Gaypril returns to Caltech

Andrea Allan
Caltech Today Writer

Gaypril returns to Caltech for the fourth time. The event, which started in 1971, is held each April to increase the visibility of LGBTQ issues at Caltech. "I figured if we could do it, others could too," said Kelsey, who described the Gaypril events and support services now available at Caltech, compared to four decades ago. "When I put up posters for the first meetings of the Discussion Group, all of them were taken down within a day. But I kept posting them (in the wee hours at night), and eventually they stayed up." Much of the work done by the group and its successors over the past 40 years has been to make Caltech a welcoming place for LGBTQ students.

The main purpose of PRISM is to increase visibility and raise awareness of LGBTQ issues at Caltech. "Gaypril events help people be more open to discussing the issues that are important to the LGBTQ community," said Kelsey.

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Quick Facts: Core Reform

Pushpa Neppala
Contributing Writer

1. Reduce the requirement in mathematics to 27 units from the current 45 units. All students will be required to take Ma 1abc (Calculation of One and Several Variables and Linear Algebra). The requirement that students enroll in Ma 2ab is removed.

2. Reduce the requirement in physics to 27 units from the current 45 units. All students will be required to take Ph 1abc (Classical Mechanics and Electromagnetism). The requirement that students enroll in Ph 2ab is removed.

Anticipated changes to formerly core courses (earliest implementation: fall 2014):

With the removal of Ma 2 and Ph 2 from the core curriculum, oversight of these courses shifts from the Core Curriculum Steering Committee to the Curriculum Committee.

"I don't think it should be difficult for a student who is seeking that community, that support, to find it," says Navarro. "Now that we're a more active group and have a number of active members, I hope our visibility continues to grow stronger."
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

ASCIT Minutes

April 9, 2012. Taken originally by Prakriti Gaba, revised by Laura Santosio
Officers present: Chris Hallacy, Pushpa Neppala, Christian Rivas, Diego Caporale, Mario Zubia, Prakriti Gaba
Officers absent: Laura Santosio

Funding Requests
1. ESW (engineers for a sustainable world): Asked for $150. VOTE PASSED.
2. Caltech Debate Society: Asked for $250. VOTE PASSED.

President's Report
1. Athletics: The athletics department is working on replacing the cardio equipment in the gym.
2. Hallacy met with Dean Nye to discuss Bechtel.
3. Trustees: Hallacy and Jordan Theriot will be having dinner with the trustees to talk about the housing system, and what's good and bad about it.
4. Freshman Admissions: Hallacy and Conwill talked with Prof. Dahiri about what role students can serve in freshman admissions.
5. The Bechtel foundation has also given Caltech money that can be spent on educational outreach.

Officers’ Reports
1. ARC (Pushpa)
   a. New PE course: Betsy Mitchell is trying to start a new course that will cover nutrition, exercise, and health in a more interactive way.
   b. Caltech Center for Teaching and Learning: The committee will start a teaching center next year to help professors better their instruction and to train undergraduate tutors.
   c. ASCIT Teaching Awards: Will be May 25th.
2. IHC (Christian)
   a. New IHC Secretary: Misha Raffiee.
   b. New RAs: For next year, there will be a new RA in Braun, Ruddock, Page, and Ricketts.
3. Director of Operations (Diego)
   a. Diego is going to give Mannion a list of all the club presidents so he can advise them.
   b. Diego wants to rearrange one of the rooms in the SAC for the SPECTRE library.
4. Treasurer (Mario)
   a. Budget review: We’ve spent 58% of our total budget. Not much money was spent by the ARC and Operations. We’ve used most of the Social and IHC budget. The hope is to increase the budget next year so that more large-scale events or programs can be planned.
   b. Interhouse budget: Not all houses used all their money for interhouse events.
5. Social Director (Prakriti)
   a. Intercollegiate party: Primarily beer but one mixed drink will also be available for people who don’t like beer. The party will take place on the RF courtyard and Winnett courtyard.
   b. Movie Night: There will be an ASCIT movie night May 11 (Friday to see the Avengers).
Caltech helps bring Robogals to the United States

MARGAUX LOPEZ
Contributing Writer

Robogals is an international organization that aims to introduce elementary and middle school girls to engineering through fun, educational robotics workshops. With seven chapters in Australia, and nine in the United Kingdom, as well as three budding chapters in the United States, Robogals has the potential to reach girls all over the world and substantially increase female interest in engineering.

