Gilmartin awarded Feynman Prize

CYNTHIA ELLER
Caltech Media Relations

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This year the Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching has been awarded to Professor of English Kevin Gilmartin, who has taught at Caltech for the past 24 years.

Gilmartin was nominated for this prize by students in several different disciplines, who praise his enthusiasm and accessibility, his artful handling of classroom discussion and debate, and his patient tutoring in the fine art of writing. In teaching evaluations, students describe Gilmartin as “an eloquent lecturer” and a “supportive professor whose enthusiasm is contagious.”

The Feynman Prize committee—tasked with honoring a professor “who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation” in teaching—was unanimous in its support of Gilmartin, describing him as “an example to the Institute of the possibilities for engagement, discovery, and growth through classroom teaching.”

Gilmartin’s classes are no steady trudge through lectures and essays. Rather, they are taught seminar-style with students presenting papers, classroom discussions, and field trips to the Huntington Library. Gilmartin notes that he is particularly interested in helping students understand the historical context in which works of literature are produced, a theme that dominates his scholarly work as well. For example, this semester in a course on the works of Jane Austen (English 127), students are dabbling in what Gilmartin calls “a fascinating print record” from the period, ranging from manuals of conduct for young women to instructional pamphlets on everything from dancing to gardening. “Through the wonders of digital media,” says Gilmartin, “students can see things that they would have previously found only in a rare books reading room.”

Gilmartin also has pioneered workshops with visiting poets brought to campus through workshops with visiting poets. “There’s something remarkable about teaching a course where many of the authors that we read are still alive and are writing in ways that students feel are contemporary,” says Gilmartin, “but then to have one of the writers actually present on campus has been a revelation for me and my students.”

One of the Caltech students who nominated Professor Gilmartin for the Feynman Prize declares that he “vivifies the ‘human’ in humanities.” She notes that teaching English can be an uphill battle at Caltech: “Despite a massive torrent of degradation inflicted upon the humanities by this sea of science-loving skeptics, Professor Kevin Gilmartin kindles a fire within each of his students to love English.”

Gilmartin’s impact on individual students is profound. As a Caltech alumna noted in her nomination of Gilmartin, “I came to Caltech believing that I was at best a mediocre writer and because of that, approached humanities courses with only a cursory effort. However, week after week, Professor Gilmartin would email me back with thoughtful and encouraging responses to my weekly write-ups. Gradually, I noticed myself spending more and more time on the assigned writings and speaking up more during class because, for the first time, I felt as if my opinions mattered.”

Gilmartin himself, though certainly pleased by the award, is keen to share the credit with his colleagues and with Caltech administrators who have supported humanities programs in the classroom and beyond, notably with the recent development of the Huntington Center. “I’ve closely involved in recruiting Susanne Hall as the director of the Hilton Center, and she has supported my teaching in extraordinary ways through her peer tutoring program,” he says. “One of my most rewarding recent experiences as a teacher has been to see a number of students from my freshman humanities courses go on to become peer tutors in the writing program themselves.”

Alongside his regular teaching, Gilmartin serves as faculty advisor for the student literary and visual arts magazine, Totem. Another discussion alumna credits Gilmartin for making it possible for Totem “to host a documentary and feature film director to discuss elements of cinema, and a JPL scientist who uses the art form of origami to do mathematical modeling.”

Gilmartin recalls that when he was first asked to be the magazine’s faculty advisor in 2002, “I didn’t know what a faculty advisor was expected to do.” He learned on the job, and notes that he has been glad to help student editors with funding issues and to act as the magazine’s “institutional memory” as senior editors and writers graduate and new editors and writers come in.

These and other Caltech students “make teaching easy,” Gilmartin says. “Our students are extraordinarily bright, interested, and energetic. We have to find ways to meet them halfway and that’s been a positive learning process for me as well. When classroom circumstances are right, their willingness to be engaged, their enthusiasm, their interest in literature and in challenging themselves is in no way restricted to the sciences.”

The Feynman Prize has been endowed through the generosity of Ione and Robert E. Paradise and an anonymous local couple. Some of the most recent winners of the Feynman Prize include Steven Frautschki, professor of theoretical physics, emeritus; Paul Asimow, professor of geology and geochemistry; and Morgan Kousser, the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of History and Social Science.

