Teachers and TAs receive ASCIT teaching awards

NEERA SHAH
News Editor

On May 23, the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) held the 37th annual ASCIT Teaching Awards ceremony to honor professors and TAs who were nominated by students. The four professors recognized were history and social science professor Morgan Kousser, Harry Bateman Research Instructor (Mathematics) Mohamed Omar, Arnold O. Beckman chemistry professor Harry Gray, and assistant professor of English Jennifer Jahner.

Three undergraduate TAs (Luis A. Navarro, Jr., chemistry; Michael G. Dieterle, biology; and Jesse M. Salomon, computer science) and one graduate TA (Tristan J. McKinney, physics) were also recognized. Students who nominated each professor or TA gave short speeches to recognize the great teaching qualities of their nominee and to personally thank them for their efforts.

Each awardee also gave an acceptance speech and was given a plaque by ARC. Former ARC chair Pushpa Neppala emceed the reception held in the Athenaeum. Chin-Lin Guo, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering and Applied Physics, was awarded Professor of the Month. He was honored with a reception on Thursday, May 30, where he conversed with and was congratulated by students.

CORRECTION
In last week’s issue, the article entitled “Ricketts Alumni hold wake during ‘Beer and Brats’” included a quote from an anonymous source who stated that Ricketts House had once held a slavery-themed rotation meal with only black waiters. The theme was, in fact, “Southern” and the waiters were of many different races. We apologize for this misinformation.
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

Minutes for June 2nd, 2013. Taken by Catherine Jamshidi

President’s Report (Zach):

The Undergraduate Honor Code Committee members were selected by the ex-officio members. The UHCC will meet before the term is over to elect its 3 representatives to the Faculty Board. Moore-Hufstedler Fund Committee members, Big T Editors, Totem Editors, and Sustainability Council appointed last weekend as well.

Officer’s Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Malvika):

The PE Survey is out on Donut. Fill it out by this Friday, and you can enter to win one of 3 $10 Amazon Gift Cards. The first BARC lunch had great discussion between the faculty and students who attended. There will be more in the upcoming year.

Prof of the Month Reception for Professor Guo went very well. He shared some jokes with students who attended.

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):

The IHC is having interviews for Faculty Board committees this week. Appointment decisions will be released soon after. John Dabiri has invited the IHC Chair to sit on Faculty Board meetings for this next academic year.

Director of Operations (Connie):

Connie has been lending out and keeping track of ASCIT equipment. This shared equipment is a great resource for students for events including parties and Ditch Day, and we will be working on expanding inventory and simplifying the borrowing process.

Treasurer (Monica):

Designed a new form for reimbursements. Will be updating the website before the end of term with a new system for requesting reimbursements. Office hours will be determined for the upcoming school year because Monica will live off campus and not readily available in her room for questions, comments, concerns.

Social Director (Michelle):

Europarty was this past Saturday. It went well. There will be an end-of-the-year concert featuring Twin Peaks and Blown Out on the evening of June 7th. More details to follow. I might try to arrange an end-of-the-year outdoor dinner event with CDS sometime in the upcoming week.

Secretary (Cat):

Scheduled all Honor Code Committee interviews along with the ASCIT Committee interviews that were held on Sunday morning. I’m still working on updating all of the information on Donut. If you have any suggestions regarding what the Olive Walk Board should be used for, feel free to send me an email at sec@donut.caltech.edu.

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of this report please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.
The California Tech

June 3, 2013

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Tecoders build prototypes of novel devices for Motorola

ALEXANDER Hsu AND NEERA SHAH
Contributing Writer and News Editor

Last weekend, you might have seen a group of Tecoders working under some tents outside Winnett lounge. These students were doing a project for the Motorola “MAKEwithMOTO” event, in which Motorola drives to twelve universities and four “Maker Faires” around the country and helps with making gadgets. Using technology such as 3-D printers, laser cutters, oscilloscopes, and soldering stations, participants build prototypes of new devices using hardware and software from Motorola’s latest smartphones.

Jomya Lei and Raymond Jimenez organized the event at Caltech and coordinated with Tom Mannion to bring the Motorola van to campus. At Caltech, there were a total of four groups that participated in the MAKEwithMOTO event on campus from May 31 to June 2. Each group, containing three to five team members, had 15–20 hours to design and build a prototype of a new device from scratch.

One group built a glove to interpret American Sign Language, while a second used ultrasonic tags to help find objects; a third group built an audio-processing/detection and identification device, and a fourth worked to build a decked-out bike vest.

Alexander Mouschovias was part of the fourth group that was building a bike vest with speakers in the shoulder pads, which can be useful in getting directions without an earpiece or hand-held device. This group also built in a gyroscopic sensor that turns on brake lights on the back of the vest when the rider brakes on the bike. In addition to using all of the provided tools from the Motorola van, Mouschovias used the laser cutter in the Mech-E shop, as well as thermoforming acrylic to make the vest.

Although some groups’ inventions did not work by the 20-hour time limit, students were encouraged to pursue the project if they were making progress with the device. Some groups can even get up to $150,000 from Motorola to help build a working prototype of their design.

Join the conversation!

The new Caltech opinion journal, The Hamiltonian, is looking for writers to contribute articles on topics in science, technology, politics, economics, philosophy, history, social issues, foreign policy, and local events.*

Undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff are all invited to participate. We are looking for writers committed to defending and exploring their views in accordance with the rigorous intellectual standards that make Caltech so unique.

