Caltech edges out MIT for Putnam

WESLEY YU
Staff Writer

Caltech won first place in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition this year. Caltech has not won the Putnam Competition since 1983.

The team, consisting of three seniors—Yakov Berchenko-Kogan(Dab), Jason Bland(Rud), and Brian Lawrence(Abe)—beat teams from 442 other colleges and universities including Harvard, MIT, and Princeton.

Each team member is awarded $1,000 for winning the competition and the Caltech math department will receive $25,000 for fielding the best team.

Lawrence, who was absent from the competition last year, came back this year to win the Putnam fellowship for the third time.

Professor Barry Simon, executive officer of mathematics and a former Putnam Fellow, said, “The current junior and senior classes are among the most impressive groups we’ve had.”

The Putnam Competition is one of the most highly regarded mathematics competitions, testing a student’s originality as well as technical competence.

According to the MAA, a total of 4296 students from 546 colleges and universities in Canada and the United States participated in the competition in 2010.

Need to know

US economy growing

AT&T buys T-Mobile

Reform in Yemen

Radiation in N.E. China

High gas prices

Military action in Libya

Japan’s crisis continues

In this issue

NEWS
Swoop
That innovates textbook purchase

OPINION
Techer responds to B-Ball media coverage

FEATURE
Caltech Y has Alternative Spring Break

SPORTS
Laura Decker competes amongst champions

HUMOR
David Ginola. Enough said.

Team Results

Fellow (Top 5, $2500 Award): Brian Lawrence*, Senior
N2 (Top 24, $250 Award): Yakov Berchenko-Kogan*, Senior, Jason Bland*, Senior, Zarathustra Brady, Junior
Honorable Mention: Timothy Black, Senior, Jeffrey Manning, Junior, Gjergji Zaimi, Senior

* Team Member

News briefs from around the globe

Provided by Tech correspondent Sam Barnett

< 100 words about the world this week – topics sorted from good to bad by Sam Barnett – links to full stories available at barnett.caltech.edu/news

US economy growing

AT&T buys T-Mobile

Reform in Yemen

Radiation in N.E. China

High gas prices

Military action in Libya

Japan’s crisis continues

Team Results

1. Caltech
2. MIT
3. Harvard
4. UC Berkeley
5. University of Waterloo

Caltech Individual Awards

Fellow (Top 5, $2500 Award): Brian Lawrence*, Senior
N2 (Top 24, $250 Award): Yakov Berchenko-Kogan*, Senior, Jason Bland*, Senior, Zarathustra Brady, Junior
Honorable Mention: Timothy Black, Senior, Sam Elder, Junior, Jeffrey Manning, Junior, Gjergji Zaimi, Senior

* Team Member
SwoopThat eases textbook buys

On March 18, SwoopThat, LLC announced that it is releasing proprietary course search technology for 130 schools nationwide, including the California Institute of Technology, in an effort to make college more affordable for low-income students. This technology helps the average student save 50% on textbooks in about 10 minutes.

According to a recent press release, the typical student spends 900 dollars a year on textbooks, and these high prices are increasingly contributing to the growing lack of affordable education in the United States. Textbook prices have been rising at twice the rate of inflation over the last two decades, and the Government Accountability Office recently found that textbooks represent up to 26% of the tuition and fees at four-year public institutions. SwoopThat’s course-search technology mirrors the MBS Direct Online Bookstore that Caltech students are currently persuaded to use. Students select all of their courses and receive a list of required books for those courses. However, unlike MBS, SwoopThat immediately links these students to the cheapest online sources for those required books. SwoopThat has partnered with a large number of popular book vendors such as Amazon.com, Borders, Barnes & Noble, Half.com, Alibris, and Ecampus.com, among many more. This often leads hundreds of dollars in savings per student, and the service is free with no registration required. “The time factor is what makes this technology unique,” says Jonathan Simkin, SwoopThat’s co-founder and CEO. “As a recent college graduate myself, I know several students who work side jobs to pay for their education. They can’t afford to spend hours bargain hunting for cheaper textbooks, and this new technology has helped them afford school. Our goal is to expand the use of this technology to help low-income students nationwide.”

