ARC hosts first student-faculty lunch of the year

MALVIKA VERMA
ARC Chair

On Thursday, October 24, the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) hosted the first student-faculty lunch (SFL) of the year, held in Ruddock House. The faculty in attendance were Professor Nets Katz (Mathematics), Professor Christiane Orcel (Languages), Professor Ryan Patterson (Physics), Professor Kristine Haugen (English), and Professor Heather Knutson (Planetary Sciences).

Professor Geoff Blake, the Master of Student Houses (MOSH) and generous sponsor of these lunches, graced the occasion and kicked off the first SFL along with ARC representative Jonathan Liu and ARC Chair Malvika Verma. A record number of 97 undergraduates signed up to attend the lunch. Unfortunately, to maintain a reasonable student to faculty ratio (6:1), the ARC could only take 32 of these students.

The ARC has discussed increasing the frequency of these lunches in order to account for the massive increase student interest in meeting and interacting with faculty. The discussions at the lunch varied depending on which professor students were sitting with.

Professor Nets Katz, who is teaching Math 1a this term, talked about his research with the students at his table, many of whom were math majors or prospective math majors.

Professor Orcel, on the other hand, described her fascination with collecting art from all over the world. Her current interest is African-American art.

Professor Haugen encouraged students to use Caltech’s Hixon Writing Center and the peer tutors in the houses to seek help when writing essays or even SURF proposals.

The student-faculty lunch occurred just one hour after the new President-Elect, Thomas Rosenbaum, was introduced to Caltech in a ceremony at the Athenaeum lawn. ARC representative Nima Badizadegan and ARC Chair Malvika Verma invited the future President and his wife Professor Katherine Faber to join the students at the student-faculty lunch, but unfortunately, they had prior plans and were unable to attend the event.

The ARC hopes to have them at a student-faculty lunch within the next year.

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New events from the Caltech Y

OPINION
Connor touches upon social effects of MOOCs

FEATURE
Nailen reviews Best Coast EP

SPORTS
Fencing and Water Polo victories

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 The Tech Eds

US marine released 4 months of captivity before Columbian rebels release Kevin Scott

JP Morgan pays fine 5 billion dollars paid to mortgage lenders in settlement with FHFA

Use Wikipedia by SMS 3-month trial period intended for Africans without internet access

GTA V wins award 1st place at the Golden Joystick awards given to game by 10 M voters

US spying leaked 35 world leaders have been monitored by US intelligence since 2006

Pirates attack US ship 2 Americans captured off Nigerian coast, Nigerian navy cooperating

Afghan civilians bombed 14 killed while on their way to a wedding; no suspects announced
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 October 23, 2013. Taken by Catherine Jambulingam

Officers Present: Connor Coley, Conchita Hsu, Malvika Verma, Michelle Tang, Zach Revkin, Monica Enlow

Guests: Connor Rosen, Margaret Lee

Call to Order: 10:07 pm

President’s Report (Zach):

Caltech has selected a new President: Thomas Rosenbaum of UChicago

The Strategic Identity Project board is recommending a Final Positioning Statement, details TBA

Student Faculty Honor Code committee meetings continue to be productive

There will be an open Uhcc (Undergraduate Honor Code Committee) meeting this term

ASCIT Survey Results:

>95% of students prefer the house they rotated into over the house they rotated out of.

Institutional change-people now are not as motivated to learn teaching.

When asked what would be the ideal time for Problem Sets to be due, a majority of students chose a time between 4-6 pm.

The student body is being periodically polled for their view of Student-Admin relations. Over the summer, more than 30% of respondents set relations to 1/10, corresponding to “The US and Iran have better relations.”

In this past week’s survey, approximately 1/10’s were put under 30%. Freshmen have a more positive opinion.

Other results will be made available to undergraduates elsewhere. If you have a question for the student body, email me at: pres@donut.caltech.edu

Officer’s Report:

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

At the CUE Meeting, we discussed:

Increasing TQFR Response Rates

Caltech has very low response rates compared to other colleges

Professors read the TQFRs, so fill them out to improve teaching.

Proposal - If you fill out your TQFRs, you can register for classes the next term.

