Caltech freshmen organize Hacktech event

PARUL PUBBI
Staff Writer

Hacktech, billed as the biggest hackathon on the West Coast, happened on January 24-26 at the Santa Monica Place. Over 1200 hackers came to work with technology and with each other. For 36 straight hours, students from about 50 different schools tried to come up with and finish the execution of different “hacks,” or projects, with applications for computers, iPhones, or Android devices.

The event was led by David Mace, Kshitij Grover, and Shubhankar Jain, freshmen who began to envision the event over summer and worked up until the weekend to ensure the success of the hackathon.

“We wanted to put Caltech on the stage of all the other major schools in terms of entrepreneurship,” said Mace, one of the event’s founders. “More generally, we also wanted to establish a hacker culture in California, where it wasn’t really before, and establish more positive connotations. A lot of students get caught up in doing abstract problem solving, but we wanted a platform where it would be possible to do more applied learning.”

was that AT&T told us a month before the event that they would cover all of the logistics, including things like meals and Wifi, but about three days before the event, they dropped us,” explained Mace. “Luckily for us, we were able to talk to them and they pulled through.”

One of the winning applications at the hackathon was an easy-to-use home automation application for iPhones that connected all household devices onto a single platform and many of the free sponsor giveaways, referred to as “swag,” were available for Techers to pick up on the Olive Walk.

The core group behind HackTech plans to host a 300-person hackathon further into spring, as well as a full-fledged hackathon of a similar scale this time next year. Covered by the Los Angeles Times and considered a Division I hackathon, HackTech was quite a success for an event that many were skeptical would be remotely feasible. As Jain and Mace said, “it’s important to remember that you can’t really succeed unless you’re on the brink of failure!”

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

Girl helps world literacy 1M books donated worldwide in five years by teen’s nonprofit

U.S., China for diplomacy 35th anniversary of diplomacy encourages China to soften image

Record set at Wing Bowl 363 wings eaten by Molly Schuyler, beating previous record of 337

Egypt strikes extremists 13 extremists loyal to Muslim Brotherhood killed by Egypt’s military

CA declares drought 29 local agencies cut off by state, left to find water source elsewhere

Kiev protestor attacked 35-year-old activist Dmytro Bulatov kidnapped, beaten for dissent

Mount Sinabung erupts 30k evacuated, 15 killed in Indonesia after major volcanic eruption
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
Students reflect on SanPietro Travel Prize trip

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 for you to inspire your passions, whether by participating in our programs or leading your own!

Upcoming events:
1. Yosemite Winter Camping Trip
   - Saturday through Monday | February 15th to 17th | Cost $125 per person

Sam Szuflita stops for a picture while sightseeing in the trans-Mediterranean.

PHOEBE ANN
LAURA SANTOSO
Contributing Writers

News

FEBRUARY 3, 2014

Caltech Y Column: Look out for new events

PHOEBE ANN
LAURA SANTOSO
Contributing Writers

The SanPietro Travel Prize awarded us the opportunity to travel across the world for 21 days. The chance to see six different countries was incredible, and the financial means to travel made it possible.

We decided to apply for the SanPietro Travel Prize because of the adventure it would provide. We both had been planning our trip to Morocco for months, and the prize gave us the opportunity to experience it firsthand.

Before we arrived, we were nervous about how it would go. We had never been to Morocco before, and we were worried about how the people would react to us. However, we quickly adapted to the Spanish system of siestas (mid-day naps), and we even washed off in the hostels.

We had been apart for the summer, so we spent the ride catching up a bit. Neither of us had been to Spain before, and we were excited to see the beautiful sights.

Our hostel was in the middle of the city, which we gladly added to our itinerary. During the morning of the next day, we oriented ourselves atop Horsetail Fall at sunset. Once a year for a week in mid-February, the setting sun lines up perfectly with Horsetail Fall in Yosemite Valley to turn the waterfall bright orange and pink at sunset, while the surrounding rock is dark.

We arrived at our new hostel, and we were convinced that we had not made a mistake. Even our hostel felt like a palace compared to our first one.

The bullfighting ring, and the entire long town festival centered around it was no chance that we would have missed out on. Having never heard of the city before doing a little research, we were nervous how it would measure up against the hugely popular cities we had already seen.

