Link to ASCIT Spring Elections Voting:

CORE AND COVID: CALTECH HOSTS BIANNUAL STUDENT FACULTY CONFERENCE

MAXWELL MONTEMAYOR | CAMPUS

On Tuesday, April 18th, Caltech held its biannual Student Faculty Conference (SFC), an all-day forum between students and faculty about individual majors, and undergraduate academics as a whole. The conference, one of the few times the Caltech community gets to formally have their complaints heard, was held in person for the first time since 2019.

Throughout this past year, the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) planned the event, creating SFC committees composed of students and faculty that review certain issues. Individual, major-specific panels were hosted throughout the day. There were two special committees that presented.

The Effects of COVID on Academics.

This committee's goal was to investigate how COVID-related practices affected undergraduate academics, to bridge the gap between student and faculty perspectives, and to ultimately provide recommendations moving forward.

The committee found that interpersonal interactions and community were severely limited. Student-student interaction was hampered, resulting in less collaboration and more cheating. Faculty-student relationships were also reduced to asking for extensions as class interactivity was made harder over Zoom, and fewer students showed up to meet with their advisors. "Now, I spend 90% of my interactions talking about extensions with students, whereas I used to be talking [with students] about science," says Betty Hong (BS '02, Page), Assistant Professor of Neuroscience and Chen Scholar.

There were also many logistic concerns. Classroom and institute policies were not consistent. The institute would quarantine students, but not require professors to record their lectures. Professors also felt overwhelmed with handling extension requests and figuring out how to accommodate remote students. More struggling and cheating students put more strain on the Board of Control, ARC, and TAs.

The committee issued a number of recommendations. For future classes, they advised that professors keep recordings while encouraging students to be more engaged with their fellow students and their teachers. For the departments and divisions, they recommended establishing uniform policies for late work, extensions, etc as well as encouraging more mentorship & social opportunities for upperclassmen to interact with freshmen.

Institute-wide, they recommended increasing support for Academic Media Technologies to help professors record their lectures, encouraging student engagement with academic support offices, establishing clear protocols for supporting students with illnesses, and re-emphasizing the honor code.

Flexibility in the Core Curriculum

With core classes taking up 40% of all graduation requirements, the question of how core should be handled has been a persistent one. Recently, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the organization that decides if Caltech gets accreditation (meets educational standards) has issued recommendations regarding core.

One day after: "The larger they are, the faster the groundkeepers bring out the chainsaws."

photo by Michael Gutierrez

When A Tree Falls Outside of Red Door, Does It Make A Sound? (The answer might surprise you!)

ANKITA NANDI | CAMPUS

Standing tall on Caltech campus, an Engelmann Oak towered over Hameetman Center right outside of the Red Door café exit. Then it fell on March 2. The fallen tree blocked the walkway from the North Houses and Browne Dining Hall to Spalding and Keck. Security soon surrounded the tree and blocked off the area with caution tape. Upon questioning about the fate of the tree, security responded that the arborist would come to cut down the tree, and the walkway was free the next day. To this day, no replacement tree has been planted and there is a vacant pit where the original tree stood.
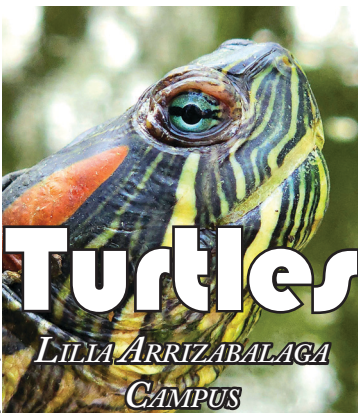
Shrujana Kunnam (Venerable '26) and Ishita Mathur (Avery '26) were on their way to Bi 8 recitation when the tree fell. Having just passed in front of Jorgensen, Kunnam noted hearing a noise *(Editor's Note: !!)* before she "looked up and saw a tree coming down,

so I started running." Mathur shared a similar experience, following Kunnam's lead in running away from the falling tree until they reached the safety of others further away. Both Kunnam and Mathur noted the suddenness of the fall, recalling no wind or other factors that could have led to the fall. They commended Caltech's quick response to the tree by clearing the walkway by the next day but questioned whether it was possible to have taken preventative actions.