Increasing the percentage of students who do research

Incentivize students to do research during the year with credits

Should we have a Seminar day during the year for people who do year-round research?

Congratulate the new freshmen ARC Reps: Emily Mao (Page), Jav Pahalak (Avery), and Allison Lai (Lloyd).

The first Student Faculty Lunch was held this past Thursday in Buddock Dining Hall. It was well-attended and we expect there will be continued interest in this program.

If you have any professors that you’d like to invite, let your ARC Rep know. The current list of ARC Reps can be found at http://donut.caltech.edu/arc/ARC_Reps

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

The new President has already expressed interest in meeting with student leaders over the coming months as he adjusts in Caltech.

Derek Finn has accepted the position for South House RLC. He’ll be starting on November 1st.

There will likely be a formal training session for new house leaders following house elections in February/March.

The annual Leadership Conference will take place during 2nd term and will focus on enabling freshmen to become more involved.

Any Student Life and Housing Committee Concerns should be shared with Connor Coley or Justin Koch.

The IHC, with help from others, is putting together a comprehensive document detailing the current house system and potential plans for its expansion (i.e. Bechtel). If you would like to help with this process, please contact cbe@ugcs.caltech.edu

Social Director (Michelle):

Little T’s have arrived and will be distributed soon to interested students.

A PDF copy can be found at http://arc.caltech.edu/files/Little%20t%202013-2014.pdf

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Director of Operations (Connie):

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Although Club Registration is going slower than expected, many problems have been resolved.

Club Funding Day has been pushed back two weeks to November 10th to allow clubs to schedule time slots.

Officers should revisit the email sent out last Thursday for more information

Treasurer (Monica):

Met with Tom and Lorrie to discuss a new reimbursement procedure. More information to come.

Social Director (Michelle):

The Hollen, the party was held this past Saturday in the SAC courtyard.

There will be an Interhouse Pumpkin Carving Contest next Saturday on the Olive Walk.

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There will be a Rathskeller event one of the upcoming weekends.

The Hollyween party was held this past Saturday in the SAC courtyard.

When asked what would be the ideal time for Problem Sets to be due, a majority of students chose a time between 4-6 pm.

The student body is being periodically polled for their view of Student-Admin relations. Over the summer, more than 30% of respondents set relations to 1/10, corresponding to “The US and Iran have better relations.”

In this past week’s survey, approximately 1/10’s were put under 30%. Freshmen have a more positive opinion.

Other results will be made available to undergraduates elsewhere. If you have a question for the student body, email me at: pres@donut.caltech.edu

Meeting Adjourned: 11:03 pm
Last week’s ASCIT Minutes*
*(Since they were not published last week)

Minutes for October 16, 2013. Taken by Catherine Jamshidi

Officers Present: Zach Rivkin, Malvika Verma, Connor Coley, Connie Hsueh, Catherine Jamshidi, Monica Enlow

Guests: Margaret Lee, Connor Rosen

Call to Order: 10:01 pm

President’s Report (Zach):
Student Experience Committee meeting, at the Board of Trustees retreat, is on 10/25.
ASCIT Survey is being sent out.
If you have an idea for a large fun event that will bring the undergraduates together, contact Connor or me. The Anonymous fund has a healthy budget and there are other funding sources available as needed.

Officer’s Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Malvika):
Increasing TQFR Response Rates Proposals
Caltech has very low response rates
Professors read the TQFRs, so fill them out to improve teaching Proposal - If you fill out your TQFRs, you can register for classes
for the next term 1 week early
Student Faculty Lunch this Thurs - record signups for it!
Use the Take-a-Prof to lunch program if you want to hang out with a prof more
The ARC is assembling a committee to discuss MOOCs.
Are they a benefit to Caltech students in terms of teaching quality?
How do we evaluate them?

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):
The IHC and a few additional students are drafting a paper to discuss the current status of the house system, the possible expansion of that system, and the implications on the support/resources that houses provide.
South House RLC offer made

Director of Operations (Connie):
Online club registration is ongoing, and the system, though buggy, has been mostly successful
Club Funding Day has been pushed back to Nov. 10. Club officers should stay tuned for more information on how to apply for annual ASCIT funding

Treasurer (Monica):
Information about the new reimbursement process will be sent out shortly.

