



Kousser is first Humanities professor to receive Richard Feynman Teaching Award

STANFORD SCHOR
Editor-in-Chief

On April 26th, at a faculty meeting, Melany Hunt, Vice Provost of Caltech, presented Professor J. Morgan Kousser with the Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching. The prize, “awarded annually to a professor who demonstrates, in the broadest

sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching” carries with it a cash award of \$3,500 as well as a raise by the same amount in the annual salary of the recipient.

The Prize was established 18 years ago through a donation by Ione and Robert E. Paradise, members of the President’s Circle of the Caltech Associates, as well

a Professor of History and Social Sciences. Past recipients run the gamut in terms of science- and math-related subjects, from Basic and Applied Physics to Mineralogy, but Kousser is most well-known for his courses in law. He teaches the History of the US Supreme

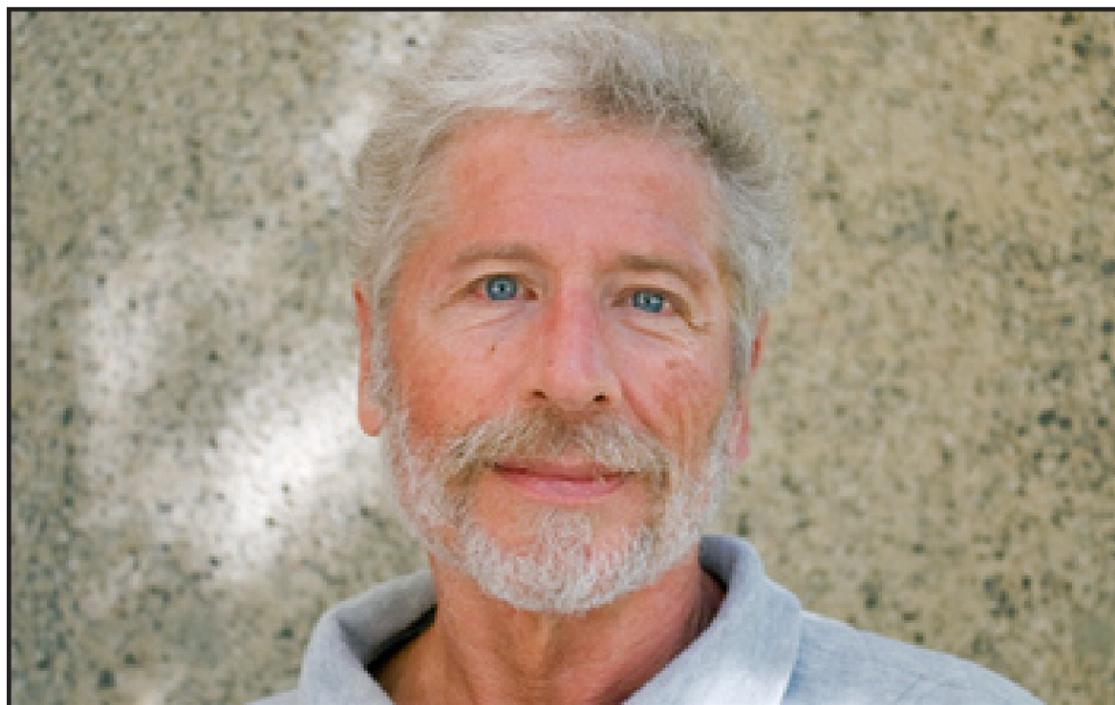
law far beyond the classroom experience” and, in some cases, his was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and a Master’s and Ph.D. at Yale

“

I get a prize every year—watching students grow not only in knowledge, but in fascination with topics they were barely aware of before... The real prize is the light in their eyes.

- Morgan Kousser

”



- media.caltech.edu

classes have convinced students interested in math and science to pursue a career in law. Most notably, Kousser seems to have made a lasting connection with many of his students, who insist that he is not only one of the most engaging and driven teachers at the institution, but that he also continues to communicate with them regarding current events even after the course has ended. After accepting the prize, Kousser noted “I get a prize every year—watching students grow not only in knowledge, but in fascination with topics they were barely aware of before...The real prize is the light in their eyes.”

University. It is impressive that Kousser finds the time to engage his students so thoroughly, as he is the editor of the journal *Historical Methods*, has served as an expert witness 21 times during his time at Caltech, written numerous books, 69 book reviews, and 23 entries in encyclopedias and dictionaries. He has also been a visiting professor University of Michigan and Harvard University, and was the Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford. Perhaps most importantly, a quick Google search of Kousser reveals that he has his own entry on Wikipedia.

Regardless of how else he spends his time, it is encouraging that, in an environment where much of the emphasis is put on research, there are still those who shine in the classroom and care just as much about teaching as publishing.

In keeping with the trend of Caltech humanities professors with exceedingly impressive educational credentials, Kousser received is Bachelor’s from Princeton University, where he

as an anonymous local couple.