The previous campus arborist, Bryan Vejar, had founded the Caltech Tree Corps, an organization dedicated to protecting the Caltech tree population. Vejar was also responsible for creating a map identifying each tree on Caltech campus, such as the Engelmann Oak that previously stood outside Red Door, as well as leading tree walks on campus to educate the Caltech community about the trees. However, Vejar left Caltech in

January 2023 to join TreePeople as the Community Forestry Foreman for their expansion into the San Gabriel Valley. Although security said an arborist was called, no information about the arborist could be found based on student perceptions and attempts to contact Caltech Grounds about the replacement arborist.

The final fate of the tree is unknown but can be presumed to have gone to waste. Students may recognize "the Engelmann Oak" from the 400-year-old tree that was made into the wooden table in Red Door. Perhaps the newer Engelmann Oak could have also been made into furniture for the Caltech community to enjoy. Given the current presumed lack of arborists, the health of other trees on campus is unknown and raises student concern about similar disasters occurring. However, there is currently no indication of such, though only an arborist can confirm so.

Turtles
LILLA ARRIZABALAGA
CAMPUS

photo by Thomas Cleveland

It's spring, and with the changing of the season comes the fantastic sight of turtles zooming around campus. It can be very amusing to see turtles out as far as the Atheneum or swimming in the Caltech Hall Pond. But why do they do this, and should they be stopped? Is the turtle menace going to take over campus?

The Legacy of Moore's Law: In Memoriam, Gordon Moore (1929-2023)

PRITVIK SINHADC | SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Flashback to 1965. The integrated circuit was already heralding a revolution in computation, empowering Fairchild Semiconductor to become its sole profitable manufacturer in the United States. The 35th anniversary edition of the Electronics magazine contained a piece titled 'Cramming more components onto integrated circuits.' It was written by Goordon Moore (PhD '54), the then Director of Research and Development at Fairchild Semiconductor, under the helm of this burgeoning industry.

It's in this edition that Moore wrote the first estimation of what would eventually be popularized by Caltech's professor, Dr Carver Mead (B.S. '56; M.S. '57; Ph.D. '60), as the 'Moore's law.' Within that piece, although without any empirical support, was Moore's prediction that by 1975, technology would exist to incorporate up to 65,000 components, including transistors, resistors, diodes, or capacitors, on a single quarter-square-inch (~1.6 square centimeter) semiconductor.

Turtles

continued from page 1

There are over 99 turtles that call the turtle pond their home. The population is mainly composed of red-eared sliders although there are 1 or 2 softshell turtles as well. There are also some yellow-bellied turtles who look very similar to the red-eared sliders but are missing the characteristic red markings on their head. The softshell turtles are known by several names, Waffles, Pancake, and Lorenzo and are a much more elusive sight on campus.

The red-eared sliders are actually an invasive species; indeed, they are the most invasive turtle and are one of the 100 most invasive species according the International Union for Conservation of Nature. However, their habitat in the artificial turtle pond is not posing a danger to any other species so they are allowed to continue living there.

It is not quite known how so many of them got into the pond. The location where the turtle pond is used to house the very first building on the Caltech campus. Originally named Pasadena Hall, then renamed to Throop Hall when Throop college was renamed to Caltech, the building was said to be earthquake proof. However, a 1971 earthquake left large cracks in the façade and without the original plans, engineers decided to demolish it. While demolishing it they found steel rebar indicating the building could have stood for many more years.

Caltech had planned for the space to be filled by a simple staircase; however, students recommended a garden and pond area. The pond was not intended to house turtles, but soon the turtles found their way to the pond and have made it their home.