After incredibly cheap and delicious tapas, a walk into the waterfall gorge, and a day spent taking in the energy of the festival, we were convinced that we had not made a mistake.

Despite our initial anxiety, everything started out incredibly smoothly. Our hostel was run by a lively group of international globetrotters, and we were sitting in a taxi from the airport to our hostels.

Our hostel was in the middle of the Seville Airport, neither of us had any idea what lay ahead. It had been six months since we decided to apply for the SanPietro Travel Prize, and there we were, sitting in a taxi from the airport to our hostel.

We had been apart for the summer, so we spent the ride catching up a bit. Neither of us had been to Spain before, and we were excited to see the beautiful sights.

Our hostel was in the middle of the city, which we gladly added to our itinerary. During the morning of the next day, we oriented ourselves atop a modern waffle-like structure in the city square. We got lost, reoriented ourselves, got lost again, and eventually found our way to each of our destinations. Sam's Spanish, although initially just a bit rusty, quickly picked up, and his conversations with the locals became far more useful (and more interesting than a map). All this walking left us hungry by the end of each day, so it was a good thing that the food was delicious.

Eventually we had to pack our bags and move on to our next stop, Cordoba. We were both shocked at how easy and cheap it was to navigate the Spanish rail system. We arrived at our new hostel, checked out its own rooftop lounge, and again introduced ourselves to fellow travelers.

New to the Spanish system of siestas (mid-day naps), we sometimes struggled to find shops open in the afternoon. However, we quickly adapted to the Spanish way of life of late dinner and tinto de verano (red wine).

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

Caltech Y Column: Look out for new events

PHOEBE ANN
LAURA SANTOSO
Contributing Writers

Editor-in-Chief

Students reflect on SanPietro Travel Prize trip

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PHOEBE ANN
LAURA SANTOSO
Contributing Writers
Hey ladies and gents, welcome to week five! Ohh, we’re halfway there, ohh, we’re livin’ on a prayer. Midterms are happening pretty much now so study hard. This week I interview Melissa Wang, a junior from Fleming majoring in ACM. When she’s not crunching numbers though, she’s editing her fashion blog, “Young, Casual and Chic” (youngcasualchic.blogspot.com). I caught up with Melissa this past Sunday to get her opinions on style and fashion for you guys.

BC: So, why the strong interest in fashion?
MW: I love fashion; it feels like I always have. I grew up in the mid-west where there was not a big fashion following but I got a lot of inspiration from television, magazines and artwork. It really became to me to be a way to express myself by picking a different outfit based on my mood.

For example, black on those sad days and my favorite color, blue, for those happy days. On celebration days I like to go for pink.

BC: How did you first come up with the idea for a blog, and for the name?
MW: In short, luxe-basics (editor’s note: luxury basics). I’m not particularly LA or East Coast in my style. I really appreciate quality in fabric and make of my clothes so I have very specific brands that I buy from. Comfort is also really important to me. I like slouchy pants, and slouchy sweaters. Although comfort is important, some degree of fit is also crucial. I think loosely fitted is the way to go. I’m also a big fan of layering and some of my favorite outfits start with a undershirt to avoid pit-stains. As for girls, I think this depends on the individual so I’ll refrain from advising but a simple dress and ballet flats never go wrong.

BC: How would you describe your style?
MW: In short, luxe-basics (editor’s note: luxury basics). I’m not particularly LA or East Coast in my style. I really appreciate quality in fabric and make of my clothes so I have very specific brands that I buy from. Comfort is also really important to me. I like slouchy pants, and slouchy sweaters. Although comfort is important, some degree of fit is also crucial. I think loosely fitted is the way to go. I’m also a big fan of layering and some of my favorite outfits start with a undershirt to avoid pit-stains. As for girls, I think this depends on the individual so I’ll refrain from advising but a simple dress and ballet flats never go wrong.

BC: Do you have a signature look? What do you think is a suitable go-to outfit on a regular day for guys and for girls?
MW: My style changes a lot but right now my signature are my rag and bone booties, black skinny jeans, tank top and cocoon knit cardigan, paired with a cross body bag. For guys, a good everyday look is a pair of jeans or corduroys with desert boots and a fitted button down. For those guys that tend to sweat, I recommend an undershirt to avoid pit-stains. As for girls, I think this depends on the individual so I’ll refrain from advising but a simple dress and ballet flats never go wrong.

