Distinguished Alumni Awards among Alumni Reunion Weekend events

NEERA SHAH
Page Editor

On May 21, the Caltech Alumni Association held the 79th Seminar Day during the annual Alumni Reunion Weekend. Among the visitors were graduates from as early as 1941 and as far as Japan, Taiwan and Australia. This year marked the 50th year for the Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Thomas F. Rosenbaum, president and the Sonja and William Davidow Presidential Chair and professor of physics, presented the six awards. The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor that Caltech bestows upon its graduates.

Eric Betzig (B.S. ‘83, physics) was recognized for his contribution to all of Caltech’s alumni as he said, “The institute’s most profound impact on the world is through its alumni, and across all sectors.”

Betzig also shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2014 for this work. He is currently group leader at Janelia Research Campus at Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Rosenbaum referenced a common quote of Betzig’s before handing over the award: “The struggle is its own reward.” Upon receiving the award, Betzig also acknowledged this sentiment. He said that his experience at Caltech was indeed a struggle, but also said, “I look back fondly on it,” exactly because that struggle is a reward in itself. He noted how Caltech prepared him for his career and affected him overall. “I fell in love with the idea of getting a clean experiment and clean data. There is no better satisfaction than that … Much of my success and my happiness in life — which is more important — can be attributed to Caltech.”

Janet C. Campagna (M.S. ’85, social science) was honored for her “complex and intensely mathematical solutions,” said Rosenbaum, and her contributions to the finance industry. She is now CEO of QS Investors, LLC. She founded this company and has a majority of female employees, an uncommon feat in the finance world.

Neil Gehrels (Ph.D. ’82, physics) was given the award for his leadership in the study of gamma rays and contributions to astrophysics and astronomy research. His academic career followed a slightly different path than that of most Techers: he began his collegiate studies as a music major, studying to become a music composer, at the University of Arizona. It wasn’t until his junior year when he used his musical skills in a physics lab that he realized he wanted to pursue physics. After graduating with a double major in music and physics, he came to Caltech for his Ph.D. Yet another twist is that he met his wife Ellen and got married while he was at Caltech, and his wife is also among the awardees this year. Gehrels presently works as chief of the Astroparticle Physics Laboratory at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center.

Carl V. Larson (B.S. ’52, social science) was named one of the “Distinguished Alumni for his imaginative leadership and public service,” said Rosenbaum. Being a chemical engineer and business leader at Janelia Research Campus at Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Larson was recognized for his accomplishments in the electronics industry and his commitment to the research, students and alumni of Caltech. He originally thought about being a chemical engineer and going into industry to make money, but changed his mind after being at Caltech. He said, “Caltech did not teach me how to do anything in particular, but it gave me a good background in so many fields [so] that I was able to go on into different fields with just a little training — training which was easier than Caltech.”

Gehrels said that his experience at Caltech was indeed a struggle, “I fell in love with the idea of getting a clean experiment and clean data. There is no better satisfaction than that … Much of my success and my happiness in life — which is more important — can be attributed to Caltech.”

Williams expressed her love of the sunlight in southern California and recalled her sun-filled experience during her graduate studies here. She said that she not only appreciated the physical sunlight but also the “sunshine of this intellectual environment” at Caltech that has kept her committed to innovation, an apt concluding remark to both her acceptance speech and the awards ceremony.

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Music faculty Bill and Dolores Bing honored before their retirement at showcase

The Showcase featured various music groups, including the Glee Club, Jazz Band, Concert Band and the Orchestra, as well as artworks by many of Caltech’s hidden artists. The showcase was also a special celebration honoring Bill and Dolores Bing, Caltech music faculty who recently announced their retirement after 75 years at Caltech.

Photos Courtesy of Hye Joon Lee

Caltechlive!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016 • 8 PM

EARNEST C. WATSON LECTURE SERIES

DNA ORIGAMI: FOLDED DNA AS A BUILDING MATERIAL FOR MOLECULAR DEVICES

Rothemund will describe how people have been using “kitchen chemistry,” and signed via computer, synthesized complex DNA structures are de-signed for DNA: as a building material for DNA ORIGAMI: FOLDED DNA AS A BUILDING MATERIAL FOR MOLECULAR DEVICES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016 • 8 PM

MATERIAL FOR MOLECULAR DEVICES

DNA ORIGAMI: FOLDED DNA AS A BUILDING MATERIAL FOR MOLECULAR DEVICES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016 • 8 PM

MATERIAL FOR MOLECULAR DEVICES

Paul Rothermund, Research Professor of Bioengineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences, and Computation and Neural Systems

Humans have invented a new use for DNA: as a building material for molecular devices. In this talk, Rothermund will describe how complex DNA structures are designed via computer, synthesized using "kitchen chemistry," and studied with atomic force microscopes.