Students are also given an easy opportunity to earn some quick cash by being a campus representative for SwoopThat.

The job description entails promoting the SwoopThat Fundraiser Program to on-campus clubs and organizations. Essentially, SwoopThat will build each organization signed up for this program its own personalized textbook and product search engine. For every purchase made by the organization’s members, the campus representative can earn up to 0.5% cash back. While SwoopThat is geared towards low-income students, they are by no means the only ones who benefit from this online marketplace. Not only does SwoopThat makes it easier to purchase books, but it is also a convenient way to find online vendors with the highest textbook buyback prices.

Check out SwoopThat for yourself: www.swoopthat.com/caltech.

SANDHYA CHANDRASEKARAN
News Editor

The California Tech

IHC minutes

Weekly Meeting – Avery – March 7, 2011

Present: Laura Conwill, Dan Sexton, Vivian Sun, Erin Hoops, Wesley Chen, Brad Saund, Christian Rivas, Riley Patterson, Katherine Wong, Alan Lin

Absent: DK Lim

Guests: Chris Hallacy, Tim Black, Will Steinhardt

Called to order: 11:11 PM

• Will introduces Erin Hoops, the new president of Rickets

• Interviews for RevComm Chair, FoodComm Chair, SwoopThat Chair, and Interhouse Ath Man will be held for Saturday. Weekend will be held for Saturday. Christian Rivas will send out times Sat. thru Tues., and people can send proxies if they cannot make it.

• Presidents should encourage potential candidates to apply for these positions.

• Laura met with Dean Green, who heard about the bonfire. Green wanted to know who should be charged for it. Brad says not only people in Blacker participated, and that the dumpster will cost $500. We will look into this further.

• House endowments are to be discussed soon.

• Peter Daily is going to carpet Avery’s dining hall. Wesley is concerned about charges if the carpet gets damaged.

• Hallacy and Laura met with Kevin Austin, director of the health and counseling center. Committees for interviewing for the staff psychologist and health educator positions will be formed within the next month; the IHC needs to nominate students to serve on these committees. The center is putting together a professionally-made video about depression awareness (filming spring break – June). They want to film in a north house. The north house presidents will discuss it with their respective houses.

• Plan for next year: Interviews this weekend: stewardship, food, rev., and ath. Prefrosh Weekend is next (chronologically), so the IHC needs to address Prefrosh Weekend rules. By May 1, we will know the new frosh class, so we need to assign them to houses at that time. In May, we will hold faculty/board committee interviews, then start talking about rotation. We will need to address eccorotation. Laura and Christian will meet with the eccorotation committee chair after spring break. After school ends, we will hold meetings once or twice a week. We will have April and September retreats, as well as Frosh camp, and maybe a transition retreat. Frosh camp is probably going to be Sept. 19-21. Laura will send dates to IHC.

• Riley suggests discussing house endowments ASAP. Chris wants to be present. Perhaps before alumni weekend (mid May)?

• Riley says waiters are wondering if there are Prefrosh Weekend dinners Thursday and Friday. The answer is yes.

• ASCIT will host the formal off campus. Yay! No other news from ASCIT.

• The retreat hasn’t been scheduled with Tom. Katherine says that there is a track meet which will conflict with Friday and part of Saturday, and Page cocktail night conflicts with the retreat as well. The 22-24, the weekend of Blacker Interhouse, may be a better option if the IHC can work out a way to attend both the retreat and the interhouse. Laura will discuss options with Tom.

Called to an end: 11:41 PM
Reilly takes cheap shots at Caltech
Will Dooris defends his teammates’ and Caltech’s reputation

Contributing Writer

In case you weren’t aware, the Caltech men’s basketball team won a conference game for the first time in 26 years. But of course, you were aware.

Caltech athletics has seen a huge spike in coverage since the February 22 win with media outlets all over the world reporting the story. Everyone loves a good underdog story and the basketball team was perhaps one of the biggest underdogs in recent memory.

