In it wasn’t until she did a Summer in astronomy and science ever undergrad has been interested the moon. The former Caltech Caltech alumnus decodes moon’s magnetism intertwines complex rhythmic footwork with a story told through a series of distinct facial expressions.

Over the weekend the Organization of Associated Students of the Indian Subcontinent (OASIS) held a celebration in honor of Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, which fell on Octo-

ber 26 this year. The celebration included singing and dance performances as well as traditional Indian food. Pictured above is Bharathanatyan, a South Indian classical dance that

In this issue

NEWS
Prof. Patterson recognized for teaching excellence

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Casey Handmer reviews Lang Lang

SPORTS
An interview with water polo’s Coach Moser

Caltech alumnus decodes moon’s magnetism

Tina Dwyer is fascinated with this issue Caltech.edu

Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) project at Caltech that her passion for the moon and planetary science ignited. “My SURF project kicked my interest in the moon to high gear,” she says. She worked with professor of geobiology Joe Kirschvink and then-postdoc Ben Weiss on mapping the magnetic fields of tiny moon rocks—glass beads found in the lunar soil. “I spent two summers on that project, and it was awesome.” Then, in the spring of 2005, she took a planetary-interiors course taught by professor of planetary science Dave Stevenson. For the class, students had to do a small research project, and one of the suggested topics was about solving a decades-long lunar mystery: how did the ancient moon power its now-defunct magnetic field? “I grabbed onto that idea,” she says. Earth’s magnetic field is powered by energy from its core, which causes the molten outer core to churn. Because the liquid outer core is primarily made out of electrically conductive iron, the fluid motions generate electric currents, which then produce a global magnetic field. The moon, however, is too small, so it doesn’t have enough energy in its core to sustain a magnetic field. Scientists were puzzled, then, when the Apollo astronauts brought back magnetic moon rocks, which could only arise in the presence of an ambient magnetic field. Since then, researchers have been trying to come up with a satisfying explanation. “For 40 years, people have been sitting there, scratching their heads, going, how do we do this?” Dwyer says. For her research project, she proposed that instead of being powered by heat—like in the Earth—the moon’s magnetic field could have been driven by the physical stirring of its liquid core. After graduating from Caltech in 2006, she went to graduate school at the University of Washington, where she studied experimental geochemistry.

Continued on page 3

News briefs from around the globe
Helping readers burst out of the Caltech bubble

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 caltech.edu/news

Japan’s economy expands 1.5% growth last quarter – pre-quake production levels cheered
Brazilian gang overtaken 3,000 police rapidly seize area controlled by violent gang for decades
Resignations in Europe 2 economists replace outgoing Prime Ministers of Greece and Italy
Arab League bans Syria 18 of the 22 nations vote to suspend Syria for violence against citizens
Crews rely on Russia $350 million paid by US per year – astronauts blast off safely
Iran’s nuclear program 14 designs for long range missiles – UN releases alarming report
Thai floods still devastate 22 of the 77 provinces – 562 dead – government trying to drain water

- www.fnal.gov
Food with Mannion!

Do you like eating food?

How about free food at nice restaurants?

Ever want to tell the world exactly what you think of said food?

The Tech will be beginning a new column to chronicle the foodie experiences of new writers every other week...The Catch: They’ll be going head-to-head with Tom Mannion who will be reviewing the same restaurant. If you have ever thought you were more of a gourmand than our resident master chef, now’s your chance to prove it!

Email us for a spot on the list at tech@caltech.edu

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The California Tech

The California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California

November 14, 2011

Write articles for the Tech

get paid up to $30

The Tech is published weekly except during vacations and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors. Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to news@caltech.edu or as camera-ready art, but all advertising should be submitted electronically. All advertising is subject to editorial approval. All written work remains property of the author.