This marks the first time since the prize’s creation in 1993 that it has been presented to

Court, a two term course known for its demanding reading load and engaging class discussions. In the citation for the award, Kousser is lauded for his ability to “keep his students engaged in constitutional

In this issue

NEWS

Announcement of PCDE events

2

OPINION

Various opinions on ACs and Housing voiced

4

FEATURE

Professor of the Month announced

6

SPORTS

Lapides ends track career on top

7

8

News briefs from around the globe

Provided by Tech correspondent Sam Barnett

Need to know

< **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

Victory against terror	0 Americans harmed in final operation to kill Osama bin Laden	[NYTIMES]
Britain’s royal wedding	2 billion watched Prince William marry Kate Middleton on TV	[REUTERS]
John Paul II beatified	1.5 million visit Rome for ceremony honoring the late Pope	[REUTERS]
Bose Corp. given to MIT	> 50% of firm’s stock was donated by founder Amar Bose, MIT alum	[ABC]
Stem-cell funds allowed	\$ 500 million invested by NIH – court lifts ban on federal funding	[CNN]
Spain loses more jobs	> 21% unemployment rate – 4.9 million jobless – highest in 13 years	[CNN]
Severe weather record	679 tornados in April – past record was 267 tornados (1974)	[WEATHER.COM]

Need to let loose after midterms?

**Join Ricketts House this week
for plenty of Polish Constitution
Day Eve (PCDE) events.**

**Everything leads up to the big
day:**

Saturday, May 7

The California Tech

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ASCIT minutes

April 24, 2011

Officers present: Chris Hallacy, Margaret Chiu, Diego Caporale, Mario Zubia, Prakriti Gaba, Laura Santoso
Officers absent: Laura Conwill
Guests: Cole Hershkovitz

Call to order: 8:48pm

President's Report:

- Trustees: The Trustees came through campus last week. Everything was fine and dandy; they are happy.
- Protest issues: The two main issues will be split:
 - The IHC will primarily take care of housing concerns (ex. ACs) and work with Mannion, Asimow, and Daily.
 - Hallacy will work on getting together a mental health committee which will ideally include members from the ASCIT BoD, IHC, GSC, UCCs, RAs, and a few key administrators and staff.
- Finances: We have enough reserved money in the ASCIT accounts for the formal, so we will move some money from the slush fund (buffer fund) into the ASCIT endowment so that we can gain more money in the future.

Officer's Reports:

- VP of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):
 - ARC events: Most likely, faculty committee meetings will be May 7 and the teaching awards will be on May 27
 - Option Socials: The ARC is trying to organize socials for various options with different professors, but they are busy this term so this will likely be postponed until next term.
 - Dean's meeting: Prof. Kewitt is concerned about lecture attendance and would like to make Caltech more fun so people go to class.
 - Year-round Research: The SFP office was contacted. There used to be something called UROH which posted research opportunities during the school year, which they will try to get started again.
 - Professor of the Month: The ARC is picking the new Prof of the Month this week!
 - Course Concerns: It seems like several professors have been sick or missing often, which stops class. The ARC will talk with Melanie Hunt about developing a policy for absent professors.
- VP of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair) – Report from Hallacy:
 - Dean's meeting: Prof. Kewitt really wants to move rotation out of the first week of academics because he is concerned that it is detrimental to the start of classes. Any change is unlikely to happen for this upcoming year because commitments have already been made, but there may be change in following years (ex. Bringing upperclassmen on campus before classes start and having rotation then).
 - ACs: The IHC is deciding which house the new AC will live in and is determining the group that will be part of the selection process for the two new ACs that will come in 2012.
- Director of Operations:
 - Yearbooks: Diego is working with yearbook people to find people who want to get involved next term. He is also turning a room in the SAC into a yearbook publication room by getting it furnished and getting a computer with In Design. Still needs to distribute old Big Ts to professors.
 - Clubs: Club funding is almost done. Diego will send out the emails letting clubs know how much funding they received and the BoD's suggestions.
 - Screening Room: Sound card and subwoofer are in the works.
- Treasurer:
 - ASCIT Formal funding: Mario got money from the funding office to cover transportation to the formal plus an additional \$4k. He will apply to alumni funding this week and contact security so that we will have some at the formal.
 - Other: Mario did reimbursements, and he will itemize our budget by term.
- Social Director:
 - ASCIT Formal:
 - Concert conflict: The people who want to go to the formal who have a concert that night will be able to get out by 9:30. We will start dinner on the yacht at dock if necessary.
 - Avery conflict: Avery has an event at 7, so we will try to get them an extra bus so they can leave later.
 - Beverages: We are going to try to at least get unlimited non-alcoholic drinks for the whole night (instead of a cash bar).
 - Movie night will be planned after the formal.
- Secretary:
 - Olive walk boards: The Olive walk boards are now water-proofed. We will likely be able to use the two other boards on the side as well.
 - Student faculty committees: Will contact the SFCs and arrange for them to give updates once a term to the BoD so that the BoD knows what they are doing.