After 310 games, the team finally wins one.

You have to admit it makes a heartwarming story; a welcome if brief respite from stories of death and destruction or the celebrity drama that often fills our newspapers and magazines. Unfortunately for us, it also gives anyone and everyone an excellent chance to make nerd jokes.

And everyone has been taking shots. With headlines like “it’s not Rocket Science, but it’s a win for Caltech,” (LA Times) and “Revenge of the Nerds,” (UK Daily Mail) not to mention, “Caltech finally has the winning equation”, (ESPN) it was easy to see that the team, and the school in general was going to take some abuse.

Not that the school, and the basketball team in particular, hasn’t had to shrug off a few jokes before. In 2007, Quantum Hoops, a documentary detailing the 20+ year struggle of the Caltech men’s basketball team for victory was released.

The New York Times called it, “…the cutest thing,” and Rick Reilly (working then for Sports Illustrated) wrote a review entitled “Turning Losing into a Science.” Reilly’s article had a few choice zingers, notably, “[w]ouldn’t you think just once a ball would bounce off a pocket protector and in for a win?” It was kind of funny in the way that puns usually are. One can appreciate what the person is saying: more of an, “I see what you did there,” moment rather than a true laugh out loud situation.

Well Rick Reilly is back at his old game. In an ESPN article entitled, “Not Exactly on the Bubble,” Reilly pulls out all the stops. He opens with “you couldn’t beat an egg with that collection of nerdballs.”

Throughout the article, Reilly manages to reference pocket protectors (he seems to have an affinity for them), star wars, the fact that only two of the players on the team have girlfriends, calculators, and null sets.

All of these are hidden away in “clever” little puns designed to build up a fascinating image of the typical Caltech student. In other words ladies and gentlemen, we are nerds. The Steve Urkel kind of nerd, able to solve complex differential equations but socially inept to the point where only two of the guys on the basketball team have girlfriends. This is how we are depicted to the outside world, and you know what, it’s not even close to the truth.

Ok, so Mike Edwards does have a star wars poster, or posters in his room but at least five members of the team have girlfriends and no one wears a pocket protector. I think you’ll agree that we, the students of Caltech, have a right to be slightly miffed about this.

It’s pretty common knowledge that Caltech isn’t well known. When I tell people I go to Caltech the most common response is “Cal Polytech?” or even “is that a two year school?”

Due to media attention and promotion, MIT has always been the better-known university. So when we finally get a decent amount of media attention, we are portrayed as quite possibly the nerdiest people on the planet.

He came up with the rocket science headline also mentioning that Ryan’s free throw was “easy as pie.” Katie Couric, anchor of the CBS evening news even threw in two cents commenting that “The winning point in the Braun athletic center came from brain Ryan Eilmquist.”

Everyone has the same basic facts. Ryan Eilmquist hits the free throw on senior night, goes to work at Google, 31 game losing streak, 31 Nobel laureates.

The differences in each story therefore, are in the mix of science jokes each journalist is witty enough to include. It’s almost as if Rick Reilly, Bill Plaschke, and Katie Couric have a date set to get together and discuss who had the best pun.

It’s quite clear that every journalist shares the “that’s cute” mentality of the New York Times in 2007.

We are clearly looked upon as the little brother who was finally able to do something good. Of course none of the articles can be truly negative, it’s an uplifting mentality of the New York Times and the “cuter” image the New York Times journalist shares the “that’s cute” mentality.

Throughout the article, Reilly makes no mistake; Reilly was not the only one poking fun. Bill Plaschke, a sports writer for the LA Times and frequent contributor on ESPN’s popular show, Around the Horn, also showed his stuff.

So when we finally get a decent amount of media attention, we are portrayed as quite possibly the nerdiest people on the planet.

It’s absolutely wonderful that the basketball team and the school in general has gotten such extensive media coverage but despite “the win,” we’re still the butt of the joke. It is my belief that the team has many more wins ahead of them. So let’s revisit this issue after next season and we’ll see who’s laughing then.