Today, the turtles are looked after by Caltech facilities. They are given turtle food and should not be fed by anyone else. They also **should not be touched** as they could be a disease vector.

The turtles go into a form of reptilian hibernation in winter called brumation. They become less active and need to eat and breathe less. Then, in spring they start mating and laying eggs. They wander around campus, either just to explore or to lay eggs. Every year new turtles hatch and join the bale.

If you see a turtle wandering around campus, its best to just leave it. Do not touch the turtles, unless the silly creature is attempting to cross a street and seems to be in danger. If you must move the turtle, pick it up from both sides and move it in the direction it is going. If you see a turtle stuck in Caltech Pond, it's probably best to leave it there. They will not drown, and facilities comes by and removes them from the pond regularly. The grounds department can also be contacted at 626-395-4738 or over email if you have a concern. While an easy solution to the problem of turtles getting stuck would seem to be a ramp, facilities has said they will not install one as they claim it is just one turtle perpetually going back to the pond and they remove it frequently.

If you are interested in turtles or the turtle pond, Caltech has a turtle club who were very helpful in the writing of this article. This is their second year of operation, and they will have many events in May, the month of international turtle day to celebrate the creatures. Most of their activities are fun but they are also looking into conservation efforts for California's turtles, who are very endangered. The Caltech turtle club can be contacted at caltech.turtle.club@gmail.com if you want to join or just want more information.

photo by Thomas Cleveland

Question the Quail!

A new advice column about life, love, classes, and everything in between! Brought to you by the one and only California Tech.

Dear Quail,
Housing lottery numbers just came out for fall term, and I was not originally planning on living in the house. However, behind excomm members, I have the highest pick in my year (!!) in the house and I am being inundated with requests from people I barely know to be my roommate. The problem is that I am an extreme people pleaser and I am having a hard time rejecting just one person, let alone the half-dozen who have asked to be my roomie. To top it off, I don't even want to live in the house! I don't have a lot of friends in the house and I want to live in Bechtel with my friends. Quail, what do I do?
From,
Hassled by Housemates

Dear Hassled,
If you have a viable path to living in Bechtel, do not feel bad or let anyone guilt you into turning down a "high" house pick. Tell everyone who asks that you're sorry you have to turn them down, but you're already planning on living in Bechtel. From your letter, I feel like you may have a bit of reputation in the house as a pushover. Don't be afraid to "coincidentally" have these conversations in the presence of friends or over text, where it's easier to reject someone. However, if you don't have a way to live in Bechtel, I'd take the house pick, even if you don't really vibe with your house. Ask a friend in the house, or the least undesirable option out of the people who have asked you, to be your roommate. The sooner you pick, the faster you can turn down people without accidentally committing to multiple roommates. There are few fates worse than ending up in a Marks/Braun double.
Hope next year works out for you!
Quail

Dear Quail,
I recently bought a Hydro-Jug™ and I am loving my new water bottle! I've never felt healthier and I drink like a half gallon of water every day. However, I would estimate that I lose my Hydro-Jug™ maybe twice a day. I think at this point I've left it in every one of my classes and it's only week three! How do I stop losing my Hydro-Jug™??? For context, this is like the only thing I lose on a regular basis, so I don't think I have a problem with misplacing objects, just this particular one that I'm not used to carrying/is weirdly shaped.
From,
Legendary Liquid Loser

Dear Loser,
As a former frequent loser of objects, I highly empathize. Have you considered buying a carabiner or similar device so that you can clip your water bottle onto your belt loop? Keeping it in your backpack/laptop bag/purse/drawstring bag and immediately returning it to this designated location after you use it? Or, perhaps an AirTag™ or Tile™ you can attach to the water bottle so that you can reliably find it when you lose it? Another method you can use is a checklist. Keep a small post-it note in your wallet/phone case or set your phone background as a reminder to NOT forget your HydroJug™.
Good luck,
Quail