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:51 pm

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PHOEBE ANN
LAURA SANTOSO
Contributing Writers

Hi everyone! This is the Caltech Y Column, designed to inform you about the Y and the opportunities we provide to you to inspire your passions, whether by participating in our programs or leading your own!

Founded by students in 1916, the Y was organized to provide extracurricular activities planned and implemented by students as an opportunity to gain leadership skills and discover their passions and themselves. The mission of today’s Y remains the same—to provide opportunities that will prepare students to become engaged, responsible citizens of the world. The Y seeks to broaden students’ worldviews, and raise social, ethical, and cultural awareness through teamwork, community engagement, activism, and leadership.

The Caltech Y mission and core values stand on five key pillars: leadership, civic engagement, service, adventure, and perspective. Regardless of which pillars capture your interest, feel free to attend any of the below programs, or contact us to organize your own!

Here’s a sampling of past programs held by the Y:
- Alternative Spring Breaks: Costa Rica, New York, Yosemite, San Diego, San Francisco
- Make A Difference Day: Hillsides Home for Children, LA County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (Couchart), Eaton Canyon, Lifeline for Pets
- Explore LA: Lakers game, Next to Normal musical, Norton Simon Museum trip

Most recent events was Explore LA: Cirque Du Soleil’s new show TOTEM.

Upcoming Events:
1. Rise Tutoring Program
Mon.-Thurs. | 4-6 pm | Winnett, 2nd Floor
The Caltech Y Rise Program is an after-school math and science-focused tutoring program that serves public school students between grades 8 and 12. The tutoring takes place on the Caltech campus Monday-Thursday from 4pm-6pm. For more information about the program and to apply please visit our website at: http://caltechy.org/programs/services/tutoring/

2. Ice Cream Competition
Deadline Friday, November 15th
Hello Caltech Y Outdoor enthusiasts! Do you have graphic design skills? We need your help! The Caltech Y Outdoor Adventures group is designing and printing custom T-shirts to wear when hiking, having fun outdoors, or even for daily use around campus. The T-shirts will be a blend of polyester and cotton especially designed to stay dry and comfortable while you are active, but still be soft like a regular T-shirt. We are looking for a cool design that incorporates our love for hiking and outdoor activities with our Caltech and Caltech Y affiliation. If you have graphic design experience, we encourage you to submit a design for the T-shirts. The creator of the winning design will get a free T-shirt and a $25 discount on the Caltech Y Outdoor Adventures camping trip of their choice (good for trips to Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, and other National and State Parks). Submit your design in .pdf or .ai form to Jeremy Sandler, jsandler@caltech.edu by Friday, November 15th.

If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact the Caltech Y at (626) 395-6163 or caltechy@caltech.edu. Feel free to drop by at the Caltech Y (505 S. Wilson, next to CEFCU), Mondays at noon. Lunch is provided.

Go to http://caltechy.org/lsts/ to self-subscribe to announcement lists for upcoming events and sign-up information.

For a student’s perspective, feel free to contact Phoebe Ann at phoebe.ann2@gmail.com or Laura Santoso at santoso.laura@gmail.com.

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SURF presenters awarded

2013 Perrell Speaking Competition semi-finalists
Amir Abdolrahim
Pooheravi
Da An
Karyn Bailey
Juliette Becker
Moriah Bischann
Will Burns
Oliver Chen
Erin Evans
Katherine Fisher
Mark Greenfield
James Ha
Alexander Hartz
Greg Izatt
Robert Johnson
Devashish Joshi

Lev Krazyman
Grace Leishman
Jarvis Li
Jonathan Liu
Jacqueline Mashe-Lano
Meghana Pagadala
Ketaki Panse
Misha Rafire
Angad Rekhi
Connor Rosen
Iva Reze
Kegan Ryan
Eliy Shaor
Benjamin Suslick
Charles Tschirhart
Malvika Vermak
Lekha Viswanadham
Benjamin Wang

2013 Gee Family Poster Competition finalists
Michael Dieterle
Joseph Grappone
Ritvik Mishra
Ellen Price
Esha Wang

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NEWS
October 28, 2013
CONNOR ROSEN Contributing Writer

This is fourth in an ongoing series of articles detailing Caltech’s involvement with and initial forays into online education. Previous articles introduced MOOCs, Caltech’s partnerships with MOOC providers, the anticipated benefits of MOOCs, and the potential pedagogical use of MOOCs at Caltech.