Opinion

Will Dooris
Contributing Writer

Reilly’s article had a few choice zingers, notably, “[w]ouldn’t you think just once a ball would bounce off a pocket protector and in for a win?” It was kind of funny in the way that puns usually are. One can appreciate what the person is saying: more of an, “I see what you did there,” moment rather than a true laugh out loud situation.

Due to media attention and promotion, MIT has always been the better-known university. So when we finally get a decent amount of media attention, we are portrayed as quite possibly the nerdiest people on the planet.

wDooris defends his teammates’ and Caltech’s reputation

Vishnu’s View: A sad Spring Break for music

Contributing Writer

Sorority’s spring break, and I’ve been called upon once again to write some sort of music-oriented article for this fine publication. I was thinking of doing another album review but none of the new albums really caught my attention. Okay, that’s not entirely true. The new Lupe album is out … it’s fairly avid Lupe fan, this realization hit me like a sack of bricks. How could such a promising wordsmith fall victim to fat cats and corporate agendas? I didn’t wait to find out. I was thinking of doing another album review but none of the new albums really caught my attention. I’ve been called upon once again to write some sort of music-oriented article for this fine publication. I was thinking of doing another album review but none of the new albums really caught my attention. Okay, that’s not entirely true. The new Lupe album is out … it’s fairly avid Lupe fan, this realization hit me like a sack of bricks. How could such a promising wordsmith fall victim to fat cats and corporate agendas? I didn’t wait to find out. Immediately after hearing the new Lupe album, I fell into a deep malaise. I sat, curled up in the shambles of my bedroom, listening to St. James Infirmary and shaking in a puddle of cold sweat. Colors faded. My world became black-and-white … after four days, a new episode of Community aired, and I got better.

Anyway, here’s my spring term playlist. Check it out if you want:

Buzzer
Braun
The Best Day
The Decemsters
Deception
Backalicious
Freaks and Geeks
Childish Gambino
Galaxy in Japan
Flying Lotus
Rapping Zui Fart (feat. Lahari)
Das Racist
Recon
Arcade Fire
Shake Shake Shake
Woke Design
Tighten Up
The Black Keys
Will Do
TV On The Radio
Another ethical, soulful track from TVONT.

OpiNiON

MARCH 28, 2011

3

THE CALIFORNIA TECH
With the recent and awful natural disasters in Japan, students have rallied to offer international assistance. Here at Caltech, numerous groups have put up the banner in defense of those harmed by the earthquake and tsunami.

During spring break, Japanese students set up a donation booth in front of the Red Door Café.

The group was formed from a coalition of the Caltech Y, International Scholar Scholarships, International Student Life, and programs, and members of the Japanese community here at Caltech. They made well-reasoned appeals to the Caltech community and also explained exactly where they planned to send the money: the Central Community Chest of Japan.

President Chameau and the ASCIT body sent out not only heartfelt condolences to the Japanese community, but also included a number of ways that students can get involved in the relief effort.

Links were e-mailed around houses to the website LivingSocial, which promises to match small donations and has already raised over two million dollars.

We at the Tech understand that it is all too easy to brush off tragedies that occur far from home. We may not affect anyone that we know. It is a testament to the collaborative spirit here at Caltech that tired college students living in the so-called “Caltech Bubble” whooping it up that we were looking at the stage called for international assistance went out.

Even with break and relaxation on their minds, Caltech students could not stand idly by when they knew that a part of the international community was suffering. In the coming days, the faculty and students of Caltech will continue to be called upon to play an important part in the relief effort.

We have already demonstrated that we have the ability and drive to heed the call when our neighbors overseas request assistance. It is now our duty as members of the international community to continue our support in any way that we can.

For ideas about how you can help the Caltech community support Japan, visit the Caltech Y and review President Chameau’s most recent e-mail.

Veda is an interesting choice as villain because as much as we are...meant to hate her... Mildred's own happiness is intrinsically linked to Veda's happiness. Much of Veda's actions and motivations mirror those of the typical femme fatale: she is manipulative, aware of her sexual allure, and will resort to all sorts of devious methods to achieve her goals.