Meeting adjourned: 10:05pm

Royal Wedding draws various crowds

MARIYA VASILEVA
Contributing Writer

“God our father, we thank you for our families; for the love that we share and for the joy of our marriage.”

These were the words Diana’s elder son, Prince William, and his long-time girlfriend, now wife, Kate Middleton, said in a prayer written by the couple for the occasion that electrified crowds all over Britain and the rest of the world on April 29th.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, as the young Royal couple will now be known, have been pronounced husband and wife at Westminster Abbey in London, where they made their vows in front of 1900 guests and, at large, the eyes of the world. The predominant mood is that the Royal wedding was highly overrated, having received excessive attention: it was followed on television by millions of people around the globe and closely monitored by national and international media, with around 8000 journalists arriving in London specifically to report the grandiose celebration. According to guests of the wedding ceremony, clearly inaccessible to media coverage, there was no unexpected disruption, with the only moment of tension being when Prince William had a hard time putting the exquisite Welsh gold ring on the bride’s finger.

Unsurprisingly, to withstand the evaluation of millions of spectators, every minute detail of the Royal wedding was approached with great care. Even the bouquet of the bride was composed of flowers

typically symbolical for Britain, while her dress, according to the Buckingham Palace, “epitomized timeless British craftsmanship by drawing together talented and skilled workmanship from across the United Kingdom.”

The cost of the event, referred to as “the most expensive security operation staged in Britain”, was estimated to mount to the unimaginable 20 million pounds, or roughly 33.5 million USD. Thousands of officers were needed to line the streets of London from the Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. Moreover, thousands more were placed on rooftops for surveillance of the

celebration, and there are rumors of even more undercover military present as a precautionary anti-terrorist measure.

The high cost has provoked a hostile overall response by renowned critics. As Adam Bienkov, a London blogger and freelance writer for the Guardian noted sarcastically, “Just what we need in this age of austerity. A multimillion pound royal wedding...”

Among the guests of the ceremony were celebrities such as David and Victoria Beckham, legendary singer Sir Elton John, film director Guy Ritchie, as well as other royalty and political figures from around the world.



The newly wedded Duke and Duchess ride off in style in their carriage, waving at the millions who attended or watched their wedding.

- Tom Jenkins for The Guardian

The so-called Royal Frenzy had taken over the UK long in advance. Crowds had been camping in front of Westminster Abbey for days just to catch a glimpse of the gorgeous bride, and images of the newlyweds not only flooded the media but also adorned everything ranging from souvenirs to mugs, plates, and tea towels. No one missed a chance to capitalize on the opportunity. Will the Royal fairy tale last, the British nation wonders? One cannot help comparing it to the tragic story of Princess Diana and Prince Charles decades ago. Once disappointed in their naïve hopes for perfectly harmonious Royal idyll, the British are not that easily fooled a second

time, which is probably why the wedding was met with a skeptical and overly judgmental attitude.

At the same time, the American response was far less exhilarated and rather cynical. While many US citizens had set their alarm clocks for the early hours before dawn just to watch the event broadcast live, a national survey showed that more than 55% were completely nonchalant. In a nutshell, as one amusing website (<http://whyamericansshouldcareabouttheroyalwedding.com/>) “modestly” puts it, the answer to the question, “Why Americans should care about the Royal wedding?” is simply, “They shouldn’t.”



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Students speak out about housing

Published opinions regarding area coordinators and Peter Daily

In defense of Daily: Empathizing with the administrator

WILL STEINHARDT

Ricketts House President Emeritus

Amidst the anger over the many changes to Caltech Housing over the last two years, and especially over the last few weeks, I have noticed an omnipresent sentiment coming from the student body: the villainization of Peter Daily.

It continued with many issues that came up over the next year and a half, among them changes to the off-campus housing during the summer, removal of the damage fund, and the removal of furniture that was potentially breeding grounds for infestation.

In many of these cases the students were rightfully upset as the

Caltech a whole lot better (just imagine where it started...).

He would listen to our wants and needs and do his best to make things better for us. So who was this new reprobate, Mr. Daily, placed atop Housing?

The answer to this question is also the answer to understanding the current tensions between the students and housing. When he was in charge of CDS, the measure of his success as well as his main means of input came directly from the students.

The happier we were, the better he was doing his job. However, as head of housing, he suddenly had responsibilities to people and groups that had far more professionally influential than the students, and while he was butting heads with us, he managed to completely and utterly woo everyone else.

The trustees, the faculty board, and many of the administrators above him love all of the work he has done and changes he has made, and moreover, while the implementation came from him, many of the changes were based on sentiments that came from over his head. It is here where I believe that Peter has significantly failed. For professional gain he has generally ignored the feelings of the students, even if he managed to do many things we found positive.

I believe that if he had been much more open about communicating the need and desire for these changes in advance to the students, and listened to us about the best

ways to go about implementing them, that he would be just as loved by his superiors, yet still remained a friend of the students.

But this does not mean that we should hate him.