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CHILLAX – A relaxation group for stress management

Mondays 12-1; October 24 – November 28, Winnett Lounge

FREE

Health education and the counseling center are proud to sponsor a 6 week to educate and teach students how to manage their stress. The group will cover time management, muscle relaxation, getting great sleep, mindfulness meditation and dealing with holiday and exam related stress. Lunch is not provided but there will be participation prizes and giveaways.

---

November 14 – Progressive muscle relaxation.

Do your muscles get tense when you’re stressed or anxious? Come join us in Winnett from 12-1 and learn how to loosen up with progressive muscle relaxation. You’re welcome to do the exercises while seated or lying down. If you’d rather lie down, please bring a pillow and a towel or blanket. See you there!

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November 21 – Mindfulness meditation

November 28 – Coping with holiday and exam stress

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Feynman teaching award nominations

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSOR FOR THE FEYNMAN TEACHING PRIZE!!!

Here’s your chance to nominate your favorite professor for the 2011-12 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching! You have from now until January 2, 2012 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 an anonymous local couple. 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 2, 2012.

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.
Researchers propose new theory for the moon's ancient magnetic field

Continued from page 1

Now she’s pursuing her PhD at UC Santa Cruz, where she’s returned to planetary science—and the research project she started at Caltech.

With Stevenson and Francis Nimmo of UCSC, Dwyer refined her earlier work, and the team has published their findings in the November 10 issue of the journal Nature.

“Our story ties in with ideas of how the moon formed and evolved in its orbit,” Stevenson says. Earth’s gravity pulls on the moon in a way that causes the moon’s liquid core and mantle to spin around axes that are at a slight angle with respect to each other. As a result, instead of spinning as a single object, the core and mantle rotate separately. The differences in their motions are small today, but the moon— which is currently moving away from Earth at a rate of a few centimeters per year—was much closer to Earth when the lunar magnetic field existed a few billion years ago. Because of this close distance, the gravitational interactions were more powerful, leading to a bigger difference in rotation between the core and mantle. Dwyer and her colleagues calculated that, in the past, the difference was pronounced enough to generate a magnetic field. Over time, as the moon drifted farther away, the difference in motion lessened, and the magnetic field eventually died. “The fact that we have a way to turn off the magnetic field is one of the more exciting aspects of this model,” Dwyer says, although she stresses that more research—including the development of computer models to study the mechanism in detail—is necessary to show that the theory is viable.

Professor of the Month: Meet Prof. Patterson

SANDHYA CHANDRASEKARAN
News Editor

Fifteen years ago, Assistant Professor Ryan Patterson sat in the very same seats his students now sit in during his Ph1a lectures. Having been a Caltech undergraduate and a physics major, his understanding and relatability have allowed him to excel during his first time teaching introductory physics to Caltech’s newest batch of freshmen. However, Patterson notes some key differences between his previous experiences and his current position.

“A course like Ph1a is a big class and consists of students with a broad spectrum of backgrounds. Everyone has had some exposure to physics in high school, but at varying levels. “Part of the goal as a professor is to make sure that the course material is useful to everyone.” Like the structure of Ph1a, Patterson reflects that the physics major as a whole hasn’t really changed too much since he was a student there.

“Some of the advanced physics electives have changed, as they are more connected to the frontier of the subject matter, but the basic courses have stayed pretty much the same in their scope.” Patterson acknowledges that he hasn’t made too many far-fetched changes to the course in his first round. “Because Ph1a is an old course, it has been fairly well tested, and the text The Mechanical Universe provides a good overall structure.”

But the course content is only one aspect of an engaging learning experience. Patterson has several techniques for not only incentivizing students to attend his lectures, but to keep them excited about the course material. He explains, “I know that big lectures make it hard for students to feel like they can participate. If a student loses the thread of discussion in the first twenty minutes, the student will spend the next forty minutes being totally lost.”

“So to prevent this, I try to leave gaps in the flow to allow students to ask questions.”