Even if you can't understand the lyrics, fans of classic rock will find something to like in Juanes's music. Those who like a good dance beat won't be disappointed either.

Unlike most mainstream Latin artists, Juanes's songs are almost entirely in Spanish, with this song being a rare exception.

Even if you can't understand the lyrics, fans of classic rock will find something to like in Juanes's music. Those who like a good dance beat won't be disappointed either.

Unlike most mainstream Latin artists, Juanes's songs are almost entirely in Spanish, with this song being a rare exception.

Even if you can't understand the lyrics, fans of classic rock will find something to like in Juanes's music. Those who like a good dance beat won't be disappointed either.

Unlike most mainstream Latin artists, Juanes's songs are almost entirely in Spanish, with this song being a rare exception.

Even if you can't understand the lyrics, fans of classic rock will find something to like in Juanes's music. Those who like a good dance beat won't be disappointed either.

Unlike most mainstream Latin artists, Juanes's songs are almost entirely in Spanish, with this song being a rare exception.

Even if you can't understand the lyrics, fans of classic rock will find something to like in Juanes's music. Those who like a good dance beat won't be disappointed either.
Mildred Pierce is drama-noir (continued)

However, the fact that the protagonist is her mother instead of an average schmuck like in Double Indemnity means that Veda’s treachery throughout the novel, while less immediately tragic, is more cruel than the expected betrayal of the femme fatale. Mildred also begins an unhealthy relationship with a wealthy Pasadena loafer named Monty Beragon. As Monty’s finances take a downturn, he begins leeching off of Mildred, and her financial security effectively renders him, as he himself bitterly acknowledges, her gigolo. Monty turns into another way Mildred tries to please Veda, giving her daughter access to the high society lifestyle she craves. But his relationship with Veda becomes disturbing as it is revealed that the two discuss Mildred using crass and condescending language that one would especially not expect out of a daughter or a lover. The failure of the men in Mildred’s life, from her husband Bert to the lazy Monty, sets up an interesting gender reversal where Mildred—a woman with minimal education and professional skills—becomes the breadwinner during the Great Depression. Many women who worked in the Great Depression were criticized because of a general sentiment that they were taking jobs from men, and the insecurities of the less successful men around Mildred parallels this anxiety. Pitting class, pride, and motherhood against each other; the result is an engaging and cynical story about Mildred’s rise and fall as a businesswoman at the hands of her daughter. Mildred Pierce is also fun to read because of its setting in southern California. You may associate Pasadena with the square mile of work and sweatpants-behatted students encased by Wilson, California. Hill, and Del Mar, but for Veda, Pasadena is about the social elite who live in mansions.

There are also several scenes where Veda references familiar street names and locations around the city. You should read Mildred Pierce to see a master of noir at work in a genre that you would not expect. A maternal melodrama may not seem like the most exciting read, but in the hands of Cain, it becomes something darker and more interesting. In the final chapters, when the depths of Veda’s betrayal reveals itself to Mildred with violent consequences, the cunning and evil of Veda is astounding and unlike anything I would have expected from a melodrama written by anyone other than Cain.

Our order
10. To cut short
11. Chemical symbol Sm
12. Crude humor
13. ___ pro nobis
14. False fruit flesh
15. Relative
16. Haploid female gamete
17. Ending musical passages
19. Publisher of Rock Band and The Sims
20. Fill this pool to cast spells
21. Toxic gas from incomplete combustion
22. Organization of parents
23. Who you go to for help
24. Protein that binds to a cAMP-responsive element
25. You need to fill out a petition for this
26. Suffix: tumor
27. “__ what?”
28. “Three ___s for Muster Mark!”
29. Old CS1 language
30. ___-chi
31. Brightest star in Lyra
32. Pale or ginger
33. ___ in
34. Unit of energy
35. Queries
36. Protein that binds to a CAMP-responsive element
37. To repost on Twitter
38. What makes stainless steel stainless
39. When light strikes medium
40. 2008 Batman film, abbrev.
41. Set
42. Acapella group, abbrev.
43. ___ram
44. “Three ___ a for Muster Mark!”
45. 103.5 FM
46. ___chi
47. Earth’s crust
48. Acid test
49. Higher grade in DDR
50. ___-chi
51. ___-chi
52. Second-person copula
53. High temperature and low density
54. Penny’s airline
55. Popular
56. Popular