Nominations for next year’s Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching will be solicited in the fall. Further information about the prize can be found on the Provost’s Office website.
The Caltech Y Column serves to inform students of upcoming events and opportunities at Caltech. The list is compiled by Neera Shah from information given by the Caltech Y and its student leaders.

Founded by students in 1916, the Y was organized to provide extracurricular activities planned and implemented by students as an opportunity to learn leadership skills and discover themselves. The Y seeks to broaden students' worldviews, raise social, ethical, and cultural awareness through teamwork, community engagement, activism, and diversity. If you are interested in the Caltech Y and its programs can be found at https://caltechy.org. The office is located at 505 S. Wilson Avenue.

Upcoming Events

1. World Fest
   - Monday, April 20th - Friday, April 24th, 2015
   - www.international.caltech.edu/events can be found at https://www.international.caltech.edu/events

   - April 20, 2015
     - aPril 20, 2015
     - mheydorff@huntington.org for more info and to volunteer.
   - June 6th, 8:00 - 10:00 AM
     - Washington Elementary School Science Fair
     - Grades 4-5
     - Science Olympiad Tournament
     - Grades 2-8

2. Iron Mountain Hike
   - Sunday | April 26th | 7:00 AM
   - Join the Caltech Y Outdoors group for a hike to the summit of Iron Mountain. Iron Mountain is one of the most isolated peaks in the San Gabriels. The trail to the summit is the most strenuous single peak trail in the entire mountain range, but the rewarding view and accomplishment of reaching the summit is worth the effort. The hike is 14 miles round trip with a whopping 7200 feet of elevation gain. Students are highly valued here and are expected to hike all day. If you are interested in the hike, sign up at the link below. If you have any questions, email Jeremy Sandler at jsandler@caltech.edu.

   - May 6th, Wednesday, 8:00 - 10:00 AM
     - Pasadena High School Science Fair
     - Grades 4-5
     - Blair Middle and High School campuses
     - May 22nd, 9 am - noon
     - Judging for cardboard boat race
     - Grade 8

3. Pasadena LEARNS
   - Friday | 3:00 - 5:00 PM
   - Madison and Jackson Elementary Schools

   - Come volunteer at Madison and Jackson Elementary School! We are partnered with the Pasadena LEARNS program to work with their Science Olympiad team or do regular tutoring along with other volunteer opportunities. Students are encouraged to work on science experiments. Transportation is provided. For more information and to RSVP, contact vikkumar@caltech.edu or Eligible for Federal Work Study.

4. Arthur Rotstein, 3rd
   - Monday | 5:30-8:00 PM
   - Highland Park
   - Volunteer at Hathaway-Sycamores group that supports low-income and disadvantaged high school students. There are a variety of programs and subjects being tutored. The service trip includes about an hour of travel time and 1.5 hours of tutoring. Transportation is provided and more info and to RSVP email Sherri Richers at srichers@tapir.caltech.edu.
   - Eligible for Federal Work Study.

5. Other Announcements - Beyond the Caltech Y
   - Science Fair Judges Needed
   - Multiple Dates in May
   - Pasadena
   - Judges are needed for multiple Science Fairs and other events during the month of May. Please email Karen Jain at janin.karen@pasusd.us for more info or to volunteer for any of the events listed below.
     - Wednesday, May 6th, 8:00 - 10:00 AM
     - Washington Elementary School Science Fair
     - Grades 4-5

6. Huntington Library Plant Sale Volunteers Needed
   - Friday - Sunday | April 24th - 26th
   - Shifts from 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
   - Huntington Library Plant Sale Volunteers Needed
   - mynameisJayPalekar.org

   - Thank you for volunteering!

7. Caltech Y Column
   - April 20, 2015
   - Jay Palekar, My name is Jay Palekar and I am the Caltech Y Chair. Over the past two years I’ve had the pleasure of serving on both the ARC and the BoC, and in that time I’ve come to appreciate the value of the ARC as the one organization that actively makes student’s academic lives better. It fights for the Honor Code, handles course concerns, as your ARC Chair, I will be in a position to help you further, to assure you that your voice is heard, and your academic experience will be among the best of your time at Caltech. With your support, I will have the opportunity to support you, in turn, even more.