Recently introduced to Caltech by the Australian founder of the club, Marita Cheng, Robogals primarily uses presentations and hands-on experience with LEGO mindstorms robots to reach out to young women.

In the robotics workshops, volunteers from the club assist the seven- to twelve-year-old girls in constructing and programming LEGOONX7 robotic kits, consisting of a central CPU brick, two motors, and various external units such as light and sound sensors. The workshops also includes a brief introduction and the different types of engineering, and how engineers impact our daily lives.

These robotics workshops are free of charge for all schools — volunteers are motivated only by their passion to share the excitement of engineering with the next generation.

Caltech’s new executive committee, headed by Garima Gupta as the president, attended the inaugural North American SINE (Seminar Inducting New Executive-committee) here at Caltech in February, joining students from Arizona University and Columbia University. SINE focused on training for new executive committee members and planning for the year ahead.

Robogals Caltech is currently trying to establish itself on campus and in the surrounding community, recruiting fellow robot-enthusiasts at the ME 72 design class competition and contacting local schools and girl scout troops to plan workshops.

If you are interested in volunteering, or know of any local organizations that would welcome a robotics workshop, please contact Garima at garima@usa.robogals.org. New volunteers may be male or female and the club will have an “introduction to robots” lunch in Winnett Lounge during lunch on Thursday, April 26 during which participants will learn how to use the LEGO software to program the robots and how workshops will be run.

To raise awareness for their cause, Robogals attempts to break the world record for “largest robot dance.”

YANG HU
Staff Writer

Volunteering, for those of us who aren’t involved in service organizations, tends to be infrequent in our daily campus life. However, Make-A-Difference Day (MAD) is an annual event of community service that is open to all of the Caltech community.

The event, which has been held for all—most a decade, is one of the many exciting activities organized by the Caltech Y.

From teaching kids to spending time with the elderly, distributing food to the needy or just helping out with day-to-day chores, volunteers get the opportunity to contribute to our community.

This year, MAD Day is on Saturday, April 21, 2012, from 9 AM to 6 PM. The entire Caltech community is encouraged to volunteer. Participants will receive a free t-shirt for participating, and active ties will end with a barbecue at the Caltech Y from 4 to 6 PM.

In the past, 200 people participated in 1 of 20 different projects ranging from 5 to 20 participants and from 3 to 6 hours in length. Projects include planting new gardens, cleaning pet shelters, maintaining hiking trails, painting, and visiting nursing homes.

Participants can also work with environmentally conscious groups on projects in the outdoors, at the beach, and in the nearby canyons.

This year, sites include the Gibbons Center, Tree People, Trash for Teachers, Los Angeles Food Bank, Red Cross, and Habitat for Humanity. Sign up on the Caltech Y website at www.caltechy.org.

Caltech undergrad, Xida Zheng worked for North East Trees, an organization that helps promote urban forestry. An account of his experience follows:

My group went to help North East Trees plant trees in a park in LA.

After we saw a demo, we were off to get some tools and start digging! The ground was made of hard clay and we toiled for forty-five minutes before we could put the tree, which was taller than all of us, into the ground.

After planting the tree, we went to sit on the lawn as a live band played, but the main attraction was still to come. A group of Mexican dancers came dressed in full ceremonial costumes adorned with giant feathers.

The seven of them formed a ring and danced as a drummer bunged on his drum. The seven smoothly changed formation many times like a marching band.

Their ankle bracelets added to the rhythm of the drums, as people gathered around to watch.

After the impressive performance, we had a batch of tamales and horchata.

HELP UNDERPRIVILEGED MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
CALTECH INNOWORKS

SCIENCE SUMMER CAMP
CALLING FOR STUDENT MENTORS!

APPLY NOW!