He has a very difficult position to balance and sometimes, he does have to be the bad guy.

I believe that he is still the person we knew from Dining, who genuinely cares about the students, and wants to make our lives better, he just needs to trust us as he did before to understand our own

problems, and to help him solve them.

He may be a bit abrasive at times, and downright difficult to be at a meeting with, but I believe he genuinely cares about the students. He is just a bit misguided about how best to care for us.

I am hopeful that both sides can solve this problem through honest and open communication, and I am genuine about this, because at the end of the day, I think Peter is somebody we are going to want to have around.

“

He (Daily) may be a bit abrasive at times, and downright difficult to be at a meeting with, but I believe he genuinely cares about the students. He is just a bit misguided about how best to care for us.

”

While this may come as a shock to many of you, I believe this idea is not only unhelpful, but also unwarranted.

When Mr. Daily was promoted to replace Tim Chang as head of Caltech Housing, the student body noticed the change. For better or for worse, Housing was taking a far more active role in our day-to-day lives. Almost immediately the students and Housing became entrenched in a battle over murals in our dorms. With time, compromise, and the intervention of the Faculty Housing Committee, a settlement was reached that if properly followed by both sides, maintained a reasonable middle ground. It was here I believe that the antagonism began.

actions, while taken in our interest, were done without our input or even much advanced knowledge.

It is important to note, however, that some changes within housing have been very positive and well received, whether it was the addition of air conditioning and other positive renovation in the north, or more active repairs and the switch over to proxy card access to the houses and many buildings. That being said, these changes were still very internalized and made with little notice.

What was perhaps most surprising about the whole situation to the student body was that we knew Peter when he ran Dining, and he was a pretty nice, receptive guy that made food services at

In defense of Will

ALEX BULBACHEK
Investigative Reporter

Will Steinhardt's impassioned defense of Peter Daily, written above, has all the symptoms of the raving of an individual with some sort of incipient insanity: inability to distinguish fiction from reality, a strong sense of certitude, and massive logical leaps. Investigations of the matter have shown me that the tale behind this article goes a lot deeper than it initially seems.

Like every prominent politician, Will Steinhardt has something to hide, but unfortunately the truth can no longer be hidden.

I called up a few of Will's doctors and what they told me confirmed the suspicions

I had formed while scrolling through the back pages of Google.

It turns out that the mental instability oozing from this article is not actually Will's fault. As numerous doctors confirmed, Will suffers from a disorder known as Vertical Consumption Syndrome. Simply put, Will is extremely skinny and in desperate need of nutrients.

Along the nearly giraffe-length path to his brain, all the nutrients traveling through his body are used up.

As a result, Will's brain has been rotting away for nearly four years now, a formerly brilliant mind trapped in a lanky cage.

I hope my investigations put your fears at ease. Please forgive this poor, crazed man.

Letter to the Editor: An appeal to students and Housing

SHYAM SRINIVASAN
Contributing Writer

To the editor of the Tech, and an open letter to student leadership:

Peter Daily's manifesto in his dealings with students on housing policy has been centered on a single principle: "housing is a business."

This is a cheap logical fallacy, and is easily deconstructed. Caltech housing is not an independent business - it's a service within the university.

A part of the university that treats us and is treated with the respect that the honor code affords. The honor code relationship is not always without tension or unfair advantage. We understand that

contractual protections in these circumstances are needed in both directions, but a fundamental change in the way these protections are put in place and the tone of these decisions is clearly necessary.

Housing needs to be organic to Caltech's culture: of us, and for us.

They already make use of the benefits of playing

by our rules: they depend on the IHC and ASCIT to disperse their information and to provide a forum for a discussion of their policy. Instead of playing by the rules that

the Honor Code sets for us, though, Housing has taken advantage

“

Instead of playing by the rules that the Honor Code sets for us, though, Housing has taken advantage of their enforced monopoly on Caltech's undergraduate body.

”

of their enforced monopoly on Caltech's undergraduate body. Their enforced monopoly "business" structure loses the ethic Caltech depends on: their

clients pay protection money or leave town. Edicts come down

from housing and no attempt at discussion is made.

Students are regularly taxed with fines, unreasonable policies, and now invasions of privacy

in the name of student health. The housing party line in these situations is not one that involves rational discussion - their mentality is clearly to oppress and threaten eviction.

This reporter, and numerous unnamed sources who have also engaged housing for improper fees have received immediate and angry threats of eviction from the offices of both Maria Katsas and Peter Daily.

This is the frame by which any expression of grievances needs to be put in place, whether that mode is the calm protest the student body is yearning for, or by allowing our voice to resonate through our elected representatives.

This reporter pleads: keep calm, stay on message, and carry on.