8. ANNE CHEN
   - Thank you for reading, and I hope that you will all give me the opportunity to, once again, serve as your Social Director.
Over the past year as a vice president, I have provided the voice of students to faculty and administrators. I am running for ASCIT president this year in order to take on that voice. As ASCIT president, I will focus on making sure that the student opinion is appropriately represented on important issues like the honor code.

Of all the candidates for ASCIT president, I have the most student government experience. Since my freshman year, I have been involved with the ARC, the academic wing of ASCIT. Last year, I became the ASCIT Vice President of Academic Affairs, and with that, the chair of the ARC. Along with these leadership responsibilities, I have been a student representative on many different committees, including the Student Academic Policies Committee, the Faculty Board, and the Council on Undergraduate Education. These experiences have helped me to better understand the opinions of the student body as a whole and allowed me to build connections with Student Affairs, the Provost’s office, and the faculty.

During the past two years, I have worked closely with student and university leadership to improve student life. As the chair of the ARC, I have spent a lot of time this past year working with the Vice Provost on various issues that impact your academic life, including the TQR system, problem set due times, and lectures. As the ARC advisor, I look forward to bringing my experience with students and faculty to the ASCIT presidency. Please contact me at nima@caltech.edu if you have any questions.

BIANCA LEPE

The most common question I have been asked recently is: What do you enjoy about Caltech? As a first-year student at Caltech, I realized that the most enjoyable parts of my experience are the opportunities to meet new people, explore new parts of campus, and contribute to the Caltech community. In addition, Caltech's strong research programs and the academic rigor are excellent opportunities to improve my academic skills.

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CONRAD ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

As recently as a decade ago, undergraduates living in Danby House had considerable freedom to make their living arrangement feel like home. They painted hallway murals without a lengthy and bureaucratic approval process. They organized events without a similarly drawn out process. In short, the Houses were homes.

The most recent chapter in this story comes with a simple request: to replace the Danby House courtyard bricks with a mosaic depicting the House’s former President, Raj (Surya) Mirpuri. Student responses to the idea were overwhelmingly enthusiastic. “Can we do this? Like actually, can we do this?” said graduating senior Adam Jermyn. Housing’s response was a unilateral and non-negotiable refusal.

The domain of a house which the residents have control over doesn’t even extend to the lounge furnishings. After the courtyard brick debacle, Danby House attempted to replace the old elevated rainbow rug style after Raj. This too was shut down, all due to a hearsay story about the carpet being a valuable gift from an alumnus.

Along similar lines, Danby House wanted to run an event involving Raj painting the tails of his ancestral home of India on the walls of the alley affectionately known as “Treehouse.” This, too, was denied on the grounds reasonable objections to the proposed ceremonial use of non-paint materials in this event, the unwillingness of Housing to even consider the possibility the first time it was brought up shows precisely how unwilling the department is at making valid assumptions about the students’ backgrounds?

The spirit of Dabney House is an accepting and welcoming one. The House has many alum, and welcome those around us through the banner above us: “Welcome to Dabney.”

The spirit of Danby House is a different one. Housing has a clear list of what one can and cannot do under its control, and anything outside of the list is considered an “empty desk.”

The question is: is an empty desk a sign? Are students’ contributions from our bright students. And is not the idea of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?” Are students’ contributions from our bright students. And is not the idea of their schedules to take and recommend.

Ronald Stuckey is a computer scientist. Undergraduates, graduates, and faculty members to 40%. Outside Harvey Mudd, Dr. Klawe emphasized making computer science a more female-friendly major at Harvey Mudd.

After the lunch seminar, Dr. Klawe joined a small but diverse group of 15 Caltech women to have a further chat over tea at the Athenaeon. During the conversation, she mentioned her experience as a female mathematician and computer scientist. Undergraduates, graduates and post-docs in different academic disciplines attending a talk inspired by her talk and her personal charisma.
Men’s tennis closes season with some style points

Joshi and sophomore Morgan Lebby (Laguna Beach, Calif. / Laguna Beach) battled to take five games at #2 against last year’s No. 21-ranked doubles pairing in the nation in Skyler Butts and Daniel Morokovine. Sophomores Rushikesh Pathireddy (Irvine, Calif. / Whitney) and Sathwick Pathireddy (Irvine, Calif. / Whitney) also won two games at the top slot against this year’s West region #1 pairing of Joe Dorn and Warren Wood, while the Stags took #3 8-0.