MW: In your opinion, what makes good style and are the rules different for girls and guys?
BC: If you could change one thing about the current attitude to clothing choices at Caltech, what would it be?
MW: I understand that it’s only too easy to roll out in sweatsuits after a night of doing sets and then running to Sloan at 4 am to turn them in but it would be nice if people also put in some effort to mix it up. So I guess what I’m saying is that I wish people would be a little more self-aware and not default to the t-shirts that get handed out at the career fair. Instead, they should figure out what clothing works well with their body and wear that so that they can feel more confident.

Hope you guys enjoyed the interviews! If you have any topics that you want covered please feel free to email me at bchatter@alumni.caltech.edu. Good luck with mid-terms!

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**Brad/Chad Couture: Interview with always stylish Melissa Wang**

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**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

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**CAREER SUMMIT**

Saturday, Feb. 22
1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Access a professional network like no other.**

Join Caltech Alumni to hear about their experiences in a broad range of careers in science, technology, entrepreneurship, and more. Connect with other Techers. Launch your career on the right trajectory.

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alumni.caltech.edu/career-summit
Cities Aviv provides unique mix of vocals, instrumentals

Memphis rapper Cities Aviv, otherwise known as Gavin Mays, is a guy who seems to do whatever he wants when it comes to music, and seems to have a blast in the process. His 2011 debut album Digital Laws was a bit of a grab bag of styles, sounds, and lyrics, with airy samples and laid-back beats reminiscent of late '90s West Coast hip-hop on top of Cities Aviv’s almost rambling but painstakingly rhythmic verses contemplating life. While this made up most of the music, tracks like “Die Young” with its aggressive, loud beat or “Float On” with its thick, hazy electronic layering hinted that there was more to his artistic scope.

Cities Aviv’s 2012 mixtape Black Pleasure made this apparent in spades, with loud, experimental, and dirty electronic instrumentals mixed just loud enough to almost overpower higher-energy verses with some pretty “out there” lyrics. It was no Death Grips, but there’s no doubt that it was pretty far removed from the typical hip-hop scene.

Come To Life, released on January 27, seems almost like an attempt to revisit this style with higher production values, and it’s clear that there’s some additional confidence that comes along with this. In the end it falls short of being included amongst experimental hip-hop’s greats, but it is nonetheless an impressive effort from a young artist who has all the room in the world to expand even further.

The album opens up with the appropriately-named “INTRO” (yes, all of the song titles are written in capital letters), which is basically a two-minute-long loop of a compressed-beyond-belief chorus that a repeated unintelligible vocal sample on top and some voices repeating the command “come to life.”

After this dies out, “FOOL” starts right up with a mysterious and shimmering synth riff that eventually gets a beat with some faux-retro instrumentation, some xylophone-like noises, and eventually a groovy bass backing when Cities Aviv’s voice comes in. These layers that then trade places and switch on and off throughout the length of the track are exemplary of one of the most impressive things about this album, which is that the instrumentals could almost stand on their own as an EDM album. Perhaps not a particularly impressive one, but it’s still clear that a lot of effort was put into the instrumentals, and they serve as less of a backing for the vocals and more of an equal.

The next track, “HEAD,” is a short one at a little over a minute and a half, notable for its bright, eclectic synths and surreal lyrics. The fourth track is “URL IRL,” the first single off the album and a non-stop experiment in just how loud and as a result I think that fans of Death Grips, with distorted and ambient instrumentation that clashes with some of the most energetic vocals on the album. “INTERLUDE” is exactly what it sounds like and serves as a throwback to “INTRO,” while “Vibrations” is another track with ‘80s style drums and synths.

We then get “SELF 180: PICTURE ME GONE” which is actually a well-done entirely instrumental track and one of my favorites on the album with its progression, constant blending of a variety of samples, and a general attention to detail that makes nothing seem out of place.

The three tracks after it, though, are a bit odd. “STILL” feels like it should be the end of the album, with a slow beat and melancholic strings, but then we get “WORLDS OF PRESSURE,” a rap ballad if there ever was one. Perhaps Cities Aviv was trying to pad the album’s length, since it still only clocks in at 40:20, but there’s yet another track, “DON’T EVER LOOK BACK,” which feels pretty pointless as a whole and has a needlessly pounding beat as compared to the laid back nature of the rest of it.