Quail,
I really want to eat breakfast at Browne so I can try those fluffy fluffy pancakes but they stop serving them by 10:30am and I never get there on time. What do I do?
Signed, Pancake Pal

Dear Pal,
How about recruiting another Pancake Pal? Get a friend to agree to go with you and use them as a sort of "accountability buddy". Set an alarm, or five, and use your friend's hypothetical disappointment as motivation to get out of bed, brush your teeth, and get those pancakes! Worst case, if you can't make it, Trader Joe's is right on Lake.
Quail

Do you have some woes in your personal life and just need to get some advice? Quail is here! Featured in the California Tech, Quail is here to answer your questions and help you with whatever troubles you during your time at Caltech. All questions are anonymous and will be answered in the California Tech's Question the Quail column. Submit your questions to this Google Form!

https://forms.gle/sa2YiE1QkQGkRWSv7

Board of Directors to Host Multicultural Fashion Show

Enjoy a show celebrating a diversity of cultures through clothing, music, performances, and food.

This inaugural event will showcase the cultural attire, food, music, and dance unique to the various cultural groups that constitute the Caltech community. The show has a focus on cultural and traditional fashion, with performances with cultural instruments and dance to highlight the talents and diversity of those involved. See and celebrate the flourishing of the variety of cultures with the performances, grab a bite to eat, and enjoy the show.

New ASCIT Bylaw Amendments: What You Should Know

THANHTHANH NGUYEN | STUDENT LIFE

This term, 3 new bylaws amendments have been proposed by Board of Directors of the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology on Sunday, April 9th, 2023. These proposed bylaws cover 3 areas of student life: increasing the current number of Board of Control (BoC) secretaries from 2 to 4, mandating more checks to the California Tech's finances, and raising student dues paid to ASCIT. The vote was held Friday, April 21st, 2023 and the results have not come out as of the time of writing. For the updated results on the election, please visit our website.

To learn more about the details behind these proposals, we reached out to the former BoC Chair David Melisso (EE 23', Blacker), the newly elected California Tech's Editor in Chief Michael Gutierrez (Ay 25', Dabney/Ricketts), and ASCIT President Kavya Rajagopalan (ACM/Ec 23', Lloyd) for their statements, which can be found in order below.

The Board of Control is a student committee which oversees and deliberate upon reports of academic Honor Code violation. The proposal to increase BoC secretaries was drafted by Melisso. He stated that "in the past, [BoC Leadership] has been overwhelmed", since "every case requires two people from Leadership to be present". Melisso notes that the caseload for the BoC has jumped due to an recent increase in reports and having more secretaries would help mitigate this increase. The BoC secretaries' roles are described as "coordinating case scheduling, taking notes during cases, and writing up case reports" which is a lot for just two people. He is strongly advocating for the increase in secretaries, adding that it's "just too much work for [two people]".

As for the California Tech, it has been dealing with many issues since publication stalled during COVID years, a notable one being financial mismanagement in the past few years (described as Gutierrez as "a financial disaster"). People working and writing for the Tech have reported not being paid as well as other concerns. Gutierrez, being a the start of his term as Editor-in-Chief worked with Kavya Rajagopalan, and the ASCIT Secretary, Jonathan Booker (Ricketts, Ph/CS '25), to reach a solution to the Tech's finances. As a part of the agreed-upon proposal, the ASCIT Board of Directors is to transfer money to the Tech in requested installments instead of a singular lump sum that has been deposited into the Tech financial accounts with no supervision at the beginning of every term. Gutierrez stated that he believes this proposal to be a reasonable one, and that "as the editor, I'm feeling optimistic, looking forward to exploring what the Tech's role on campus should be". Booker has taken on the role as the Business Manager for the publication and is working with Gutierrez to en-

sure that everyone gets paid.