Joshi hung right with his foe at #2 singles through the entire match, narrowly falling 6-4, 6-3. Junior Ishan Mehta (Fort Gratiot, Mich. / Port Huron Northern) won a game in both sets at #5 while Sathwick Pathireddy and Lebby took a game apiece, with Pathireddy facing last year’s No. 6-ranked player in the nation in Glenn Hull.

Sophomore Morgan Lebby (Laguna Beach, Calif. / Laguna Beach) fought his way to an extended superbreaker defeat as the Caltech men’s tennis team took on No. 31 Cal Lutheran University in the Beavers’ regular season finale on Saturday. The Beavers finish conference play 0-7 (5-11 overall) and will be the #8 seed in the SCIAC Championships, hosted by Caltech, while CLU has earned the #4 seed at 4-3 (9-11).

Joshi and Pathireddy won three and the Joshi/Lebby pairing managed two. The singles matches were extremely tight at the top, with Joshi again falling by a slim margin at 6-2, 6-4 in the top spot while Ruthwick Pathireddy dug deep in a pair of tiebreakers at #2, eventually falling in a heartbreaker, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3). Lebby and Henny also impressed at #4 and #5 singles, winning four and three games, respectively.

Some stunning images of Sasha “Sasa Fierce” Zemsky

Sasha Zemsky said this about her photo on the website: “I really like this picture of myself. I look so confused. Perplexed.”

Do you like sports? Are you witty? Do you believe in the Illuminati??? Then YOU should become the sports page contributor! Email tech@caltech.edu for more details. Do it for America; your country needs you.
ASCIT Minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes for 14 April 2015. Taken by Sean McKenna.

Officers Present: Connor Rosen, Catherine Jamshidi, Connie Hsueh, Patrick Nikong, Annie Chen, Sean McKenna

Guests: Anne Dorsey, Chris Dosen, Katherine Guo, Bianca Lepe, Elliott Simon

Call to Order: 12:01 pm

President’s Report (Connor):

- Faculty is looking into the 12-term tuition policy as a result of the faculty board meeting. The BOD will consider other ideas to prevent people from burning themselves out due to financial stress to graduate early.
- Discussions in the future about how Caltech evaluates student learning outcomes by the time they graduate.
- BOD election nomination is happening this week. Election day is 20 April.
- BOC By-laws changes are still in the works.

Officer’s Reports:

- V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Nima):
  - Guides to the new academic eligibility rules are being written for students, advisors and RAs.
  - Course capturing for this term is being done on Law 33 and Ph12c. Videos are accessible at classes.caltech.edu.
  - The ASCIT teaching awards nomination form has been sent out. Nominate people! The ASCIT teaching awards ceremony will be held in the beginning of June.
- V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Cat):
  - Conversation about rotation scheduling: should we have more scheduled meals earlier, and then allow more free meals later?
  - Signups were posted for committee chairs.
- Director of Operations (Connie):
  - Library is working on “maker space” independently.
  - Looking into improving teleconferencing resources at the library or career center for interviews.
- Treasurer (Patrick):
  - Filling out forms. Getting ready for turnover.
- Social Director (Annie):
  - Getting Trivia Night to start this week
- Secretary (Sean):
  - Making new plaques for the new BOD

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. The next meeting will take place on April 21st at Noon in the Winnett Common Space.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:16 pm

REMINDER FROM THE COUNSELING CENTER:
Meditation Mob
(drop-in mindfulness meditation group)
Meets every Tuesday
Bottom floor of Winnett
12:00-12:50 pm

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The advertising deadline is 5 PM Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera-ready art, but The Tech can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at tech@caltech.edu. For subscription information, please send mail to “Subscriptions.”
Hi, I'm Kalyn! :) I am extremely responsible, organized, friendly, and approachable. If elected, my goals as ASCIT Treasurer will be to create and managing the ASCIT budget fairly and effectively, reimbursing clubs and student houses in as fast a time as possible, and being an active voice on the ASCIT Board of Directors.

