Enormous prefrosh class arrives at Caltech

STANFORD SCHOR
Editor-in-Chief

On the morning of September 16th, the cars, vans, and Super Shuttles arrived at Caltech by the dozens to deposit the Class of 2016. As a record-breaking 275 students received their initial housing assignments, they were soon spread throughout the campus, flush with anticipation of Rotation and the start of classes.

At convocation, students watched with rapt attention as Professor John Grotzinger spoke about the recent success of the JPL Mars Rover. Emphasizing the enormous time scale of cosmic studies, he called upon the Class of 2016 to take up the mantle of discovery in a few years when they graduate from Caltech.

In closing remarks, President Jean-Lou Chameau paid homage to the diversity of the enormous Class of 2016. Among many other accomplished students, the Class contains a blacksmith, an individual who created a measurement system consisting entirely of Froot Loops®, and a young woman from Iowa who designed her own wetsuit. As a whole, 32 states and 14 countries are represented in the Class of 2016.

Following Convocation, students joined their Frosh Camp UCCs at President Chameau’s house for an introductory dinner before heading to Frosh Camp the following day. The Tech once again tag along to share in the fun and excitement of Frosh Camp. Through scavenger hunts, an Honor Code talk given by the Board of Control, skits addressing life at Caltech in the Challenges and Choices session, and even mealtimes, we have faithfully attempted to document the prefrosh experience. Approximately 300 pictures were taken of the prefrosh festivities, and those that best represent the spirit of orientation appear in this issue.
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

Committee Appointments

Freshman Admissions Committee
Representatives: Xander Rudelis, Blaine Matulevich, Jesse Salomon, Prastuti Singh, Eugene Vinitsky, Ratnalekha Viswanadham
Alternate: Maxwell Horton, Moya Chen

Upperclass Admissions Committee
Representatives: Loc Nguyen, Samantha Piszkiewicz
Alternate: Julia Ziac

Undergraduate Academic Standards and Honors Committee
Representatives: Bryan Jadot, Chris Kolner, Austin Mayron
Alternate: Kristen Holtz, Devashish Joshi, Supriya Iyer

Athletics and Physical Education Committee
Representative: Monica Enlow
Alternate: Austin Mayron

Institute Programs Committee
Representative: Puikei Cheng
Alternate: Malvika Verma

Educational Outreach Committee
Representative: Susan Liao
Alternate: Jennifer Caseres

Health Committee
Representative: Pallavi Bugga
Alternate: Caroline Yu

Foreign Students and Scholars Committee
Representative: Aniruddha Bapat
Alternate: Loc Nguyen

Student Housing Committee
Representatives: Alexander Mouschovias, Suraj Mirpuri
Alternate: Aniruddha Bapat

Convocation Committee
Representative: Jomya Lei
Alternate: Curie Ahn

Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee
Representative: Michael Paluchnak
Alternate: Aleena Patel

Institute Art Committee
Representative: Stephanie Reyes
Alternate: Josh Tollefson

Grievances Committee
Representatives: Matthew Fu, Connor Rosen
Alternate: Suraj Mirpuri

Parking Committee
Representative: Stephanie Laga
Alternate: William Livingston

Write articles for the Tech

get paid up to $30
Welcome back to Tech, and for those who are new here, welcome! Sincerely hope that you find Caltech to be as fulfilling and thrilling as I have found it to be in my past three years as an undergrad. This institute has a rich history, and takes pride in its tremendous impact on the world. The campus has more to offer than any one of us can ever absorb in a single lifetime.

Our duty is to take in what we can and make the most of it throughout our lives as undergrads. It is tempting to spread oneself very thin, trying to grab all of Caltech’s bounty. Before we lie knowledge and understanding, friendships and lifelong connections, opportunities and outlook.

We have outstanding facilities, a beautiful life-friendly campus, and a rich culture based on integrity and honor. Aside from the unquestionable academic prowess, there are many other things that allow Caltech to be truly magnificent. Coming here as a new Techer, you may not notice some of the most fundamental aspects that shape the institution. You may be blinded by the rich course selection and renowned faculty.