Cities Aviv’s Come To Life is, as I said before, pretty good on the whole. It has its rough spots and tracks that just feel out of place, but it also has great songs like “FOOL,” “URL IRL,” “SELF 100: KNOW WHO YOU ARE” and “SELF 180: PICTURE ME GONE.” Perhaps there’s not much meaning in Cities Aviv’s lyrics, but I can see him becoming a major name in the experimental hip-hop scene regardless because of his unwillingness to be unconventional and his decidedly distinct style.

There are few hip-hop artists whose vocals are so removed from the overall sound, putting Cities Aviv in an unusual place when it comes to finding comparable acts. At the end of the day, though, it’s his instrumentalists that make his act, and as a result I think that fans of other artists unafraid to do their own thing in this regard (with the most obvious being acts like Death Grips, Danny Brown, or Nacho Picasso) are the most likely to appreciate Come To Life.

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THE CALTECH COUNSELING CENTER IS LAUNCHING A NEW PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS:

There will now be evening drop-in hours for consultation on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7-10pm. The slots will be divided in 30 minute segments and can either be signed up for in advance, or students can come and block off the time that they want by marking an “X” on the white board next to the time that works for them. They will be held on the 2nd floor of the CSS building in the health educator’s office. Access will be through the stairwell on the south side of the building.

Contact the Counseling Center if you have any questions. (626) 395-8331

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Today’s Puzzle: Crossword

Across
1. Droop
2. Saturate
4. Faction
5. Eshort
11. Employee organization
12. Frame of a ship
13. Exhort
14. Positive attitude
15. Vocalized
16. Aggressive remark
17. Whistle
18. Paris subway system
19. Iroq and carbon alloy
20. Portable shelter
21. Worship
22. Aquatic bird
23. Cultivate by growing
24. Consideration in dealing with others
25. Hard material used as an abrasive
26. Region
27. Hard material used as an abrasive
28. Region
29. Let for money
30. Amateur radio operator
31. Apportioned to a vessel
32. Object of worship
33. Finished
34. Dreary
35. Alleviate
36. Tube
37. An interest followed with zeal
38. Worksheet
39. Precipitation
40. Weight
41. Mischievous fairy
42. Small snake
43. Matured
44. Caprine animal
45. Wander
46. Seaweed
47. Hymenopterous insect
48. Cooking vessel
49. Mush
50. Body of water

51. Show assent
52. Accent
53. Saturate
54. Consideration in dealing with others
55. Redact
56. Worship
57. Consideration in dealing with others
58. Aquatic bird
59. Cultivate by growing
60. Region
61. Let for money
62. Aquatic bird
63. Region
64. Region
65. Region
66. Region
67. Region
68. Region
69. Asterisk
70. Window glass
71. Let for money
72. Amateur radio operator

Down
1. Matching set of furniture
2. Type of tree
3. Mirth
4. Consume a little at a time
5. Speaker
6. Concur
7. Sharp
8. Total
9. Poise
10. Make reference to
11. Ripped
12. Fastener
13. Exhort
14. Employee organization
15. Vocalized
16. Aggressive remark
17. Whistle
18. Paris subway system
19. Iroq and carbon alloy
20. Portable shelter
21. Worship
22. Aquatic bird
23. Cultivate by growing
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42. Small snake
43. Matured
44. Caprine animal
45. Wander
46. Seaweed
47. Hymenopterous insect
48. Cooking vessel
49. Mush
50. Body of water

C A L T E C H E D E D A D
O P E N T O E C A P S I Z E
S A N D A L S O V U L A T E
I T S S U H I R O N E R
T I M E A N D S P A C E
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A R C A D I A T O R C H E S
S T A R I N G O U T L A W S
T H L N G O P R O V O S T

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) 395-3907

For info on Caltech Public Events visit: www.caltech.edu/content/public-events

Answers to last week’s crossword puzzle from Zach Rivkin

[www.puzzlechoice.com]
Basketball teams fight close games against Occidental

ALEX HSU
Photography Editor

Saturday evening, the Caltech men’s and women’s basketball teams squared off against Occidental with a large group of Tachers cheering in the stands. To encourage students to watch at Occidental, Tom Mannion had provided a bus service to and from the game, as well as a pizza dinner in between the men’s and women’s matches.