I was the Page House Treasurer last year, and I was also my high school's junior class treasurer. My budgeting experience includes a wide range of activities, from managing the Page House budget to managing the budget for my high school's prom at the Aquarium of the Pacific. The ASCIT budget goes toward funding events and clubs on campus. I want to make Caltech more fun and give students more opportunities to pursue their interests by keeping student input in mind while making funding decisions.

Additionally, when I was Page’s treasurer, I would almost always reimburse people in less than a day. I have never lost anyone’s receipt before. I organize receipts by date and in alphabetical order by last name of the person to receive reimbursement so that I can always find the appropriate receipt if I need to. I understand how frustrating it can be to have to wait a long time to be reimbursed, and I will work hard to get reimbursements back to clubs, houses, etc. in a timely fashion.

Finally, I want to make students’ opinions heard! I’m pretty outgoing and enjoy talking to people. Furthermore, I've been there. I will work to identify what appears to be over-priced or under-priced, and I will work to improve things fairly and effectively, with better educated undergraduates and alumni relations, among other things. I hope to work with the other members of the BoD on projects related to these topics; possibly working with the diversity or counseling center, or working to connect younger alumni to students searching for jobs. Furthermore, I will be receptive to and actively seek out student concerns so that I can either address them myself or relay them to the appropriate people.

One more reason why I tend to stay up late is I spend a lot of time thinking. Sometimes about simple issues like gossip or sports, but often about the more complex issues at this school. My goals as ASCIT President, to increase student participation in events, to improve off-campus life, to unify the student body are things that I’ve considered and truly care about improving. The common goal behind these and everything I do is to facilitate better educated undergraduates and alumni relations, among other things. I hope to work with the other members of the BoD on projects related to these topics; possibly working with the diversity or counseling center, or working to connect younger alumni to students searching for jobs. Furthermore, I will be receptive to and actively seek out student concerns so that I can either address them myself or relay them to the appropriate people.

Finally, I feel I have the experience to do the job of ASCIT Treasurer well. I have been on Reddit EuComm for two years, which helped me to develop strong organizational skills, to build positive relationships with administrators, and to seek out the concerns of different social groups. Furthermore, I have been on the Dean’s Advisory Committee this year as the only sophomore, which has taught me a great deal about relating student concerns to administrators and about current issues on campus.

Thanks for reading! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at mriehl@caltech.edu.

I have a nice day!
Acquired Taste

Dr. Z

Once again on finding inspiration:

If you really can't think of anything, just make fun of Chandler or the c-store

Let me just reach into my wallet here...

Oh no, I have no change

Here we go...

Wait, I think I have coins too...

Oh man! I'm so excited for this party! We have drinks, snacks, and Georgio bringing fish...

Sorry, what is that?

The Munroys, you asked for

Damn Georgio! That's not what I said!

Oh, oops. I guess that makes more sense...

“Will still accept carrier pidgeons”

Georgio Kraggman

Why I Don’t Respond to Emails

An Infographic

Emojis made with Emoji-Up

Why I Won’t Respond to Emails

Daily Traffic

When I am in class

Weekly Traffic

When I like to send emails

When other people like to send emails

Emojis made with Emoji-Up

The one thing relevant to you

Things you don’t care about

Eh, I’ll just read it and respond later.

Ask Dr. Dirge

guaranteed to be correct

2/3 of the time

Where is the best place to get a sombrero?

Directions from 1200 E California Blvd to Tijuana, Baja California:

1200 E California Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91125:

Get on I-210 E
1.7 mi / 5 min
Continue on I-210 E. Take CA-57 S, I-5 S and I-805 S to Canon Zacatecas in Centro, Tijuana, México
151 mi / 2 h 31 min

Disclaimer: This column does not endorse going to Tijuana.

How do you function on no sleep?

Go to bed frosh, Ditch Day is tomorrow!

Can I survive solely on caffeine and anger?

No, you also need food, water, oxygen, etc.

Why are prefrosh so happy?

Because they’re like real people but without any of the responsibilities.

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125