Finally, we reached out to Rajagopalan herself on the matter of ASCIT raising dues from $99 a year to $120 a year to be collected from every Caltech undergraduate. She shared that there has been an increase in social events, clubs, and other activities sponsored by ASCIT in the past two years. While these events have been successfully held, Rajagopalan noted that ASCIT did not have enough funding in their initial budget and had to apply for additional funds through the Moore-Hufstedler Fund (MHF) in order to help cover the costs. Even then, there was still funds needed, and she noted that ASCIT last year been functioning off of that year's ASCIT funds plus rollover funds unused from COVID years in order to hold events. As a result, this year's ASCIT Formal saw an increase in ticket prices due to the lack of funding, and clubs have taken a heavy hit in financials due to a 150% increase in the number of clubs that currently exist

at Caltech. With these circumstances in mind, Rajagopalan stated that "our current revenue through dues is unsustainable unless we increase it by a marginal amount". She is the Lead Author of the proposal behind increased dues, and she hopes that the increase in dues would help to "create a more stable financial scheme" for events, clubs, and even House funding.

On April 14th, the ASCIT President (Rajagopalan) sent out an email notifying undergraduates that the ASCIT Board of Directors had "ruled to propose a series of new bylaw amendments" linking to the full proposals of each of the three amendments detailed above. She requested students to read and vote on the matters, highlighting the significance of these proposals on Caltech's campus life. At the time of writing this article, the election has not been held. An update as to the results of the election will be on our website, tech.caltech.edu.

The Legacy of Moore's Law

Come 1975, and that prophecy was fulfilled, confirming Moore's prediction that the number of transistors possible on an integrated circuit would double every two years. Since then, Moore's law has undoubtedly influenced the domain of science and technology. Despite similar proposed estimates on the processing ability of dense, integrated circuits and components, it has certainly been Moore's estimate that has remained the most famous.

In the same year in 1975, Moore revised his original forecast rate. Based upon the advent of new materials for semiconductors, as well as numerous other factors, he predicted that the complexity of semiconductors would double annually till 1980, after which, the rate would decrease to doubling once every two years again. This trend has largely held consistent. In fact, due to the advent of numerous semiconductor materials and technology, we have exceeded this trend. These comprise everything bit-size, including nanoelectronic devices like nanoscale transistors, and even alternative nano-materials for computation.

The principal technique used to deliver Moore's Law is by making transistors tinier and tinier. Smaller transistors are faster and more energy-efficient, and have often been cheaper. In fact, it is this reduction in cost that led to Moore's second law, which formulated that as research and development costs continued to soar to accommodate 'cramming' of more and more components into smaller and smaller transistors, the cost of such fabrication plants would increase exponentially over time due to the drop in costs for consumers.

Today, Moore's Law has become an almost self-fulfilling prophecy. Numerous organizations in the semiconductor industry have used it to set future targets. In fact, undoubtedly, advancements in digital electronics are now being linked to and governed by Moore's law. This relevance is significant despite the law being simply a historical trend, including improvement in sensors, microprocessor prices, and memory capacities. This lucid log-linear relationship between device complexity and time still holds true today. After all, we have seen a reduction in the size of computers from those that took up entire rooms to those that now fit our pockets.

Moore dedicated his life to constructing revolutionary computer chips, as one of the stalwarts at Fairchild Semiconductor and as one of the founders of what eventually became Intel. Since his passing one month ago today on March 24, where does Moore's eponymous law leave us?

Scientists, industry leaders, and thinkers, are in debate

Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce at Intel in 1970

on when we might inevitably need to depart Moore's Law. The endless shrinking of computers and increases in computational complexity cannot continue forever. After all, we live in a discrete universe of particles, atoms, and electrons. We cannot, therefore, build computers smaller than an electron!