Today's Puzzle: Crossword

Across

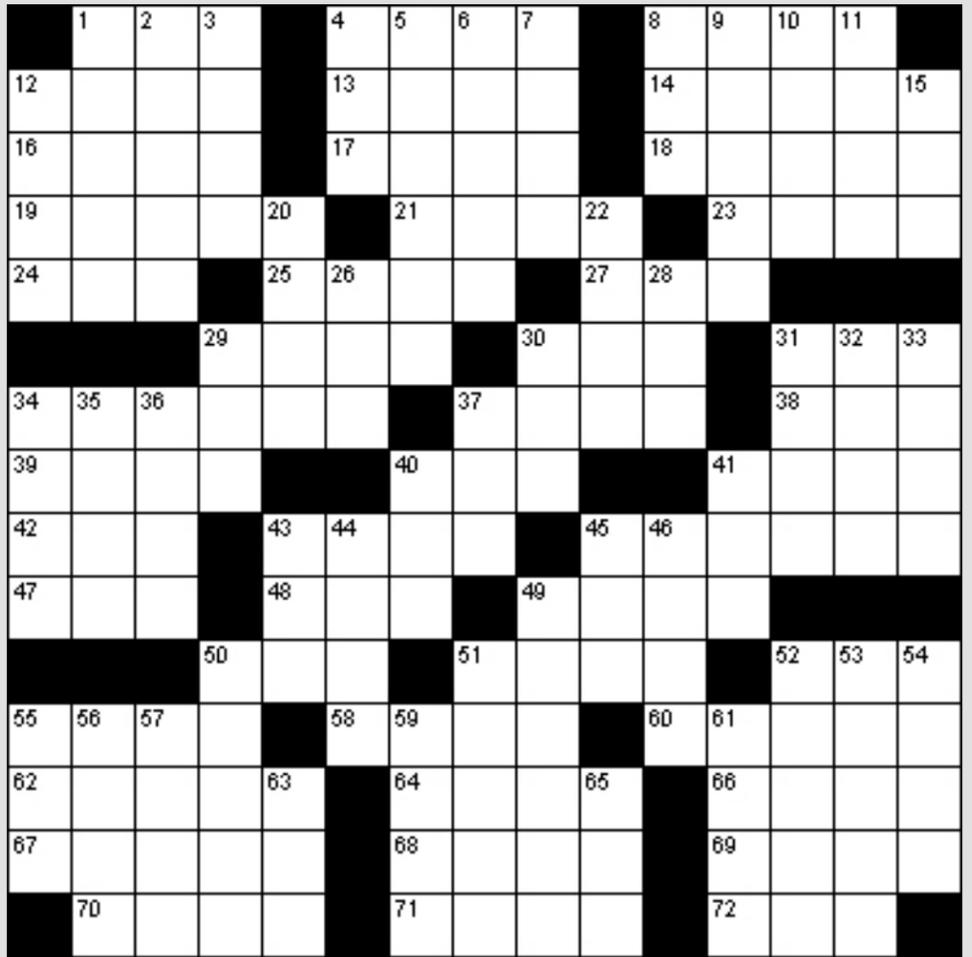
- 1. Snakelike fish
- 4. Assist in crime
- 8. Particle
- 12. Imitate
- 13. Fruit
- 14. Pulsate
- 16. Bad time for Julius
- 17. Border
- 18. Wipe out
- 19. Laconic
- 21. Sediment
- 23. Additional to or different from
- 24. Attempt
- 25. Slightly open
- 27. Cut down
- 29. Form of transport
- 30. Vitality
- 31. Fuss
- 34. Study of plants
- 37. Bill of fare
- 38. Napkin
- 39. Quartz used in cameos
- 40. Used to control a horse
- 41. As well
- 42. High mountain
- 43. Fraud
- 45. Each
- 47. Cereal grass seeds
- 48. Paddle
- 49. Aromatic herb
- 50. Fitting

- 51. Champion
- 52. Droop
- 55. Tablet
- 58. Aspersion
- 60. Languish
- 62. Residence
- 64. In the middle
- 66. Halo
- 67. Defamation
- 68. Shade of blue
- 69. Pack tightly
- 70. Medieval land worker
- 71. Hinge joint
- 72. Conifer

Down

- 1. Type of duck
- 2. Mineral used as an abrasive
- 3. Not as great
- 4. Simian
- 5. Pandemonium
- 6. Avid
- 7. Woody plant
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Tossed
- 10. Unwritten exam
- 11. Flowerless plant
- 12. Glove
- 15. Insect
- 20. Yield
- 22. Tibia

- 26. Crested bird
- 28. Flightless bird
- 29. Charge
- 30. Animal doctor, in short
- 31. Fit
- 32. Saucer
- 33. Woodwind instrument
- 34. Male hog
- 35. Merely
- 36. Variety
- 37. Coalesce
- 40. Saloon
- 41. Be unwell
- 43. Jump
- 44. Annual grass seeds
- 45. Melody
- 46. Gambit
- 49. Infer
- 50. Tree with conelike fruit
- 51. Person
- 52. Fry quickly in fat
- 53. Pointer
- 54. Chew
- 55. Buddy
- 56. Wading bird
- 57. Part of the ear
- 59. Long and thin
- 61. Facile
- 63. Mischievous fairy
- 65. Staining substance



[http://www.puzzlechoice.com/]

Answers: *Last week's crossword from puzzle choice.com*



Earth Day observed

SAWYER BROOKS
Contributing Writer

Caltech celebrated Earth Day on April 22 with a small fair on the San Pasqual mall. The event was a smorgasbord of vendors, presentations, and displays.