MEN TORS APPLICATIONS DUE: APRIL 27TH

- robogals.org
What is the purpose of a Caltech education? We need to answer another:

"What is the purpose of a Caltech education?" The obvious economic answer is to obtain a Caltech diploma. If someone has a degree from Caltech, everyone knows that person is very intelligent—he or she had to take classes like math and physics. So, might we entertain the notion, but maybe by the end, they are also very passionate about it, not the only solution, but it is one that makes sense to me. The overall number of units that students are required to take should be cut from 486 to 432, and 27 units should become the new minimum workload instead of 36. Many of these areas of science are so interconnected that systems in which students take 3 or 4 courses a term, and instead of the 100 courses that they take at Caltech today, they should increase the number of classes that they would like to...
Caltech Couture: A little bit of fashion vocab

ALEX LANGERFELD
Staff Writer

It’s been a while, so I’ve decided that you guys might need a little time to review things. In fashion, as in any subject, it’s important to display a firm grasp of the material and that means understanding the relevant vocabulary. Some of these you may think you already know, but there’s often more to learn from a word than its common usage. Get the flashcards ready!

Haute couture: French for “high sewing” or “high dress-making,” this term refers to garments tailored specifically to the person wearing them and is often abbreviated as “couture.” In France, the term is protected by the government control (just like cheese, wine and other fine drinks). The term is defined by the Paris Chamber of Commerce which has a commission that determines which French fashion houses may call themselves couture houses and may use the term haute couture to describe themselves. Requirements include having an atelier (workshop) in Paris which employs at least 15 people, make private orders for clients with at least one fitting, and present seasonal collections to the Paris press at least twice a year, each of which must consist of at least 35 runs (model entrances) showcasing both daytime and evening outfits. Examples of couture houses are Chanel, Yves Saint-Laurent, and Jean Paul Gaultier.

Prêt-à-porter: The opposite of haute couture, prêt-à-porter means “ready-to-wear” in French. This type of clothing is factory made and is sold in finished form in standard sizes. This is what you find in clothing stores when you go shopping.

A-line: A dress or skirt that starts narrow at the top and gently widens towards the bottom, thus resembling an A-shape; often synonymous with the princess line.

Khaki: This is a word borrowed from Hindustani and Urdu. In both languages, the word means “ash-colored” and the word came into the English language through the British Indian Army. The original khaki fabric was made of cotton or linen. Although the word strictly refers to a color, it is now also used in its plural form to refer to pants made out of khaki fabric.

Loafers: Low leather shoes that slide onto the foot (but they do have a heel), the upper part of the shoes is reminiscent of moccasins.

Brassière: Although this sounds fancy, this means no more than bra. In fact, “bra” is the shortened version of “brassière”; so don’t fall into the trap of using this French word to try to impress someone.

Cardigan: A type of sweater that ties, button, or zips down the front. Sometimes it becomes hard to draw the line between a cardigan and a sweater-jacket, but we’ll leave that to the designers to worry about.

Lapel: The turned-back part of a garment; most often refers to the front part of a coat or jacket which extends from the collar. Lapels are classified into various types, depending on their shape. These include the shawl lapel, pointed lapel, and step collar.

Lapel pin: A decorative pin meant to be worn on the lapel. Lapel pins may be purely decorative but often have meaning and their wearer may have to earn the right to wear one.

Corsage: A small bouquet of flowers worn on a lady’s write or her dress. It is customary, at least in the US, for the male date to give the lady a corsage as a gift before heading out on an occasion. Much care is usually put into selecting the arrangement and colors of the corsage.

Boutonnière: Derived from the French for “buttonhole”, this is a flower that the male wears. It is usually a single flower or bud and is inserted in the buttonhole of the lapel. The most classic and formal flower is the white carnation but other flowers are also used and some are associated with specific occasions.

I hope that this brief overview of terms has inspired you, to dig a little bit more into the world of fashion. Even if that just means bandying about a few of these words in conversation, there’s a place for everyone in fashion.
Caltech graduating students are expected to participate in an exit interview process with the Bursar’s staff before commencement. This process is designed to inform students of any Bursar’s account balance, update information, and address questions students may have regarding their Bursar’s student accounts.

Also, if you have received a student loan while at Caltech, this process informs students of their rights and responsibilities, furnishes loan and other fiscal data, and notifies students of federal regulations where applicable.