Across
1. Our order
2. Right turn-only intersection
3. Neuronal junctions
4. One of the Great Lakes
5. Most abundant metal in Earth’s crust
7. ___ pro nobis
8. ___-chi
9. Brightest star in Lyra
10. Crude humor
11. Chemical symbol Sm
12. Crude humor
13. Relative
14. False fruit flesh
15. ___ pro nobis
16. Suffix: tumor
17. “__ what?”
18. ___ in
19. Publisher of Rock Band and The Sims
20. Fill this pool to cast spells
21. Toxic gas from incomplete combustion
22. Organization of parents
23. Who you go to for help
24. Protein that binds to a cAMP-responsive element
25. You need to fill out a petition for this
26. Suffix: tumor
27. “__ what?”
28. “Three ___s for Muster Mark!”
29. Old CS1 language
30. ___-chi
31. Brightest star in Lyra
32. Pale or ginger
33. ___ in
34. Unit of energy
35. Queries
36. Protein that binds to a CAMP-responsive element
37. To repost on Twitter
38. What makes stainless steel stainless
39. When light strikes medium
40. 2008 Batman film, abbrev.
41. Set
42. Acapella group, abbrev.
43. ___ram
44. “Three ___ a for Muster Mark!”
45. 103.5 FM
46. ___chi
47. Earth’s crust
48. Acid test
49. Higher grade in DDR
50. ___-chi
51. ___-chi
52. Second-person copula
53. High temperature and low density
54. Penny’s airline
55. Popular
56. Popular

Down
1. One of two tracks
2. Right turn-only intersection
3. Same citation as above
4. Malaysian state, also type of cane
5. Most abundant metal in Earth’s crust
6. Acid test
7. One of the Great Lakes
8. Neuronal junctions
9. Explosion from Hydrogen accretion onto a white dwarf star
10. To cut short
11. Chemical symbol Sm
16. Suffix: tumor
18. “__ what?”
23. Who you go to for help
25. You need to fill out a petition for this
26. Consumers that only eat other carnivores
27. It can be poached, baked, or deviled
28. It just ended
29. Kind
30. When light strikes medium boundary at angle greater than critical, abbrev.
33. Moral qualm
35. Delivers 1.5 volts
38. Slideshow format
39. Static configuration, abbrev.
41. Fast and easy money
43. Anti-art
45. A distressed sound you might make while doing a long set
46. Gene expression mechanism, with miRNA and siRNA
47. 103.5 FM
49. Lipid-synthesizing organelle, abbrev.
50. Used in jewelry, electronics, and optics
Caltech Y volunteers over the Break

NEHA SAMDARIA
Staff Writer

Most of us drift through life not really attending to anything, like large grapevines in an aquarium, where there are no killer whales and no sharks and where the keeper brings us all the food we need. We don't really care about what goes on outside our little bubble, and are content to sit there hurt or go hungry. For a Caltech student, this is kind of what life is like. We seldom think about a world outside our aquarium, where every day can be a battle. Alternative Spring Break, however, gave eleven of us the opportunity to get a sneak peek at this lifestyle.

For over 75 years, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has been providing life-changing assistance to refugees who have been forced to flee from war or disaster. Spending four days volunteering at the IRC in Glendale gave us an opportunity to talk to these refugees, learn about their struggles, and help them in whatever little way we could.

The first time we met them, the conversations felt a little awkward and professional. Kind of like first dates, which are basically job interviews with appetizers. We didn't know each other at all, and of course, there was the language barrier that only made things trickier.

