltech Dining Services instead of Catering or an outside caterer.

Despite the lower expenditures and cranked week, orientation fees remained the same as previous years at $500 per student. She was still disappointed by the cuts: “If really missed the dance party, and the boat race was a pretty good bonding experience for a lot of people in frosh camp as I remember. I think a lot of people heard about that from upperclassmen and were disappointed they didn’t get to do the boat project too.”

Frosh camp didn’t seem to be as much fun this time. I think it’s supposed to be a time where you bond with your class in addition to being part of the official orientation. Cramming so many things in to the time made the prefrosh really tired even before rotation started.”

Jamie Tayar, UCC

CS1 Now Taught in Python

CS1, FROM PAGE 1

CS4 and will still be required of computer science majors. “The old CS1 was a great second programming course,” remarked Vanier. “Hopefully the new CS1 will be a great first programming course.”

Designs Considered “Hilarious”

CONSTRUCTION, FROM PAGE 1

would point out that among the many buildings, the Cahill Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics, the Cahill Center houses the former inmates of Robinson Laboratory. Robinson in turn is being renovated and on completion will become the Linde and Robinson Laboratory for Global Environmental Science.

The strange architecture of the Cahill Center is described by architect Thom Mayne as looking “like it’s coming apart” or “like it’s coming together, or emerging…” It has a propensity to either make people speechless with its strange beauty or laugh at its “weirdness.”

The final addition is the Schlinger Laboratory for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. While it is still being erected, and is therefore a “hard hat area”, it will eventually bring together all of the chemical sciences under one roof.

These new edifices all play a part in the facilitating inter- and multi-disciplinary sciences. What is debatable, however, is whether these establishments will draw many Goethe called all architecture: “frozen music”.}

Workers plant new shrubs and trees in front of the Annenberg Center.

News Briefs

• Alcohol Returns to Page - As of the end of rotation, the deans are now allowing alcohol to return to Page House. More next week.

• Rotation Ends - Frosh finally found out their houses this last Sunday. Room assignments will take place this week and frosh will move into their new rooms this Wednesday.

• Donuts - They appeared on Olive Walk on time.

• Olives missing from olive trees - How will there be an Olive Festival?

Upcoming Events:

Monday, October 5th

• Lunchtime Meeting For The California Tech at Broad Cafe from Noon to 1PM

Friday, October 9th

• Lunchtime Meeting For The California Tech - At Broad Cafe from Noon to 1PM

• Shanghai-La Chinese Acrobat

• Career Fair Preparation - The week of October 5, students can drop in to the Career and Development Center without an appointment between 9:30 am and noon 1 to 4 pm.

• Caltech/MIT Enterprise Forum - A program that will explore common traits and key differences among successful entrepreneurial leaders. The forum will bring in a noted academic in leadership and a panel of notable entrepreneurial leaders.

• David Mallet - Mallet has performed in town halls and folk clubs across America and Europe. He will perform in Beckman Institute auditorium.

Saturday, October 10th

• Engineers for a Sustainable World Kickoff - All members of the Caltech community are invited to join Engineers for a Sustainable World as they kick off the new school year.

Movies:

Open this week:

• Capitalism, A Love Story

• Zombieland

• Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
**Upcoming Games**

October 5, 2009  
Women’s Volleyball vs. West Coast Baptist  
7:30 PM

October 6, 2009  
Women’s Volleyball at Cal Lutheran  
7:30 PM

October 7, 2009  
Men’s Soccer vs. Claremont-M-S  
4:00 PM

October 9, 2009  
Women’s Volleyball vs. Whittier  
7:30 PM

October 10, 2009  
Men’s Soccer vs. Pomona-Pitzer  
11:00 AM

October 11, 2009  
Men’s Water Polo vs. Connecticut Col.  
8:00 AM

Men’s Water Polo vs. Chapman  
3:00 PM

October 12, 2009  
Men’s Soccer vs. SOKA University of America  
4:00 PM

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**Waterpolo Ahead for Part of Game; Comes Close to Win**

Aryan Safaiie swims to defend the goal at one of the teams’ two games this last Friday. The team’s new Spida’ defense caught the other teams by surprise and will likely make an appearance in future games and take an important place in the team’s playbook.

Caltech’s water polo team on Friday came its closest yet to a victory since Coach Joshua Moser took over coaching the team last year.

The game, against Penn St.-Behrend, got off to a strong start, with Caltech scoring a series of goals that left the team with a 5-3 lead at the end of the first quarter. It was the first time this season that the team has managed to lead a game.

It managed to maintain its lead for most of the game, but several quick goals in the last quarter left Penn in the lead.

Down by one point with three seconds to go, junior and team captain Paul Fleiner took one last half court shot in an attempt to force overtime. The crowd watching in suspense, the other teams coach still heaving from his argument with the referee, the ball just missed the top post of the goal and skimmed into the water behind.

No overtime and no win, but the team was not too disappointed. While it may have lost this particular game, the team expects more success in the coming games.

And not just this season. With several starting freshman and only one senior the team is relatively young. Moser said that he expects the team to improve in the future and that it is in a good position to become more competitive than Caltech waterpolo has been in years.

A similar comment was made by some of the referees at the team’s earlier game. In the game against Gannon, even though it was distinctly lopsided, some officials who have been watching Caltech players remarked on the team’s ability compared to what they have seen in previous years. While the game was not a scoreboard win, Moser said the team played well.

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**The Weekly Scoreboard**

**October 2**

Men’s Waterpolo vs. Gannon  L 17-3
Men’s Waterpolo vs. Penn St.-Behrend  L 13-12
Women’s Volleyball at Redlands L 3-0

**October 3**

Women’s Volleyball vs. Pomona-Pitzer L 3-0
Men’s Soccer vs. Whittier L 7-0
The Law of Free Food:

\[ \text{Food Taste} = \frac{\text{Food Quality} \times \text{Hunger}}{\text{\$\$ Cost}} \]

**MY PEAK PRODUCTIVITY**

- TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS
- TOO TIRED
- USUALLY AROUND 2:00am

---

**HEY, CUTE NETBOOK.**

**WHAT.**

**YOUR LAPTOP.**

**I JUST -**

**NO, WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO ME.**

**WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?**

**IF I WERE EVEN SLIGHTLY INTERESTED, I'D HAVE SHOWN IT.**

**HEY, EVERYONE, THIS DUDES HITTING ON ME.**

**HAHA, CREEPY.**

**LET'S GET HIS PICTURE FOR FACEBOOK TO WARN OTHERS.**

**DEAR BLOG,**

**CUTE BOY ON TRAIN STILL IGNORING ME.**

---

**WHILE YOU'RE DOING THE SURGERY, CAN YOU ALSO IMPLANT THIS IN MY ARM?**

**A USB PORT?**

**JUST WIRE IT UP TO SOME NERVES.**

**... THIS WON'T LET YOUR BRAIN CONTROL USB DEVICES, YOU KNOW.**

**SURE - I JUST WANT THE HARDWARE.**

**THE REST IS SOFTWARE, I'M SURE THERE WILL BE A PROJECT TO PATCH TOGETHER SUPPORT EVENTUALLY.**

**AH - YOU'RE A LINUX USER, I SEE.**

**YEAH, HOW'D YOU KNOW?**

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**REMEMBER: WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT CURRENT SQUARED TIMES RESISTANCE.**

**OHM NEVER FORGOT HIS DYING UNCLE'S ADVICE.**

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The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125