The world of quantum computing — using quantum mechanics with qubits and quantum logic gates, and even utilizing Einstein's spooky action at a distance — threatens to divert us today from Moore's Law. Due to the reach of current bit-sized integrated circuits, many corporate honchos such as Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang have actually considered Moore's Law to have already reached its predictive limit. Today, our chips still approximately follow Moore's Law — the only real limit being that the size of transistors

cannot get any smaller.

Yet, as computers touch the atomic limit, with tiny nanometer chips being developed, such as IBM's announcement two years ago of a two nanometer-sized computer chip, many of us have begun to explore the benefits of the new quantum-scale world that Moore's Law has already brought us to.

In any case, no matter where future forays into transistor development or quantum computing take us, we might still learn a lot from Moore's famous law that has guided us over decades. His law still tells us a fascinating story as to how historical prediction became an industrial observational law, and how even the earliest stories from the history of computing still have impacted us today. It continues to revolutionize future computing and may even still have a hand in technology when the very bit becomes spooky.

Salmon fishing with Gordon Moore near Mavericks. Still searching for Moore's Law of fishing....

4/9/23 IHC MEETING PUBLIC NOTES

Present: Leo Williams, Aditee Prabhutendolkar, Sophie Elam, Rik Bose, Tomas Wexler, Parul Singh, Andrew Pasco, Emma Isella, Meg Robertson, Randy Ngo
Floor: Luna Brooker

Call to order: 2:06 pm

Reminders
Meeting with Vanessa Tues 12-1

Live transcript
SE: I met with Joe and he approved the Page room switch thing, but they don't want to go under 34 Bechtel spots – frosh want the option to pre-opt to prevent anxiety, so they want to keep it at 34. But on Friday I got an email from Joe that said admissions is projecting a higher number of incoming students, so 8 more frosh spaces. So that's the first order of business, is figuring out who wants to take the spots.
TW: We'd love 1 but not two
AdP: We'd love 1, possibly 2, but I don't know
PS: We can take 2, we only have frosh doubles
RB: We're at 26 right now and it's working fine, so beyond just the fact that 28 was what it was pre-covid there's no motivation to go back to 28
SE: Everyone in favor of giving avery 2 of the 8?
-> no objections
SE: And Ricketts wanted to go back to 20?
MR: 20 works
RN: We're down to take 30.
TW: If there's 1 left, Dabney would like to go to 20
SE: So right now, we have 209 beds, so Avery wants to hop up to 36, blacker is at 22, how do we feel about that?
AdP: Our pre-covid number was 23, so if there's an extra we'll take it
SE: Sure. Dabney, Fleming
TW, AnP: we'll take +1
SE: Ven needs +2 to go back up to 30. Ricketts, do you want 21?
LW: While we wait for Meg, do you know why the North houses are getting a new RLC?
RB: Steven is taking Vanessa's old job, head of something student-related at ORE, boss of something like all the RLCs?
LW: Meg, do you want an extra frosh?
SE: The new numbres are: Avery at 36, Blacker at 23, Dabney at 20, Fleming at 25, Lloyd 28, Page 26, Rix at 21, Ven at 30
RN: Bechtel?
SE: Bechtel will have 36
AnP: +2 to Bechtel and +8 to the houses. I think it's just scaling up on frosh
SE: I guess Page is losing frosh, since you're staying the same while everyone else is going up.
AnP: They're not losing frosh they rotate, only rooms. The frosh will just go to Bechtel
AnP: Also Rik I have news about PF party. Kinda like not-news but yeah.
RB: I've heard nothing
AnP: Apparently it's our fault, other shit unrelated to PF party but needs to be cleared before PF party
RB: yeah, ok. I think Page is ok with 26 frosh
SE: Meg, are you ok with 21 for Rix?
MR: Can I get back to you on that? I'd like to say yes, but the VPs are saying no