These aspects are obvious and are what give Caltech its fame and purpose. Therefore, I will not write about these and instead, I will reveal a hidden side of Caltech that once discovered, leaves a Techer speechless.

Welcome to the Underworld – the world of fashion, style, and sociability.

The word “unique” not only applies to Caltech’s scientific contributions, but it also applies very much to this other world. Caltech’s character seeps through every aspect of the Underground. For instance, Techers seem to be making a tremendous effort to perpetuate Caltech’s sophisticated fashion scene. Unlike at other Institutions that are known for their high fashion, Techers don’t concern themselves with fitting to conventions. Instead of all wearing the same perfectly wrinkle-free polo shirt or button-down that everyone wears at those high-fashion schools, many Techers choose to express their individuality by carefully selecting t-shirts each day that match their mood.

There is a rich variety of self-expressing t-shirts to be found here, and the Institute has graciously recognized the students’ disdain for the mundane task of shopping at clothing stores by selling these t-shirts at our own campus bookstore.

These pieces are characterized by printed graphics. They range from various Caltech emblems to characterizing phrases such as “Cutie π”. A girl who wears the latter shirt immediately lets everyone know that she is indeed a cutie who knows how to pronounce “π” in American English and that everyone who doesn’t know how to pronounce it in American English shouldn’t bother approaching her.

This is a very efficient system, because after displaying this fact on her t-shirt, she doesn’t even need to do her hair or make-up or in general to try to act the part of a “cutie π”. Everyone already knows that she is one!

Some Techers don’t find the bookstore or even Amazon to be enough, and hungry for fashionable self-expression, they endeavor to create their own t-shirt masterpieces. Even here, Caltech has acknowledged the Techers. To prevent them from venturing off campus and entering dodgy businesses to completely their t-shirt-printing requests, Caltech offers a course in t-shirt printing and even has its own campus facilities where Techers can let their high-fashion energies run loose.

Of course, there are the black sheep that don’t adhere to the unsaid Caltech protocol.

Instead, they spend at least three times as much of their morning deciding what to wear each day, because proper shirts, blouses, and sweaters generally don’t display unique written expressions efficiently summarizing a Techer’s mood. These Techers must take time out of their rigorous studies to sort their clothing and actually match different pieces.

The black sheep are not always understood, poor souls, since they refrain from labeling themselves with text.

They must have their own, strong personal reasons for not adapting the t-shirt fashion, and one may notice that many of these black sheep stick together.

Perhaps when they are huddled together, they speak their own language in which there is no need to textually display their feelings on their stomachs. In the end, however, all Techers are Techers, no matter how they fit into the Underground.

They may follow different paths in life later, but no Techer will ever forget their dear Alma Mater.
Prefrosh William Rieger (left) and Meghana Pagadala (right) survey a map during the Study Habits scavenger hunt at Frosh Camp. Prefrosh Kolechukwu Emezie has a moment with his UCC, rising sophomore Harrison Miller; rising sophomore Harrison Miller acts as emcee during the Frosh Campboat race. Miller and fellow rising sophomore Justin Koch ran the competition. Professor Emeritus Stephen Frautschi jokes around with UCCs at Frosh Camp.

During the Challenges and Choices portion of Frosh Camp, junior Ishan Khetarpal (brown shirt) leads a group discussion on managing workloads, relationships, and alcohol and drug use; mobs of prefrosh attempt to locate their UCC before loading up on the buses to go to Frosh Camp. A group of prefrosh scramble to solve a Sudoku puzzle that they pieced together during the Study Habits scavenger hunt at Frosh Camp. Prefrosh James Blackwood (bottom right corner) listens intently as he learns how to avoid plagiarism during the Honor Code talk at Frosh Camp. Prefrosh Alex Lew and his Frosh Camp UCC, rising sophomore Alkira Valvekar, pose while waiting for dinner at President Chaeum’s house; Prefrosh celebrate after winning the boat race at Frosh Camp.