One booth, run by the Caltech Solar Decathlon team,

to the basement for the sake of grad students), the Caltech community garden project, and Engineers for a Sustainable World. Chevrolet featured its latest green cars, the electric Volt and the hydrogen-powered Equinox.

Vendors, including LifeSource filtered water, Seesmart LED lights, multiple solar energy providers,



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described the self-sufficient house they've designed for display on the National Mall using the latest technologies and building materials. Other presentations included the renovations to Jorgensen and to Robinson (which will feature natural lighting piped

and even Avery office supplies were in attendance to persuade members of the Caltech community to do the right thing for the planet: buy their products. In all, the event was a moderately successful but highly commercialized celebration of our planet.

Professor of the Month: Chris Umans

SANDHYA CHANDRASEKARAN
Contributing Writer

Teaching is at the root of our Caltech experience. Undergraduates come to this school because of our excitement and desire to learn about science. Despite the vivid and active student life outside of academics, the undergraduate experience is primarily colored by the classes we take. What our professors do in the classroom has a huge impact on our happiness and satisfaction.

A good teacher is able to transform a typically mundane, painful subject into one that is understandable, enjoyable, and worthwhile.

While the debate on how to better student mental health and quality of life rages on, we should acknowledge that well-taught classes significantly improve the quality of life for students.

ASCIT teaching awards are presented once a year by the ARC to acknowledge the excellent teaching that takes place. However, we would like to share and appreciate the excellent and innovative teaching that happens all year around.

The Professor of the Month program is being started by the ARC as a way to thank each month on behalf of the student body those professors who transformed our time here at Caltech. In addition, we hope that sharing the comments of the students will spread awareness of what elements factor into excellent teaching.

Professor Umans has received several accolades from students for his excellent teaching style in the CS21 class on Decidability and Tractability, offered during the winter term of this year.

A Brief Biography:

Chris Umans is a professor of Computer Science in the Computing and Mathematical Sciences department at Caltech, and a member of the Theory Group.

His research interests are in theoretical computer science, especially complexity theory. Specifically, Umans is interested in derandomization, explicit constructions, hardness of approximation, algorithms, and graph theory.

He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Berkeley in 2000, and his advisor was Christos Papadimitriou.

From 2000-2002 Umans was a postdoc in the Theory Group at Microsoft Research. In addition to teaching and pursuing his research, Umans is a member of the scientific board of ECCO, the managing editor of Theory of Computing (ToC), and the guest co-editor of STOC 2009, a special issue of SICOMP.

[Taken from <http://www.cs.caltech.edu/~umans/>]

CS 21. Decidability and Tractability. 9 units (3-0-6); second term. Prerequisite: CS 2 (may be taken concurrently). This course introduces the formal foundations of computer science, the fundamental limits of computation, and the limits of efficient computation. Topics will include automata and Turing machines, decidability and undecidability, reductions between computational problems, and the theory of NP-completeness. Instructor: Umans.

Selected Student Praise:

- "Professor Umans offers very interesting lectures and gives a very good introduction to the theory of computation."

- "He is the best professor I have had. He is good at conveying concepts, and clearly enjoys doing so."

- "Chris Umans is one of the best professors in the CS department; going to one of his CS21 lectures is equivalent to reading the course book for hours.

His ability to explain theoretical computer science in a language that the rest of us can understand is a talent that in my opinion is taken for granted and goes unrecognized. As a side note, last year Umans received a rating of 4.89 for his overall teaching in CS21 (sample space 18).

Umans' CS 21 course "Decidability and Tractability" was the best course I have ever taken, including any at Tech and as far back as I can remember.

The lectures were stimulating and exceptionally well presented. The material was relevant and thorough, and cumulative to just the right degree. It was ordered logically, and transitions between topics were fluid and intuitive. The content was up-to-date and reflected quite recent advancements in computer science where appropriate. The repetition of key concepts was done in just the right balance between excessive and insufficient.

In terms of volume, the lectures were spot on - perfectly audible through the entire lecture hall. In-class discussions made up exactly the correct proportion of each lecture - Umans has a very good sense for this type of thing. Participation was encouraged but also entirely voluntary.

Umans unambiguously explained why any incorrect answers were incorrect instead of brushing them off immediately, often spending several minutes on such an explanation to clear up possible misconceptions. At the same time, people who provided incorrect answers were never ever made to feel silly or inadequate in the slightest.

Lecture slides were posted online as both ppt and pdf files practically by the time I got back to

my room after every lecture (after, only because the slides contained answers to the questions we discussed in class, and posting them ahead of time would have made the discussions less engaging).