Patterson notes that the course has an advantage in terms of attendance because of the demos that can be done to keep students intrigued. Mechanical demonstrations, such as the well-liked water jug rocket representing Newton’s Third Law, are well-integrated and paced in the lecture series. Also, Patterson ensures that every one of his students can take something from his lectures: “I try to make sure the lectures have a little bit for everyone. I incorporate a couple of nuanced points for people with stronger backgrounds in the subject matter, but I also ensure that the basics are covered, too.”

Student feedback is integral to Patterson’s teaching style. He describes, “I try to get continual feedback about whether or not what I am doing is working. I keep an eye out for signals: whether students are glazing over, murmuring, asking questions, or writing furiously. It doesn’t do anyone any good if I blindly march through a lecture in a rigid way just because it’s how I planned it, I try to stay flexible. Even then, it’s hard to give personalized attention in lecture settings, it is important to ask for feedback and respond to it.”

Patterson has already implemented some changes based on comments made at the ombuds meeting for the class, and has plans to make several more changes for next year. As he points out, “The point of teaching is to relay the concepts successfully. And the students are the true judges of that.”

Based on the overwhelming number of nominations for Patterson as Professor of the Month, the verdict amongst the Caltech freshmen seems to be overwhelming approval.

A reception for Professor Patterson will be held on Thursday, November 17 at noon on the Olive Walk. This will be a great way to get to know the person he is. There will be free food, too!
In the past week, issues arising from hazing policy and punishment of members of the House leadership have grabbed the attention of the majority of the Caltech community.

The California Tech strives to uphold its responsibility to inform our readers of the events, so we would like these to be well-researched. However, it is certainly acceptable for the author to include their own perception of the events transpired as long as they specify it as an opinion piece.

Many sides of the issue are welcome and we are simply hoping to better inform the general Caltech community of the current situation, and welcome all students to share their views.

We at The California Tech have always tried to serve the Caltech community in the most thoughtful and responsible way.

We hope to continue to do so in the future.

Caltech Couture: A student’s take on fashion and life

ALEX LANGERFELD
Columnist

Tucked away in the beautiful south of France is a small town called Nimes (pronounced “neem”). Some of the houses located near the Gard—the monumental aqueduct built by the ancient Romans under Agrippa to lead water to the province, or for the Maison Carrée—a square tower also built by the ancient Romans and well-studied in art history courses. Some may know it as a beautiful addition to their Mediterranean vacation. Yet, others may know it as the birthplace of denim.

It is widely believed that the word denim derives from “de Nimes” which means “from Nimes” in French because this coarse fabric may have originated there, probably to be used for sails.

Despite the trepidations I had at the beginning, I appreciated this effort and was encouraged to keep my style going. Here, I’ve realized that I lost the drive to wear my style due to the general lack of style on campus.

Once I realized this, I started bringing my high school mentality back to life and returned to being more daring.

So, as a tribute to my high school self, I’ll introduce Caltech to some major denim brands (hopefully this won’t be a first-time introduction for at least some people). While car brands have distinguishing features such as rear lights, denim brands are not so distinguishable with things such as back and front right pocket designs. Most brands cater to a specific set of body types and they have their own shapes that they create.

1.) Levi’s

Originating in San Francisco during the Gold Rush, this brand has been around for a while. Levi Strauss patented the blue-jean idea so we owe a lot to this man.

Levi’s is both modern and all-American. There are many styles for many body types. You can find Levi’s jeans on the carousel, the patterns that every student has, the parent, the student, and even the small child.

Some may not be able to go with this brand and some of their stores (such as the flagship store in San Francisco) make finding your size easier with their tele-mail machine.

In short, when in doubt, go Levi’s!

2.) Wrangler

All-American, this brand is what it sounds like. Hardy, great and reliable, but never dressy. Not much else to be said, unless you’re a true cowboy or redneck. In that case, you’ll have hours of praise to sing to these jeans!