Free Admission
Caltech’s Beckman Auditorium
www.events.caltech.edu

Call campus x 4652 for information
A Moon Shaped Pool shows new side of Radiohead

CRYSTAL LIANG Contributing Writer

Earlier this month, the renowned English rock band Radiohead released its ninth album, A Moon Shaped Pool. Known for dramatic shifts in sound and style from album to album, the band has abandoned the tribal, electronic-heavy sound of its last album, The King of Limbs, in favor of a more sprightly energy of the song call (‘One day at a time’) memorable and inspiring and the arrangement contrasted with the m ore fragmented, m oody songs on the album. The g o rgeous “Glass Eyes,” which marks a midpoint, movingly describes the experience of alienation through ambient means as opposed to the more straightforward conventions of rock. A soft, sparse piano meanders through shifting soundscapes, made otherworldly through glitchy effects and audio warping, while Yorke describes arriving at a train station and being surrounded by ‘concrete gray’ faces. The strings, initially mournful, transform to convey wonder when Yorke begins to sing about escaping into nature. There is such a stark beauty to the string arrangement that Yorke’s voice almost suffices it. That is perhaps just a consequence of the band’s collective skill at crafting music at this point, which is especially evident on songs that have been played live first: the relatively simple “Identikit” has been reworked into a truly nightmarish, atmospheric piece with sickened moans and crashing industrial noises; the fan-favorite “True Love Waits,” which dates back to 1995, has transformed from a touching but otherwise unremarkable acoustic guitar song to a subdued, h aunting impression of the ruins of a relationship. W hile it lacks the groundbreaking energy of Radiohead’s most well-known releases, A Moon Shaped Pool possesses a singularly eerie and spectral beauty, and it clearly bears the mark of mastery.

“When it comes to mind are the film noir jazz band in “Life in a Glasshouse,” the brass cacophony in “The National Anthem” and the dramatic orchestra in “Spectre,” the band’s rejected submission for the newest Bond theme song, which was leaked to the public around Christmas last year. Brooding and cinematic, “Spectre” seems to have foreshadowed the band’s latest evolution in style. A Moon Shaped Pool features orchestral arrangements by Jenner French, the band’s lead guitarist who has a solo career as a film soundtrack composer (There Will Be Blood, Bodysong). Jenner French once said, “The Witch,” makes the heaviest use of strings on the album. The topography of the song creates a feeling of paranoia and instability: at the highest level the strings saw to an inexorable rhythm, Thom Yorke’s ghostly voice voice come like a breath, warning of witch hunts, and at the bottom of it all buzzes an electronic bass with no promise of catching you if you fall. The foreboding and violence juxtaposed with the sprightly energy of the song call up the witch hunts, and at the
catastrophic effect to be on one's life, to make our own lives harder for the sake of science, athletics, student government, personal projects, House life, etc. It's amazing how much we can accomplish in such a short amount of time, whether it's doing yourself a favor and going to bed an hour earlier, term to term, or in all of our lives here. However, and I know I'm a hypocrite for saying this: We really need to get more sleep. Just typing in “effects of sleep deprivation” into Google, you can find page after page that tells us all the same thing. Sleep deprivation affects our entire bodies. There's the obvious impairment of cognitive functioning (often compared to being constantly intoxicated). There are other fun physical effects like increased risk of obesity, high blood pressure and even stroke. At this point, I expect most of you healthy teens and twenty-somethings to be feeling that point off, just like I would on most other days. These are things that will come back to bite. Personally, I find the most catastrophic effect to be on one’s mental and emotional well-being. Consider those late nights we all pulled for midterm a couple weeks ago. Think about it if you were worth all that stress, just for another hour and a half with your notes. If you had made the choice to sleep before taking your exam, maybe it would have caused you less anxiety? Maybe even helped your grade?