Every lecture was labeled with a brief one-line rundown of the topics it covered, making it very simple to use them as a reference for problem sets.

In addition, every lecture was marked with the exact page numbers that it covered in the



- <http://www.cs.caltech.edu/~umans/>

textbook, making it simple to follow along or refer to the book for extra details or explanations.

Problem sets were pertinent and of exactly the correct length for a 9-unit class.

The material they covered lagged behind the lectures by precisely the right amount so that we would neither forget material before it showed up on a set nor lack enough time to gain a strong understanding of the material in the first place.

Umans accomplished this by revising the problem sets on a weekly basis to postpone questions we were not yet equipped to answer.

The two sets with notoriously difficult questions were announced well ahead of time, and disclaimers to the effect that these were hard sets were made in class the week leading up to each one. Collaboration in groups of two or three was always encouraged as long as each person understood and wrote up their own solutions, noting at the top the people with whom they had worked.

Furthermore due dates were clearly announced and very fair. Every student was granted one "free extension": if, for any reason a student could not finish a set by the start of class on Wednesday, he or she could drop it in Umans' mailbox by that Friday."

- "Umans' CS 21 class is the best class I have taken at Caltech. Umans is a wonderful teacher. He lectures extremely well: the slides are well formatted and intelligible. They are designed so he can tell a story with them during class as well as being a useful reference outside of class.

He has a knack of introducing concepts in such a way that everyone can understand the motivation behind a new concept and how it relates to the other concepts previously taught.

He also designed the order in which he shows us proofs so that more complex proofs are an application of several techniques students have seen before, and are therefore easy to understand.

The best part of Umans teaching style is the way he encourages questions. Many lecturers rhetorically ask whether students understand concepts -- Umans doesn't.

Everyone feels free to ask questions when a part of a proof isn't entirely clear or if they think there might be a different way of doing a proof. When asked a question, Umans seems to know where the confusion came from and will exactly answer your question.

He considers every question a good question, which encourages students to speak up. Having a teacher who can handle complex challenges to the method behind some well-established bit of theoretical CS makes this class especially interesting.

The questions on the problem sets are always interesting and fun to think about.

Umans provides us with just the right amount of information to get started, as students are always familiar with the required techniques and have seen several examples in class. I have learned a lot about theoretical CS because of the effort and thought Umans has put into his class.

I am nominating Umans for a teaching award because I would like him to know that his students appreciate his effort."

Rational for Professor of the Month:

The ARC is starting a Professor of the Month program to show our appreciation for the amazing professors at this school all year around. Students may nominate professors that they feel deserve recognition, and the ARC will use these nominations to choose a Professor of the Month. The deserving professor will then receive a small gift from the ARC along with being featured in the campus newspaper.

Professors can be nominated online at <http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~arc/POM.php>.

Restaurant reviews: A satire

MARY NGUYEN
Not a Staff Writer

Step into Alimentaire Façade, and the Malibu restaurant will welcome you into an extravagantly minimalistic yet warm atmosphere, only truly enjoyable by those who abstain from frolicking in their studies.

Carbon black walls, a bamboo floor, and soft white lighting provide an elegant backdrop. The restaurant's haute dining room includes cream velvet booths; tempered, frosted, glass seats; understated, ivory, black tables; and silver silverware.

The dark tables delightfully frame the chefs' creations, but the crystalline seats, while beautiful, could not be moved without light effort.

Passing through the front to the back of the house, Alimentaire Façade's kitchen seeks depth rather than breadth, producing only two hors d'oeuvres, six entrées, and two desserts to the highest standards. Two types of drinks are offered, 18th century wines and mineral water.

Finé mineral water (\$16) tastes crisp but has a sharp aftertaste as if it has one or two extra Calcium ions.

A Burgundy escargot hors d'oeuvre (\$24) comes with a single imported Burgundy snail surrounded by a ring of rich, melted butter, which graciously complements the nutty flavors of the roasted snail.

Head chef Marc Henri's signature smoked salmon and dill crepe with black truffle dust and Osetra "Baerii" caviar (\$40)

provides a savory, light meal. In addition, by serving the plate with a romaine lettuce leaf on the side and garnishing it with a sprig of cilantro, Chef Henri successfully breaks with tradition in this groundbreaking entrée.

A phenomenal finishing touch to a sensually satisfying meal, the pistachio ice cream topped with Valrhona dark chocolate (\$20) smoothly concluded the restaurant experience. The dessert was served at the ideal temperature and melted into a rich cream.

Having enjoyed a significant portion of Alimentaire Façade's offerings, it is fair to say that this French restaurant provides an overall extraordinary dinner, which will make diners forget that they are relatively poor Caltech students.

Lapides wins SCIAC Championship



Alex Lapides warms up at some track event. That's right, folks, this guy jumped higher than anybody else in the SCIAC. Take this as a challenge, underclassmen. You can do better. Look at him. LOOK AT HIM!