The new 3 Step Online Exit Process:

1. Receive your Invitation to Exit via Caltech e-mail on April 30
2. Complete the:
   a) Exit Compliance Form attached in the e-mail notification,
   b) and, if you have a loan, complete the ACS Loan and Direct Loan Online Exit Interviews on the link provided in the Invitation to Exit e-mail.
3. Return all forms to the Bursar’s Office:
   a) Completed Exit Compliance Form (All Students)
   b) Completion certificate for ACS Online Exit (If you have a Perkins or Institute Loan)
   c) Completion certificate for Direct Lending Online Exit (If you have a Stafford Loan)

Please note that if you have not received an invitation to exit by May 4th, please visit the Bursar’s Office or contact us by e-mail at bursar@caltech.edu or by telephone at 626-395-2988. Also note that transcripts and diplomas will remain on hold until the Bursar’s account balance is paid in full. Finally, if you have any questions about the Exit process or forms please contact the Bursar’s Office.

Ruth Whitson, Bursar

New 3-step process for exiting students

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Ruth Whitson, Bursar
Caltech women’s tennis team barely edged out by La Verne

Pasadena, Calif.—A three set win in #6 singles proved the difference as the La Verne women’s tennis team captured the necessary five points to beat Caltech 5-4 in a SCIAC match.

Caltech scored a win in #2 doubles from Rebekah Kitto and partner Jessica Yu, 8-5 after trailing 5-2. The come from behind win set Caltech up with a chance to win the match in singles.

Victories at #1, #2, and #3 from Kitto, Wubing Ye, and Stephanie Kwan gave Caltech a 4-3 lead in the match. However, La Verne was able to capture three set victories at #4 and #6 singles to prevent the Beavers from winning their first conference match since 2007. Rebekah Kitto, who is ranked 12th in the west region, continued her fine play by moving to 9-1 on the season and Stephanie Kwan gained her fifth singles victory of the season.

Tennis Match Results
La Verne vs Caltech
Apr 14, 2012 at Pasadena, CA
(Braun Tennis Courts)

Singles competition
1. Rebekah Kitto (CIT-W) def. Laina Matsuda (ULV) 6-0, 6-1
2. Wubing Ye (CIT-W) def. Tarika Krishnamurthy (ULV) 7-5, 6-1
3. Stephanie Kwan (CIT-W) def. Brooke Hines (ULV) 6-4, 6-1
4. Carly Tucker (ULV) def. Jessica Yu (CIT-W) 6-1, 1-6, 6-2
5. Allison Moncrief (ULV) def. Jessica Yeung (CIT-W) 6-1, 6-2
6. Valerie Lezin (ULV) def. Michelle Tang (CIT-W) 6-7, 6-2, 6-4

Doubles competition
1. Laina Matsuda/Allison Moncrief (ULV) def. Stephanie Kwan/Wubing Ye (CIT-W) 8-2
3. Tarika Krishnamurthy/Justine Ledesma (ULV) def. Jessica Yeung/Zeko Millikan (CIT-W) 8-4

The girls team takes on Pomona-Pitzer this Wednesday before closing out SCIAC play against Oxy this Friday.

Weekly Scoreboard
APRIL 15, 2012

BASEBALL VS. WHITTIER
L, 7-0 FINAL

APRIL 14, 2012

BASEBALL AT LA VERNE
L, 12-2 FINAL ~ 8 INNINGS

WOMEN’S WATER POLO VS. REDLANDS
L, 15-4 FINAL

MEN’S TENNIS AT POMONA-PITZER
L, 9-0 FINAL

Photo Caption Contest

So, nobody actually submitted any captions last week. Let’s try again:

Also, here’s a fun story. Last week Caltech tennis palyer Devashish Joshi got “chased” by a bumblebee last week during his singles match. He ran around the court for a solid minute, even throwing his hat to the ground (I have no idea why) and apparently running some suicides before returning to finish the game. Great job, Dev.
Acquired Taste

Board charges $5 for breakfast. That should be enough to have Lucky Charms with just the marshmallows.

Instead of like 3 different kinds of granola.

I don’t really have a punchline, I just really want some marshmallows.

For more photos, videos, and archives of previous issues, check out the Tech website!

tech.caltech.edu