One of the most prominent features of MOOCs is their “massive” nature, attracting millions of students in an almost instant fashion. The “baggy” is best avoided unless you refer it as “baggy” jeans. It is popular in recent times as it necessarily mean “skinny” but “slim” does not right” has fortunately been fad of “if it ain’t tight it ain’t popular anymore.

The slim-straight is the most common cut of the jeans. They are designed to taper to the bottom. They are the most commonly used item in anyone’s wardrobe and the average American has five pairs.

If you have less than that then this is a great excuse to go shopping. There are a few notable categorizations of jeans: cut, wash and fit.

Types of fit: 

- Slim: This is the tightest in the category but “slim” does not necessarily mean “skinny.”
- Slim fit jeans are the most popular fit in recent times as it gives a fitted appearance to jeans.
- Relaxed: This fit is very loose throughout the entire pant without being baggy. Legs have a lot of room in the length of the jean.
- Looser: This is thin jeans that is relatively form-fitting but not as tight as slim.
- Boot cut: Jeans of this cut are designed to taper to the knee with a slight flare at the boot. They were originally only in the women’s section but have largely fallen out of popularity lately.

I recommend finding a “slim-boot” cut if this cut appeals to you. It suits almost all body types.

- Straight as the name suggests, this cut is marked by a uniform straight fit from top to bottom. It is the most flattering of all the cut-fit combinations.
- Low-rise: This is a sub-category of cuts, and is marked by the seam being lower on the torso. This is a personal preference category.
- Washes: Washes are what define the color and pattern of the jeans, and different washes can be combined to produce different effects. Types of washes:

  - Dark
  - Light
  - Grey
  - Distressed
  - Dirty
  - Black

A note on other topics:

- Designer vs Non-Designer jeans:
  - Designer jeans are desirable for the quality of the material and comfort or special fits and designs that are usually not available at lower tiers.
  - A note on these topics:

Brad/Chad Couture: Dress up to your body type

This student is modeling a slim cut pair of dark wash jeans. Try experimenting with various washes to find which suits certain outfits best.

- Stanford Schor
Those familiar with the indie scene are probably aware of Los Angeles’ own Best Coast, consisting of singer-songwriter Bethany Cosentino, and guitarist Bobb Bruno. After their formation in 2009, the band’s first full-length album, Crazy For You (2010), garnered critical acclaim as well as commercial success, thanks to strong support on the Internet. Featuring bright but decidedly lo-fi production, remarkably simple instrumental parts, and floaty vocals, the album captured the sun-baked haze of Southern California in the summer almost perfectly. True to its title, the album’s lyrics focused obsessively, unhealthily so, on how badly Cosentino wants to be with a certain person. In 2012, the band released its second album, The Only Place. They intentionally went in a noticeably different direction, with a high-quality production, far more complexity in the instrumental parts, and no clear unifying theme to the songs. The latter, combined with almost straight forward love songs, a utilization of every trick known to” (though not that many, really) could honestly be a Christmas ballad. It relies on just about every cliché there is for the type of song it’s supposed to be, for making something that just isn’t interesting or that enjoyable. The last song, “I Don’t Know How,” starts off like another one of these, but halfway through switches to an energetic and simple pattern that makes for a good way to play out the EP. Best Coast may not be the most innovative or impressive band, but they know how to write songs that are fun, atmospheric, and easy to listen to, while maintaining meaningful lyrics. While Fade Away isn’t actually a full length release, I can honestly say I like it even more than their first two albums. They brought back a lot of what made their first unique, combined it with the parts that worked from their second, and then added improvements in every area of their sound, leading to an EP with variety, and high quality in just about all of it. Fans of their indie, surf, and lo-fi rock brethren such as Waves and Surfer Blood should absolutely enjoy this release. In addition, fans of some more high energy garage rock-pop-punk acts like FIDLAR or The Hives, should appreciate the album thanks to the expansion of Best Coast’s sound on Fade Away. They’re so easy to get into, though, that rock or alternative fans owe them a listen.