AMOL KAMAT Sports Editor

As many of you know, Caltech senior Alex Lapides won the high jump competition at the SCIAC Championships on Saturday for the second year in a row. This makes him one of the most decorated Caltech athletes in history. I sat down with Alex on Sunday to get his thoughts on the competition. While the interview often turned to frivolity, it is quite revealing and eloquently reveals the true nature and thought process of someone who can jump over bars placed at various heights.

AK: Hi

AL: Hi

AK: So, how did SCIACs go for you...how was it for you?

AL: It was exciting and nerve-racking going into it. There was a lot of pressure on me. I hadn't lost all year to any one in the SCIAC. I was very nervous that I would screw it up, but I didn't.

AK: Nice

AL: Yup. It went pretty predictably. The guy who I was jumping with at the end was the guy I thought I would be jumping with in the end, and he actually made a height higher than I thought he would, but fortunately I was able to make the next height.

AK: How high exactly did you jump?

AL: I jumped 197 centimeters, or 6' 5 1/2"

AK: Nice. That's pretty tall. A tall order, if you will.

AL: Well put...

AK: If there's a stereotype you could say you defied, what would that stereotype be?

AL: [laughs] Caltech athletes can't win sports...

AK: Ah. Give us another, that was a good one, but give us another.

AL: [nervous laughter]

AK: [hysterical laughter]

AL: I know what you're going for

AK: Ok, well then, how are you going to use jumping in the future?

AL: I probably won't use it too much, actually. Maybe I'll use it in pick up basketball games in grad school...or to win bets.

AK: And at what age did you realize you could jump?

AL: I realized I could jump in seventh grade. The summer between seventh and eighth grade, when I touched a basketball rim for the first time, and then the next year I dunked a basketball and jumped 5'6" in junior high.

AK: What advice do you have for Caltech athletes?

AL: Just as long as you like it, have fun doing it, and be willing to work at it. Enjoy competing. I don't know.

AK: That's inspirational. How did you celebrate?

AL: I celebrated by running the 4x400. Yeah!

AK: Now, I understand there was some Boston Market.

AL: There was some Boston Market.

AK: So, I really like the Boston Market pulled chicken barbecue sandwich. What is your favorite dish there?

AL: Well, I haven't tried that, but so far I just really like the chicken it's very moist.

AK: Yeah, that threw me. I'm used to juicy chicken being raw at Caltech.

AL: They also have their spinach, which is delicious. I had some corn and some corn bread. Mac and cheese.

AK: Yeah, [Vishnu Manoranjan] and I went to a place called Big Mama's Rib Shack yesterday. They make a mean collard green. I had the rib sandwich and Vishnu had the rib plate. It was delicious. I have no idea what this has to do with jumping. So, what goes through your mind pre-jump?

AL: It's a little different every time.

Normally, I just remind myself to jump high, which sounds simplistically stupid, but the tendency with high jump is to jump into the bar, but usually you're going fast enough that if you

just jump up, your momentum will carry you over the bar.

AK: So, what you're saying is 'reach for the stars?'

AL: Sure.

At this point, we talk about the rib shack for a while, again, and then this happened:

AL: I also tried Dog Haus today.

AK: WHAT????? You've never been to Dog Haus???

AL: No, I hadn't, and it was delicious.

AK: I know, right? What'd you get?

AL: I just got the burger and hot dog, it was simple, but yeah.

AK: Truth. Actually, my favorite thing there is the turkey dog.

AL: Really...yeah but the hot dog was just so good.

AK: You know what you need to do is get "The Mule," and then you need to not eat for six weeks.

AL: I ran into Will Steinhardt. He got the Freiburger. It's the one with french fries, fried eggs, and cheese. I looked at it, and in retrospect, I think I'm still having a heart attack.

AK: It's good. So what do you eat before a track meet?

AL: Nothing. I eat like a bowl of Total cereal, espresso, a lot of water, and then if I'm hungry at a meet, just a nibble of a banana or a Powerbar, just something to quell the hunger. It kind of sucks. I'm

very hungry after meets. That's why we eat so much chicken from Boston Market.

AK: There's a pun in there somewhere..hungry after meets.

AL: I think it would be better with hungry during meets.

AK: I guess. One of those... meat.

AL:I don't like the way this interview's going.

Sports Editor Note: As the more astute of you may have realized, this sports section is all about Alex Lapides. This is no judgement on you other athletes. It's just that Alex won the SCIAC Championship.

Some teams here have won SCIAC games: the soccer team won a few, and I've been told that the basketball team won one, but none have won a championship in recent memory.

Therefore, I have chosen to dedicate this sports page to Alex. He has made my life significantly easier, as writing about teams losing has gotten rather depressing for me and rather boring for the reader.

I would also like to acknowledge Paige Logan who placed 2nd in both discus and shot put, which is also incredibly impressive.

This year has been very eventful for Caltech Athletics. Hopefully the momentum from this year will lead to greater successes in years to come.

Mustache



HONOR ROLL

BY PAUL SENORREX



When was
the last
time you
visited 

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