3.) Seven for All Mankind

This brand should be engrained in your denim vocabulary. It makes some of the best jeans you can get. It is not only because of the attention of the majority of the Caltech community.

As you can see, these are just a few of the most recent denim brands that are currently available and relevant sources, to gather information from all available and relevant sources, to inform our readers of the events, so we would like these to be well-researched. However, it is certainly acceptable for the author to include their own perception of the events transpired as long as they specify it as an opinion piece.

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Lang Lang technically impressive, musically dull

CASEY HANDMER
Staff Writer

I recently had the pleasure of seeing the internationally renowned concert pianist Lang Lang give a recital in Los Angeles. Lang Lang has shot to fame since his 2001 Carnegie Hall debut, with reviews praising his showmanship and technical mastery of the keyboard. As his career progresses, it is interesting to see what and how he plays to live up to the hype and the expectations of his audience, many of whom are eager for a display of acrobatics. Lang Lang is certainly not the first virtuoso musician to be typecast in this way, and I was interested to see whether he might try to subtly subvert or lampoon his own unique style. Unfortunately, subtlety is not generally considered one of Lang Lang's selling points. He served up a balanced program consisting of Bach Partita No. 1 in B-flat (BWV 825) followed by a late Schubert Sonata, also in B-flat (D 960). Both are pieces by a late Schubert Sonata, also in B-flat (BWV 825) followed by a late Schubert Sonata, also in B-flat (BWV 825).

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Displaying a level of proficiency while performing music at a level he must have mastered nearly two decades ago, Lang Lang nevertheless delivered a piece whose cohesion, unity, and flow was broken by occasional but seemingly arbitrary pauses in tempo, intrusive fortissimo chords, or other “pops.” Thus far most of the audience, at least the section that was still awake, seemed confused. Where were the technical fireworks?

This was, after all, the performer sometimes dubbed the “greatest living pianist” who could “play anything.” Someone with his reputation could certainly afford to dish up some tasty and technically terrifying tidbits from the edges of his repertoire.

Thus far, with Bach and Schubert, we had traveled down the dead center of the road of western musical thought. When one sees a virtuoso perform there is an expectation that he will play easy stuff well, and that he will also select some repertoire they find challenging.

Georges Cziffra, a Hungarian pianist well-known in Europe in the 60s and 70s, was famed for driving audiences into a frenzy with edge-of-your-seat fear and excitement over his interpretations and arrangements of, in particular, Liszt. A pianist must perform at least some music with which they physically and viscerally contend. Without the possibility of a spectacular meltdown there can be no suspense and no excitement, at least since Steenway worked out how to prevent pianos from exploding beneath the demands of the Romantic repertoire.

The second part of the recital promised the desired technical showmanship in the form of the Chopin Etudes Op. 25. Billied as Chopin’s “ultra-demanding pianistic studies,” they were, at the time of their composition, possibly the fourth most challenging etudes in existence.

Again presenting a work that he must have mastered at half his present age, Lang Lang delivered solid performances of the 12 studies, though we got a few finitulls of bonus notes in the seventh. Towards the end he anticipated premature applause and played one almost right after another, often ending with a flourish or musical joke obvious enough for most of the audience to get.

In between a dozen curtain calls, he performed two encores: Liszt’s Romanza and La Campanella.

The former was most likely for the people sitting to the right of the podium who gained a strong appreciation for his legendary emotional state while playing, while the latter is an old encore favorite amongst pianists. La Campanella was originally written as a musical joke, but due to its technical difficulty is almost always played “with a straight face.” Lang Lang took the opportunity to play his own cadenza drawn largely from other Liszt works (including an extended melodic inversion from Liszt’s transcription of Danse Macabre), which garnished at least one laugh.

At last! Thus it seems that Lang Lang is very aware that certain repertoire and tricks sell tickets, and is, perhaps, musically trapped.