The audience actively involved themselves in the games, especially the Beaver section of the gym. The men’s game was first; it was a close match throughout. Caltech managed to push through and maintain both strong offense and defense. Captains Andrew Hogue and Bryan Joel held steady composure that were able to lead the team through; freshmen Buoniconti, and sophomore KC Emezie also contributed significantly to the effort. Seconds before the first half ended, the Beavers made a half court shot to bring them up to 26-25 Occidental.

They also kept a solid source of pressure on the Tigers, who fought back with equal intensity. There was never more than a 10 point difference between the two teams.

Minutes before the game’s end, the Beavers were able to bring the 56-50 score to 57-54; with only 21 seconds remaining, and the ball in their possession, the Beavers called a final timeout.

Back in the game, they passed the ball off to Luke Lango, desperate for a three that would bring them into overtime. Sadly, there was no such luck, and the game was settled at 57-54.

The girls’ game was equally well fought. Led by captains Rachel Hess, Stephanie Wong, and Grace Leishman, the girls worked together to put up a strong match. However, Occidental managed to widen the lead, resulting in a 65-45 game.

Emotions ran high that evening, with a lot of support from the fans on both sides, and as the girls gave the other team high fives, the Tachers filed out of the gym for the bus ride back to campus.

Beavers swim teams split victories in second Chapman meet

GoCaltech

For the second time this season the Caltech swimming and diving team squared off against Chapman. The previous meeting was officially competed as a non-conference meet while Saturdays contest counted in the SCIAC standings. As with the first meeting, the Caltech men brought home a victory while the women grabbed a few first place finishes but fell in the team competition.

Chris Bradley and Kevin Yu played key roles in the men’s team win. Each of them won two events and valuable team points in a meet that was tight throughout. In the 13 events, Caltech won seven of them in grabbing the close team win.

It is the fourth straight time the Beavers have posted a head-to-head win over the Panthers.

Bradley cruised to a win in the 200-yard freestyle event by recording a season best time of 1:54.58. He also notched a season best time of 51.67 to win the 100-yard freestyle race by 12 seconds over Mitchell Hallbert.

Kevin Yu recorded his first of two wins in the 200-yard IM event. Yu touched the wall in 2:06.75 which was nearly 10 seconds faster than the second place competitor.

In the 100-yard backstroke the 11 team points in the long distance freestyle races. The junior started the day by winning the 1650-yard race in 18:53, 18 seconds better than his closest competitor. In the 500-yard race Culpepper’s time of 5:23 was just five seconds slower than Austin Roberts of Chapman.

Rounding out the individual winners for the Beavers was Leon Ding. The first-year took top honors in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 58-seconds. Ding also grabbed second place during the 50-yard freestyle competition with a time of 23.49. He was one-hundredth of a second faster than the third place finisher. The day’s final event saw the 200-yard freestyle relay team win by just under four seconds in a time of 1:35.65.

During the women’s competition the Beavers took home two first place finishes. Jacqueline Masehi-Lano won both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly competitions. During the freestyle event the junior touched the wall in 26.35 to outdistance herself from her nearest opponent by 67 seconds.

Masehi-Lano won the butterfly event by over three seconds as she recorded a time of 1:00.71. While Caltech didn’t win any other event they had other solid efforts by a handful of competitors. Kalyn Chang finished second in the 100-yard freestyle event with a time of 1:01.80. Iris Liu put together a season best time in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:20.70.

Also worth noting for the women’s team was Zofii Kaczmarek’s efforts during the diving competition.

Still learning the ins-and-outs of diving in first-year with the sport, Kaczmarek brought home third place team points in both the one- and three-meter events.

Weekly Scoreboard

Women’s Basketball vs. Chapman
L, 91-58 Final

Men’s Basketball vs. La Verne
L, 59-51 Final

Women’s Basketball vs. La Verne
L, 63-45 Final

Men’s Tennis vs. Biola
L, 5-4 Final

Men’s Basketball at Occidental
L, 57-54 Final

Women’s Basketball at Occidental
L, 65-45 Final
Humor

Unoriginal Jokes

What did the grape say when it got stepped on?

I don’t know...

Nothing! But it let out a little whine.

A Sense of Humor

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

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