SE: Ok. Really quick, Lloyd interhouse?
LW: Yeah, we ran all 4 hours. We learned from Ven and noise tested. Steven stood at the house that always complains and we did a noise check. We have 2 missing exit signs. One was the exit sign itself put back, one was ripped out of the ceiling.
MR: That's the one they will charge a shit ton for.
LW: It's the farthest corner from the party. If y'all hear anything about the exit signs please let me know.
TW: Everything else ok? Toilet-paper holders?
LW: People might've been using the construction bathrooms which we haven't checked.
TW: Why are they closed for construction?
LW: One has urinals off the wall, the other one I don't know. Only damage I've seen is the two exit signs. Everything went well, the only other damage was trash, nothing permanent.
MR: Any noise complaints?
LW: No. Our music wasn't that loud
AnP: Wild success, then.
LW: No hospitalizations, No Flems climbing up the sides of the stage
MR: The only injury is Meg-induced. I kicked Christian in the face with my stripper heel. I have a radius, you see, if I'm going to be long and sexy-like.
TW: Back to frosh rooms, I just checked, we're good with 20.
SE: [redacted]
MR: I'm gonna executive decision this, but we'll take 21. They've [the VPs] already made our room pick spreadsheet and they're just being pissy.

SE: Next thing should be quick. I sent out a form for IHC appointments, ASCIT asked us to wait for revcomm. Pasco, I don't know about you but I'm desperate to get rid of my position.
AnP: Yeah. Can we see those applicants?
SE: Yeah, in the drive. Do you guys want to be there for interviews or should Emma and I say fuck it we ball?
AnP: Last year interviews were just IHC chair and secretary
PS: Are we missing people for any position?
TW: Just ath man
SE: So we'll schedule those and try to have a new person in place. I'm thinking let's try and get food chair, ath man, first.
AnP: Is there anyone we can think to ask for ath man?
SE: Sidd? I'll draft an email and send it to the messenger that's just like "ayo be an athman"
SE: So we try to get food comm, ath man, OW, stew chair chosen asap.
AdP: Yes
LB: How many people are running for adcomm?
TW: 5
SE: So if we try to have those interviews this week then at the next meeting on Sunday we can go over how those interviews went and appoint Monday?
EI: I'm gonna be gone Wed-Sun and the IHC retreat is Sunday.
SE: Right, maybe this week I'll schedule the interviews.
EI: Sounds good.

SE: Something else Katherine said I should talk about is far off but we should have this on our radar. In precovid all of the presidents were FCCs and the houses chose FCCs. How do we feel about that?
AdP: Last year they banned IHC from being FCCs.
[redacted]
AnP: We could talk to them and say we've turned over a new leaf and it's helpful for presidents to be good advocates. It's good for us to be FCCs so we can advocate for the house system. We just don't want people going to Bechtel.
SE: Y'all are presidents because people like you...
LW: No, Tomas is president because no one ran against him
PS: It's ok, Tomas, me too
MR: Another reason is it would give us an insight as to what orientation includes for them, so we can include stuff in our house orientations.
TW: What did you say about us picking our own FCCs?
AnP: It would be nice if we had some say
MR: Maybe we could ask who's interested and help select?
SE: So kinda like how PAs are picked, so we submit the list of people we want from the list of applicants
LW: Does anyone even get rejected from FCC?
AnP: *angry abt being rejected from FCC*
MR: Bit of IHC lore, Rik and I were great FCC partners
SE: Cool so it's a good thing to bring up to Vanessa. I feel like if one president is an FCC, all should be?
-> agreement from all