Every time I meet with an administrator or staff or faculty member, the number one piece of unsolicited advice I receive is to get more sleep. So please consider doing yourself a favor and going from six hours a night to eight. Even from three hours to four is a step in the right direction. And remember, taking care of yourself is everyone’s top priority.
Students recognized for excellence in academics, leadership

DEANS’ OFFICE

The Housner, Froehlich, Haagen-Smit, Zeigler and Green Awards were presented during a luncheon at the Athenaearum on May 5 hosted by Interim Dean Barbara Green.

Nicholas Schiele, a senior majoring in physics, will receive this year’s George W. Housner Prize for Academic Excellence and Original Research at commencement. This award is given to a senior or seniors in the upper 20 percent of their class for an outstanding piece of original scientific research.

The Jack E. Froehlich Memorial Award is for outstanding juniors in the top 5 percent of the class who show outstanding promise for a creative professional career. Soon Wei Daniel Lim, junior in physics, is this year’s recipient.

Kristie Bo Chi Yu, a junior in biology, and Suchita Nety, a junior in chemistry, are the recipients of the 2016 Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award, which is given to a chemist or biologist who has shown academic promise and has made recognized contributions to Caltech.

Celia Zhang, a sophomore in applied and computational mathematics, and Yujie Xu, a junior in mathematics, were chosen as the joint winners of the 2016 Frederick J. Zeigler Memorial Award. This award recognizes students who are studying pure or applied mathematics in their sophomore or junior year and who have shown excellence in scholarship as demonstrated in class activities or in preparation of an original paper or essay in any subject area. Kurtis Carchs, a senior in chemistry, received the 2016 Green Prize.

Catherine Jamshidi will receive the 2016 Hinrichs Memorial Awards. This award is given in memory of Frederic W. Hinrichs, Jr., who served for more than 20 years as dean and professor at the Institute. The award bearing his name is made annually to the senior who throughout his or her undergraduate years have made the greatest contributions to the student body and whose qualities of character, leadership and responsibility have been outstanding.

Bianca Lepe is the recipient of the 2016 Mabel Beckman Prize. This award is given in memory of Mrs. Beckman’s many years of commitment to Caltech’s educational and research programs. This award is for academic excellence and outstanding leadership skills, a commitment to personal excellence, good character and a strong interest in the Caltech community.

The Dean of Undergraduate Students hosted a lunch at the Athenaearum on May 12 to honor and recognize this year’s winners of the leadership awards. Catherine Jamshidi will receive the 2016 Hinrichs Memorial Awards. This award is given in memory of Frederic W. Hinrichs, Jr., who served for more than 20 years as dean and professor at the Institute. The award bearing his name is made annually to the senior who throughout his or her undergraduate years have made the greatest contributions to the student body and whose qualities of character, leadership and responsibility have been outstanding.

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This award is given annually to an undergraduate who has actively supported and willingly worked for organizations that enrich student life and the campus or community as a whole and who has exhibited care and concern for the welfare of students on a personal basis.

The Deans’ Cup and Campus Life and Master’s Award are presented to undergraduates whose concern for their fellow students has been demonstrated by persistent efforts to improve the quality of undergraduate life and by effective communication with members of the faculty and administration.

Margaret Lee and Anthony Zhang received the 2016 Deans’ Cup. Annie Chen, Galen Gao and Stephanie Wong were awarded the Campus Life and Master’s Award.

Nicholas Zolman was selected as the recipient of this year’s Mari Peterson Ligocki ’81 Memorial Award. This award is made to one student who, through his or her personal character, has improved the quality of student life at Caltech. It recognizes the student who provides quiet support and kind encouragement to peers. This fund was established by Mr. José F. Helú Jr. (‘79) to honor the memory possessed these qualities.

Peter Hung was the recipient of this year’s Lucy Guernsey Service Award. The Lucy Guernsey Service Award was established by the Caltech Y DeComm in honor of Lucy Guernsey, the Y’s Executive Director from 1989 to 1991. The award is given annually to one or two students who have provided exceptional service to the Y and/or the community and exemplify a spirit of service.
Gocaltech.com Awards 2015-16

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Alumni inducted into 2016 Athletics Hall of Honor

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Managers: James Higgins, Milton Kimmel

The 1953-54 men’s basketball team won the only outright conference title in program history, claiming the SCIAC crown with a 6-2 record – a high-water mark for wins that stood until the 2015-16 team’s record seven. Having previously tied for the four-team conference title with Occidental and Whitman, Coach Carl Lindfors and his team outscored Caltech in their first meeting 89-80 to advance to the SCIAC final for the first time in program history. 