For more information, contact us by e-mail at hamiltonian@caltech.edu

* Serial commas appreciated, but not required.
Techerland: A look at the fashion of graduation

NINA BUDAeva
Staff Writer

Techers are very keen on maintaining traditions, even when certain traditions are so outdated that they do not make much sense anymore. There are many Techer behaviors and habits that seem unexplainable to outsiders, and many of these have been mistakenly explained as attributes of being a “nerd” by outsiders.

Many of these behaviors are rooted in blind tradition. While the traditions themselves might be “nerdy” (although walking barefoot is not nerdly at all when one realizes that this is a very common occurrence on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley and in various areas of San Francisco that have nothing to do with academics), the adherence to tradition is not only a property of nerds.

I suppose it is human nature to stick with traditions. Otherwise there would not be pumpkins for Halloween, national anthems for every holiday or college, and nothing to do with academics. Techers are very keen on stick with traditions. Otherwise there would not be pumpkins for Halloween, national anthems for every holiday or college, and nothing to do with academics. Techers are very keen on maintaining traditions, even when certain traditions are so outdated that they do not make much sense anymore. There are many Techer behaviors and habits that seem unexplainable to outsiders, and many of these have been mistakenly explained as attributes of being a “nerd” by outsiders.

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For the Caltech Class of 2013, a poem
by Wendy Graetz Hoglen

Twas the night before ditch day and all through Caltech
The seniors were bustling; all hands were on deck,
The teams were well chosen, the graphics well drawn,
The props in position; the time ticking toward dawn.

Each group has a plan, each group has a theme,
Each group is complexed as you plot and you scheme.
You float your ideas - not all of them gel -
You revise and revamp: come highwater! come hell!

The words might escape you so you search for some more
Hunting and digging as you delve and explore.
Pushing the envelopes, pulling all-nighters
Playing with currents, attractors, exciters.

You are game if not gamey; you are gamers, you are smart,
Your life is a science and math is your art.
You are all joined, connected yet have each finished a part.
Your work here has ended. You are ready to start.

What Is Caltech’s Identity?
We want to hear from YOU.

All Caltech faculty, staff, and students are invited
to contribute to a research study that will measure
the qualities and characteristics that are most
relevant to Caltech’s identity.


Participation in the study is limited to the Caltech community,
so please contribute to this important conversation today.
A $100 gift card will be raffled off to one participating
undergraduate and one participating graduate student.

The deadline for completing the survey is June 7, 2013.
Caltech Public Events is now hiring student ushers.
$15 per hour to work concerts, performances, lectures, films and parties.
No experience needed, no hard labor, flexible schedules.

*Requirements: Caltech student, Positive attitude, Friendly personality

To apply email Adam Jacobo (ajacobo@caltech.edu) or call (626) 395-5907

For info on Caltech Public Events visit: www.caltech.edu/content/public-events
Students receive the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award

DEANS’ OFFICE
Contributing Writer

Matt Fu, Sebastian Rojas Mata, Katja Luxem, and Mario Zubia were awarded the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award at the Athenaeum Library on May 20, 2013. The Award is for outstanding Caltech students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and have encouraged and supported others in realizing their own leadership capabilities.

An appeal for the PE classes survey

ANONYMOUS
Contributing Writer

According to me, our PE courses should be an outlet for physical exercise. They should provide the physical balance in our already stressful academic term. Recently, as in within the past year, PE classes have become more rigorous, but not in a physical sense. There are now written assignments and exams, and the expectations across PE classes are not consistent. This puts an additional burden on students, who want to maybe run around rather than write more essays.

If you have an opinion about the new direction PE classes are taking here at Caltech, please express them on the PE survey. The results will be analyzed by the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) and presented to Betsy Mitchell, the Athletics Director. The ARC Chair and an ARC rep have met with her, and she has been very receptive to possibly making changes, but only if the response rate for the survey is very high. This is why you should get your voice heard on the survey. Feel free to fill out the comment boxes to elaborate on your experiences in PE classes and what you want from your PE classes.

Editors’ Note: It is usually not the policy of The California Tech to print opinion articles anonymously. In the instances that we do, we require there be a rational basis for anonymity. In this case, the author has demonstrated a potential conflict of interest were their identity to be known. Therefore, we decided to allow anonymity, but inform readers of the circumstances surrounding it.
David Ginola Comics: Choose your own ending!

SO LONG, SUCKERS!

HERE'S MY LETTER OF RESIGNATION GUYS, I QUIT! I GOT AN OFFER TO MAKE CARTOONS FOR REAL PAPERS!

WHAT A SHAME! THAT GINOLA FELLOW WAS THE GREATEST TALENT THE TECH HAS EVER SEEN! A REAL HERO! WE ARE FOREVER IN HIS DEBT AND WILL LOST WITHOUT HIM! WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SHUT DOWN THE NEWSPAPER!

THAT'S UNBE- LEAVE-ABLE!

THE UNMASKING

I'M SURE YOU'VE ALL BEEN WONDERING WHO I REALLY AM...

WELL, THE TIME HAS COME TO REVEAL MYSELF! I AM...

GROMWELL MC DONALD! THANKS EVERYONE, IT'S BEEN FUN AND SAY HI IF YOU SEE ME IN PERSON!

Thanks everyone for making this our best year yet! We hope you all have a good summer, and look forward to an even better next year!

-The Tech Eds