The question, then, is at what point will he decide he is rich enough, throw off the shackles of living up to his possibly undeserved reputation, and turn his unique style and voice to more unexpected repertoire? Perhaps he could emulate Stephen Hough, who occasionally sneaks Godowsky billed as Chopin upon an unsuspecting audience.

Who knows, perhaps one day he will bring a new audience to the most recent centurty of piano composition.
Answers to last week’s crossword from puzzlechoice.com

FAIR BASIC VAST
ACNE ARENA ISLE
ROLL GIANT THIN
CREEK AMEN RENT
ENTAIL RATING
SNAIL PRO
CAGE IDOL ELOPE
OWE PRECISE NEW
PETAL SAN EHERE
CUP PLEA ESE
DRAGON TOM CAT
PRO TELL LLAMA
AIDE TRIAD ONUS
SEEM EYOKE COST
TROY RENEW KNEE

Upcoming Events: The Caltech Y

November 22: Science Policy Lunch with Dr. Baltimore. Space is limited. RSVP required.

November 24: Dinner in the Park. Join a group of Caltech students at Central Park in Pasadena for Union Station’s Dinner in the Park - Community Thanksgiving Meal.

November 30: Social Activism Speakers Series with Jeremy Scahill. Ramo Auditorium, 7:30-9:30 PM

Jeremy Scahill is one of the few US journalists who independently ventured into Afghanistan and was not embedded with US military forces or with the Afghanistan government. He returned from his trip with fascinating stories derived from first-hand observations, interviews, and videos about the real status of the war in Afghanistan.
A chat with the Caltech water polo coach Joshua Moser

TED SINGER
Contributing Writer

Q. What Caltech teams are you most involved with?
A. I'm the head coach for the men and women's water polo teams.

Q. How long have you been at Caltech?
A. This is my fourth year here.

Q. What did you do before coming to Caltech?
A. I was at Flintridge Preparatory School in La Cañada. I coached water polo and helped out with swimming.

Q. How do Caltech's facilities compare to other schools?
A. Our pool is too small. It's like playing soccer on an eighty yard field. It makes it impossible to practice for away games. We can't host conference games by rule. The weight room is excellent, but the locker rooms leave much to be desired.

Q. I notice you are dressed formally. Is that standard, or only you?
A. It's just me. To me, it's no less of an important game than basketball. You don't see them in shorts and sandals. This is my job, this is my office. I take this very seriously. I don't mind making myself uncomfortable to show that I care. It's important that we do things the right way.

Q. Do most Caltech water polo players have experience?
A. No, not yet. We get a couple guys who come in with experience from high school, but out of our starting group, four of seven played in high school and three of them didn't.

Q. How do Caltech athletes compare with other schools?
A. They are much more coachable and willing to learn. I guess it comes from teaching themselves how to learn all their lives. They match up well with other schools. They work harder and they're smarter. That's really the crux of it. This was the number three team in division three, and our guys were even for most of the game.

Q. Do most Caltech water polo players have experience?
A. The majority is recruiting. Sending emails to kids, keeping an eye out for kids. It's a lot of administrative stuff.

Q. What do you do as coach? What does coaching entail?
A. The majority is recruiting. Sending emails to kids, keeping an eye out for kids. It's a lot of administrative stuff.

Q. How do Caltech athletes compare with other schools?
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APPLIES AND ORANGES
IN SEARCH OF HUNTER...
SO, WHERE WERE YOU LAST FRIDAY NIGHT?!
I DON'T THINK THAT IS ANY OF YOUR...

BY REBECCA LAWLER
ALRIGHT! I WAS WITH PHIL!!!
OH, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO?

PUNK ROCK
I AM SO HARDCORE. ONCE I DRANK TWO ROCKSTARS AND SEVEN MOUNTAIN DEVS.

YOU HAVE DIABETES.

DIABETES.
NEVER HARDCORE.

BY ROBERT JIMHAS

Punctuated Equilibrium
Milo Lin

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