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ASCIT Minutes

Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Meeting 5.19.16

Officers: Serena Delgadillo, Saktthi Vetrivel, Robin Brown, Tim Liu, Bobby Sanchez
Others: Vaishnavi Shrivastava, Ethan Pronovost
Start: 12:08pm

I. President Updates: Serena
   a. Midnight Donuts last night went well.
   b. People seem to want bagels as well.
   c. Gilmartin is the new dean for next year.

II. ARC Chair updates: Tim
   a. Committee appointments on Sunday
   b. Student Faculty lunch on Monday

III. IHC Chair updates: Bobby
   a. Meeting with Joe next Tuesday about Rotation activities/videos/dinners.
   b. IHC wants t-shirts

IV. Director of Ops Updates: Sakthi
   a. Signups for ASCIT appointed positions are up.
   b. No budget for yearbook, so hard copy for seniors only and electronic copies for everyone else.

V. Social Director Updates: Robin
   a. Possible Dodgers events.
   b. Maybe food during finals weeks.

End: 12:47pm
Hello, Class of 2017! Ditch Day is Tomorrow, and there is still a lot of work left to be done! Between organizing Ditch Day, planning the senior trip, and choosing a senior gift, the memories that we will form at Caltech are far from complete. We would be honored to serve as your Senior Class Co-President in order to make senior year as memorable as possible. Our ultimate goal is that you look back on your senior year fondly as a time when you participated in many of Caltech’s best traditions. If we successfully accomplish that, we will inspire future classes to invest the same time and energy into these projects in order to maintain these traditions.

During our first three years, we, Sean McKenna and Michelle Wong, have gained valuable tools through our experiences that will help us successfully execute the responsibilities associated with this job. The most important skill for this job is to solicit and integrate the opinions of all seniors. Doing so will ensure that the vision that we have for the 2017 iteration of Caltech’s senior traditions is realized. Both of us have learned to be in tune with the sentiments of those around us through our training as UCCs, and Michelle will still effectively work with them to fundraise for the senior gift.

Beyond our experience, we also have a vision of success that we’d like to put into action. We understand that the Caltech traditions at a standard that will inspire the underclassmen to pursue them as vigorously as ourselves. For Ditch Day, we hope to support the fantastic creativity displayed every year by seniors as much as possible. This support will come through planning Tomorrow itself, and we’ll get campus pumped for Tomorrow by planning campus-wide fakes that will have students glad that they were woken up early. For our senior trip, we will incorporate the ideas and wishes of fellow seniors in order to provide a memorable experience. Additionally, we recognize that our senior gift is our first chance as alumni of Caltech to give back to the school, so it’s important to make the fundraising campaign a positive experience. We hope that the senior gift campaign can be exciting relative to its current near-ground state. For both the trip and gift, we understand that the best ideas for new approaches will come from the senior class itself, and we are comfortable reaching out to everyone to make sure that all voices are brought into the decision-making process.

Senior year only happens once. It’s our turn to make a lasting impression for ourselves and our school. Like everything at Caltech, pulling it off will require a lot of work. We are the candidates qualified to do the work and dedicated to making it happen. We look forward to sharing the senior year experience with all of you, and we hope you will trust us to handle some of its most important details.

Senior class co-president candidacy statements

SEAN MCKENNA, MICHELLE WONG

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Beyond our experience, we also have a vision of success that we’d like to put into action. We understand that the Caltech traditions at a standard that will inspire the underclassmen to pursue them as vigorously as ourselves. For Ditch Day, we hope to support the fantastic creativity displayed every year by seniors as much as possible. This support will come through planning Tomorrow itself, and we’ll get campus pumped for Tomorrow by planning campus-wide fakes that will have students glad that they were woken up early. For our senior trip, we will incorporate the ideas and wishes of fellow seniors in order to provide a memorable experience. Additionally, we recognize that our senior gift is our first chance as alumni of Caltech to give back to the school, so it’s important to make the fundraising campaign a positive experience. We hope that the senior gift campaign can be exciting relative to its current near-ground state. For both the trip and gift, we understand that the best ideas for new approaches will come from the senior class itself, and we are comfortable reaching out to everyone to make sure that all voices are brought into the decision-making process.