-Stanford Schor
LABVIEW PROGRAMMER WANTED

The task is to control a mechanized microscope stage to carry single neurons picked up by laser tweezers to 64 preselected locations. Contact jpmail@capsi.caltech.edu for more information.
Caltech sanctioned by NCAA, penalties makes us sound more legitimate, jokes ensue anyways

AMOL KAMAT
Sports Editor

On July 12th, the NCAA announced that the Caltech Department of Athletics would be on probation for three years because it allowed 31 ineligible student-athletes in 12 sports to compete between 2007 and 2011. Caltech will also not be allowed to recruit off-campus for one year (not that we did much of that before), several teams will be barred from post-season play for one year, and they must vacate wins and records that occurred during 2007 to 2011 (don’t worry, the basketball wins stand). The NCAA cited a lack of institutional control by Caltech in allowing these inelegibilities to occur and go unreported. The majority of inelegibilities arose because of our “shopping period” that allows students to officially add classes three weeks into term. During those three weeks, several athletes were technically under loading, but continued to play their respective sports. In the NCAA, all athletes must be full-time students in order to be eligible. To make matters worse, Caltech did not have a written procedure for how to ensure all athletes were eligible, and the former director of athletics, Wendell Jack, never formally information regarding the academic-standing or status of his student-athletes.

In the summer of 2011, Caltech Athletics underwent a change in leadership (bye-bye Wendell) and discovered the violations. They self-reported the inelegibilities to the NCAA, who then performed an audit of the department and determined that the rules were not violated intentionally, but only as a result of sloppy bookkeeping and general incompetence.

Over the 2011-2012 school year, the athletics department and its new director, Betsy Mitchell, made efforts to correct the problems in the system, including improving communication between athletics and the registrar, informing all members of the athletics community about NCAA rules, helping coaches keep an eye on their athletes’ academics, and closing the Brown Gym doors (maybe not the last one, but I’m going to keep guessing until I get it right). Alright, this is the part where I rant. Actually, there’s not much I can say that hasn’t already been said mockingly on ESPN or in the New York Times. Look, at most Division I schools, many student-athletes are athletes that also happen to be students. That’s not to say that they aren’t smart or don’t care about education, but they just have a more rigorous athletics agenda. What I’m trying to say is a full-time football player from Alabama is probably not doing nearly as much work as a Caltech soccer player on a 30 unit underload. It makes sense for the NCAA to actively enforce this rule at bigger sports schools where student-athletes probably do need a push to remain students in more than name. But, I really don’t think that’s true at Caltech: we are students who also happen to be athletes. I’m not asking for special treatment, and I know the rule has to be enforced everywhere or it’s meaningless and sets precedents the NCAA doesn’t want, but the whole handling of the situation was silly, especially given the high profile sanctions they were about to throw at Penn State.

The public reprimand made sense, but did it really have to go farther than that? They were inviting jokes with the post-season ban and, honestly, the wording of their reprimand played up the situation even more (and played right into the hands of every comedian and sports writer in the country). In the end, the penalties really don’t affect us that much (although the track team usually does relatively well at SCIACs), and while they may sting, especially for those athletes penalized because of violations they weren’t even here for, our athletes and department are going to be fine. All I learned from this little dust-up was that the NCAA is at least as incompetent as they claim we are and that alumni games are considered post-season events (sorry, men’s water polo team).

Weekly Scoreboard

Women’s Volleyball
vs. Whittier
L, 3-0 Final

Men’s Soccer
at Pomona-Pitzer
L, 4-0 Final

Women’s Volleyball
at La Verne
L, 3-0 Final

Men’s Water Polo
vs. Citrus College
W, 15-12 Final

Men’s Soccer
vs. Chapman
L, 2-0 Final

The men’s water polo team defeated Citrus College on Wednesday, 15-12. What kind of a name is Citrus College? I vote Caltech be renamed the Banana Institute of Technology.
Acquired Taste

Mr. Fantastik! It's I, Dr. Crem, your lifelong adversary! My new plan for world domination will leave you completely powerless!

What did you do this time, Screech?

I signed you and all of your pathetic friends up for each of the Caltech Undergraduate House mailing lists. Good luck filtering out your important ämblé!

Nooo!

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

tech.caltech.edu