Best Coast showcases improved sound on new EP

NAILEN MATSCHKE
Contributing Writer

Best Coast may not be the most interesting or impressive band, but they know how to write songs that are fun, atmospheric, and easy to listen to, while maintaining meaningful lyrics. While Fade Away isn’t actually a full length release, I can honestly say I like it even more than their first two albums. They brought back a lot of what made their first unique, combined it with the parts that worked from their second, and then added improvements in every area of their sound, leading to an EP with variety, and high quality in just about all of it. Fans of their indie, surf, and lo-fi rock brethren such as Waves and Surfer Blood should absolutely enjoy this release. In addition, fans of some more high energy garage rock-pop-punk acts like FIDLAR or The Hives, should appreciate the album thanks to the expansion of Best Coast’s sound on Fade Away. They’re so easy to get into, though, that rock or alternative fans owe them a listen.
Answers to last week’s crossword puzzle from puzzlechoice.com

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
Two Caltech fencers place first at IFCSC tournament

GoCaltech

Caltech fencing season got underway on Saturday as the Beavers hosted the Intercollegiate Fencing Conference of Southern California (IFCSC) Open Tournament at the Braun Gym.

A pair of Caltech fencers brought home first place finishes while a host of other Beavers placed in the leaders. Christine Meyer won the epee competition by topping teammate Ingrid Fielder in the final match-up. Meyer went through pool play with a near-perfect 5-1 mark and then marched through the bracket round undefeated, well en route to finishing first.

Katie Fisher had a solid afternoon in the foil event. Fisher reached the semifinals of the seven-person field before falling in a hard fought bout.

Shi En Kim also had a third place finish as the sophomore reached the semifinal bout in saber before being defeated.

Highlighting the men’s portion of the event for Caltech was Matthew Jin. The first-year won the foil competition by posting a perfect record in pool and bracket play (9-0).

Eugene Vinitsky also had a solid afternoon in foil by claiming a third place finish.

John Christian had the Beavers best finish during the epee competition by posting a fifth place finish in the 20-person field.

Harrison Miller took sixth place during the saber event, which was the best finish for the Beavers in that event.

Beavers water polo maintains winning streak against Chaffey

GoCaltech

On Saturday, October 26, the Beavers men’s water polo team played a pair of contests at the La Verne aquatics center against Chaffey College and University of La Verne.

Caltech won against Chaffey with a final score of 12-7. The Beavers got a pair of hat tricks from Chris Bradley and Patric Eck to aid in the win. Bradley scored four times while Eck tickled the net on three occasions as Caltech won their third contest of the season.

Jerome Skelly added two goals to aid in the winning cause. Skelly was just as generous on the opposite end of Caltech’s goal. The junior tied Connor Lee and Eck with two assists.

Grabowski blocked 14 shots in posting his 10 double-figure save game of the season. It is the fourth straight win for Caltech over the Panthers. The streak began in the 2011 season.

The final score against La Verne was a loss at 16-5.

Weekly Scoreboard

Men’s Water Polo vs. Chaffey (at La Verne) W, 12-7 Final

Men’s Water Polo at La Verne L, 16-5 Final

Men’s Soccer at Redlands L, 5-0 Final

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

Men’s Soccer at Claremont-M-S L, 8-0 Final

Men’s Water Polo vs. Claremont-M-S L, 16-7 Final

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

SFL Lab 326 Open House Information

Date: Tuesday November 5th, 2013

Time: 10:30am - 2:30pm

SFL Lab 326 is the Caltech Library’s NEW interactive computer classroom, available for classes, workshops, and training sessions.

With 8 dual-screen Windows workstations on moveable tables, 3 AirPlay-enabled monitors, and AppleTV, Lab326 is an intimate, immersive instruction space.

Reservations are accepted 24 hours (or more) in advance for classes and sessions. For more information or to make a reservation, visit: http://library.caltech.edu/about/group_study_room_policy.html or email us at library@caltech.edu
Acquired Taste

Dr. Z

What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

I don’t know...

A nervous wreck!

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

tech.caltech.edu