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CHRIS Dosen, Cole Allen

Hello. Class of 2017, we are Chris Dosen and Cole Allen, and we are running to be your Senior Class Co-Presidents. We want to help everybody have the best experience possible as we go through this final year together.

We have one main goal for Ditch Day 2017: we want to ensure that it can be built with minimal hassle for our fellow seniors. As a means to accomplish this, we will work to ensure that Ditch Day and all campus fakes are planned well in advance. We will also happily assist individual seniors and Houses in planning Ditch Day activities. In order to make planning more convenient, we will create an easily accessible guide for seniors to reserve rooms for Ditch Day, as well as keep an updated list of what rooms are available. Finally, we will endeavor to reduce the monetary burden of Ditch Day on all seniors. Seniors traditionally get funding for Ditch Day from the Houses and the Caltech Fund’s Penny Press. However, this is often only a fraction of the costs. As your Class Co-Presidents, we will actively search for additional funding from organizations such as ASCTF and the Alumni Association.

For Senior Trip and Senior Gift, we will request information from all of the seniors as to what we should do, not just ask the senior house reps. After finding candidate choices which are both popular and practical, we will then present them to the senior class for a vote, allowing all seniors direct input in the final decisions.

Chris has served as a BoC rep, as ReComm chair, and as a UCC. He has great organizational experience and a good working relationship with many Caltech administrators. Cole has served as a Large Group Coordinator for CCF and has helped lead design teams in ME 14 and ME 72. From these experiences, he has gained practice on working with outside groups, keeping projects on budget, and making sure projects are fully functional by deadlines.

We care a lot about Ditch Day and all senior activities, and together, as your Senior Class Co-Presidents, we can ensure an excellent senior year.

ANGELA GUI, KATE LEWIS

Tommorow is near, It’s almost our final year, So let’s prepare now.

Our turn is coming, Let’s go out with a bang! Yeah! Let’s make it awesome!

Seniors will be ghosts; It will be our time to plan Ditch day, trips, and more.

To fill ‘toes shoes Will be hard work, Lots to do, And we are your team.

With Angie and Kate, decisions will always be transparent and sound.

We are qualified. From Lloyd Social Director To Head UCC,

We’ve worked with students From all of the fine houses

And Tom and the deans.

We’ve planned trips, events. Facilitated cross-house communication.

We are organized, Creative, adventurous, And dedicated.

Our priority: Efficiency, quality, Lasting memories.

Our campus wide stacks Will be more exciting than Chandler Interhouse.

With our senior gift, We will leave a legacy Chosen by us all.

The banquet must have Fantastic food and good hoopoe: A priority.

To wrap it all up, We will make our senior trip Unforgettable.

Next year is our year. Together we’ll make it great. We want your input.

We want what you want. A vote for Angie and Kate is for you.

Let our final year Be a year to remember. Refrigerator.

If you are unsure, Contact us with your questions. Thank you for your time!

Crossword

Across

Down

http://puzzlechoice.com
Room with a View of a Party

G. Kuo

10 p.m. The party is starting, but I’ve put off this essay for far too long. I buckle down and sit in front of an empty Word document, but the music starts. It’s the top hits from when I was in middle school. How weird is it listening to a song and catching whiffs of the past or, in my case, the unignorable stench of middle school? I bask in an unplaceable sense of discomfort highlighted by angsty pop hooks.

10:05 p.m. I wander down to the lounge in search of snacks. I hope for mozzarella sticks, but it is in fact chips and cookies. I shovel an unhealthy serving of potato chips onto a paper plate. The plate buckles and drops a chip, but I know it was only trying its best.

10:07 p.m. I’m back in my room. I’m just about to gather up my will to write a paper. I look out the window at the courtyard and the constructed party. It’s so earnest. An eager child ready for his first day of school. I can’t wait for people to stand around on you uncomfortably, I say to my anthropomorphized vision of the party construction. Maybe they’ll even jump rhythmically on you. I’m so proud of you.

10:08 p.m. I glance the other way toward the bike racks. I should get a bike, I think. That’d be so healthy.

Answers to current crossword (p. 7)

This picture represents a common phrase, title, or person.

Think you know the answer? Take a guess at mondaypunday.com/6