But through English speaking exercises and mock interviews, we began to get to know each other. For many of us, it was a shock that these refugees were so well educated, well dressed, and so certain of their futures (sometimes more so than some of us!). By the fourth day, we were even onto planning beach trips and soccer scrimmages with them. Whatever misconceptions we had about refugees being somehow fundamentally "different" to us were erased. It was obvious that at the end of the day, they were just like you and me.

Our group worked with the IRC from 9-5. After 5pm... it was playtime. One evening was spent visiting the collections at the LA Country Museum of Art (LACMA), while another was spent taking the bus to the Griffith Observatory, and spent the evening chatting with international students who were staying at our hostel.

Each experience not only introduced us to a different part of LA, it also helped us bond as a group. On our ride back to Caltech, one of the members summed it up with "There's been so much group bonding these past four days, I seriously don't want to see any of your faces for a while!" But really, we had a great time.

In a nutshell, it was four days well spent. Rather than sleeping twelve hours a day and watching TV for the remaining time, we chose to do something fun, engaging, helpful, and importantly, something that shifted our perception of refugees ever so slightly. I'll never forget this past spring break.

Y-students help clean Owens Lake

KATJA LUXEM
Contributing Writer

Last week, 12 Techers drove up to Owens Valley for their Alternative Spring Break trip with the Caltech Y. The group included Yang Hu, our student leader, Greg Fletcher, our Caltech Y staffer, several grad students, and lots of undergrads. The experiential learning trip focused on the Lone Pine environment.

Lone Pine, a small village in Owens Valley, sits just above what used to be Owens Lake. Lakebed pumping between the Inyo Mountains on one side and the Alabama Hills/Sierra Nevada Mountains on the other side, the local environment is often seen in Hollywood productions such as Ironman, T remnants, and British-Army-in-India movies. The region was most-filmed in the time of cowboy movies.

Students began the week with a trip to the Lone Pine Film Museum. Chris, a local, showed the group around the museum. His tour highlighted the large car and costume collection as well as the insight old movie posters give us about culture. After the tour, the group watched Gold Diggers of 1933 in the museum theater.

The group worked with local rangers from the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) toRichardson, an unnecessary road in the Hills. By "vertical mulching," or "planting" dead wood on the former road, the group watched Gold Diggers of 1933 in the museum theater.

The group worked with local rangers from the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) to reduce dust caused by the dried lakebeds. As an avid bird watcher, he would like to work with LA to reduce the amount of water needed to reduce dust in the lakebed while creating more habitats for birds.

In addition to joining the group each day, Mike organized several speakers. One of these speakers, a biologist for the LA DWP (Department of Water and Power), told the group about the Dust Mitigation Project. Even though it was not nearly as dusty now as before the project, it was still possible to taste the dust (salts) in the air. The project, which costs LA a fortune in water and money, uses three methods to reduce the amount of particles in the air. These methods include putting about half a foot of gravel onto the lakebed, watering the lakebed (the surface water is 3000 times more saline than ocean water), and introducing plants, like salt grass, to make the lakebed into a habitat for birds and other wildlife. After visiting the lake, the group walked around Keeler, a small town that used to be the edge of the lake. Before the dust project, Keller sometimes had several hundred times the legal limit of particles in the air. Now that all but five of the 40 plots in the lakebed selected for dust mitigation projects have been treated the air quality is much better, but still has room for improvement.

On Saturday, the group continued the service project in the Hills. After the project, they visited the Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp. Reading the stories of the internees was a very sobering experience. That evening, after a presentation from Mike about the lake, the group spoke to the owner of the hostel, Doug. Doug was a former engineer who, reinforced that we, the consumers in LA, dictate energy and water use. The group ended the trip with a hike at Fossil Falls, the fossil of Owens River in the last Ice Age.

It was an excellent trip, and raising the stories of Hollywood and the internment camp helped me learn a good deal about the environmental issues in Owens Valley related to our water use. We had a great time chatting to each other and working in the Hills!
Decker fences NCAA Finals
A sports news brief provided by GoCaltech.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Senior Laura Decker ended her well decorated fencing career at Caltech on Sunday at the 2011 NCAA Fencing Championships.

The four-day event started on Thursday and was hosted by Ohio State. The saber competition - Deckers specific weapon specialty - was held on Saturday and Sunday. She posted wins in three of her 23 bouts.

Complete NCAA Championship Results:

Day One

During the first day of competition Decker posted two wins in her 14 bouts as she went up against some of the best fencers in the event.

"The women's saber field is the toughest field in the entire competition," head coach Michael D'Asaro said. "She had a very hard first round of competition but she fenced well."

During her first day she faced three individuals ranked in the 'United States top 12 in addition to facing two other competitors with a world ranking.

- Eileen Hassett (Notre Dame) – Lost 5-3
- Lian Osier (Notre Dame) – Lost 5-3
- Chloe Grainger (Northwestern) – 5-3
- Dagmara Wozniak (St. Johns) – Lost 5-4 (Ranked second in the U.S., 2008 U.S. Olympian)
- Anna Limbach (St. Johns) – Lost 5-0 (German National Team Member, Ranked 24th World Ranking)
- Caitlin Taylor (Brown) – Win 5-2 (Australian National Team Member, Ranked 22nd in the World)
- Monica Aksamit (Penn State) – Lost 5-0 (Ranked Sixth in the U.S.)
- Nicole Glen (Penn State) – Lost 5-3 (Ranked 12th in the U.S.)
- Eliza Stone (Princeton) – Lost 5-1
- Diamond Wheeler (Princeton) – Lost 5-3
- Rebecca Ward (Duke) - Lost 5-0
- Madeline Oliver (Yale) – Lost 5-2
- Caroline Vloka (Harvard) - Lost 5-0
- Robin Shin (MIT) – Lost 5-4

Day Two

In her final day of bouts Decker won one of her nine duals.

- Dominika Franciszkoawicz (Penn) - Lost 5-2
- Danielle Kamis (Penn) - Lost 5-1
- Kamali Thompson (Temple) - Lost 5-1
- Samantha Roberts (Columbia) - Lost 5-1
- Loweye Diedro (Columbia) - Lost 5-1
- Stella Shifrin (Hunter College) - Won 5-4
- Margarita Tschomakova (Ohio State) - Lost 5-4
- Allison Miller (Ohio State) - Lost 5-2
- Heather Nelson (Air Force) - Lost 5-3

This is the second consecutive year that the native of Bridgewater, N.J., qualified for the NCAA Championships. Last year she won one of her bouts.

Laura Decker squares off against another challenging opponent at the NCAA Finals.

Upcoming Events

March 28, 2011

Men’s Tennis vs. Middlebury
4:00 PM

March 30, 2011

Women’s Water Polo at Chapman
6:00 PM

April 1, 2011

Men’s Tennis vs Cal Lutheran
2:00 PM

Women’s Tennis vs. Cal Lutheran
2:00 PM

Baseball at La Verne
3:00 PM

April 2, 2011

Men’s Tennis vs. Occidental
10:00 AM

Women’s Tennis at Occidental
10:00 AM

Track and Field vs. SCIAC 4-Way vs. CLU and WC
10:30 AM

Women’s Water Polo vs. La Verne
11:00 AM

Baseball vs. La Verne
11:00 AM

Baseball vs. La Verne
2:30 PM

Women’s Water Polo vs. Vanguard
3:00 PM

Weekly Scoreboard

March 26, 2011

Baseball double header at Redlands
L, 12-0 Final
L, 14-0 Final

We’ve Moved!
The Financial Aid Office has moved to 383 Hill Street, 2nd Floor.
Mail Code: 20-90
We look forward to seeing you there.
POKEMON LEAGUE

A WILD BELLSPROUT APPEARED!

DROWZEE USED FLASH!

APPLES AND ORANGES

HEY AIMEE, WE'RE GOING TO PANDA BANANA, YOU WANNA COME?

WHO'S "WE"?

OH!

I GUESS WE'RE GONNA NEED TO GET SOME BIGGER PANELS...

By Alexandra Souverneva

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125