RB: on the topic of the Vanessa meeting, is she just not interested in changing the time?
SE: I thought it'd be better if we brought it up with all of us there. I brought it up at our one-on-one but I think it's better if all of us are there to advocate for our own schedules. So for this one week can we do it at 12 and then try to change the time?
RB: Sure
TW: Did you hear back from admissions abt the Discotech host training thing? Because it conflicts with both IHC meetings
SE: I emailed, but didn't hear back. I'll bump it.
MR: We could ask for a recording?
SE: How many of you guys are hosting?
-> AnP, TW, PS, AdP raise hands
SE: So that is something important, I will bump that. The other thing, is I saw everyone had proposals, thank you. Last I checked though, Venerable did not?
MR: So with the proposals do we need to do anything with them except put them in the drive?
SE: Nope, that's all
TW: Are we gonna hear back?
SE: Not sure, but better to ask for forgiveness than permission.
AnP: Are we being funded, or is it all just from us?
SE: Just from us for now, but admissions is considering providing some funding
PS: Do we have a number of protofrosh, so we can judge how much food we need?
RB: About 300?
TW: I remember Katherine saying 270
MR: Shouldn't they have sign-ups by now?
AnP: We said 200-240 on Feb 19th but yeah
MR: [redacted]
SE: If anyone can get a blowtorch for IHC retreat, I think we should do a

nacho table
AnP: I have one
MR: We have fire power, we gotchu
SE: The good way to make nachos is to use shredded cheese and put it in the oven, not the liquid cheese
AdP: Seconded. Who uses liquid cheese?
TW: Red door
SE: Another thing, while we're on the topic of discotech, does anyone have anything else?
TW: Do you know when hosts will be matched with prefrosh?
SE: No, do you want me to ask?
AdP: It's happening
RB: yeah
MR: yeah they're going through the list right now
MR: Another thing is Rix needs to do a sound check, so we're going to do sound check on Wednesday to not ruin other events, so expect Rix to be fucking loud on Wednesday.
RB: So I talked to admissions, the ecosySTEMs people will be at house dinners on Tuesday night. I don't know how many people, just less than there are on Thursday.
PS: So Tuesday, Thursday house dinners
LW: Was ecosySTEMs a separate signup thing?
RB: I think they're staying here but they've been specially matched. And I talked to admissions and they said between 5:30 and 10 pm on Thursday houses can do whatever they want and admissions will be ok with it.
TW: So basically we can do whatever we want from 5:30 till whenever we have dinner?
RB: Yeah, but no obligation to entertain them before your house dinner
SE: Cool, so the IHC panel is not happening this year and if we want to bring that back in future years we can. IHC rep will go on Thursday during their lunch to talk about what Thursday night mini-rotation and house dinners will look like. Are there any sentiments you'd like me to express?
MR: Don't pre-opt
SE: Joe said that's not allowed
PS: Tell them to go to all the events and be kind to their hosts
SE: Anything else you want me to say to the frosh? We don't bite?
SE: So text me if anything changes. I'll talk to them about mini rotation to get them ready for fall

SE: Next thing is prepping for the Vanessa meeting. What she's expecting is she wants to go over her introduction and expectations. She's gonna want a 1 on 1 with each of you during this term, so come in with dates ready.
MR: Lunch meetings?
SE: I don't know, I think she said she'd buy you food
SE: For Vanessa, the other thing she wants to talk about is meeting with Kev. For that meeting, any idea what we want to cover? Covid stuff, FCC stuff, anything else?
RB: By covid stuff, you mean housing?
SE: Logistics, what we talked about last time. So we want to talk about COVID stuff and FCC stuff.
PS: Does Kevin know the COVID stuff? Might be better to ask CDS.
SE: Yeah but we want to ask about funding for cleaning supplies, signs to put on doors, etc... was thinking of calling it covid management funding.
MR: Yeah they have a lot of funding for Braun cleaning and such.
SE: Yeah so if we could have that reallocated for you guys that'd be good. I think then with FCC stuff that will fill up the hour.
RB: That's this Wednesday?
SE: That's this Wednesday at 12 yeah, I don't know what they're doing for food

SE: And then last things last, retreat is Sunday. So at some point, we'll figure out carpooling and food. Leo's not going.
TW: I also can't go, I have to be at JPL at 7:45 am
MR: I can drive you back early, I have a 9 am
EI: Me too :(
SE: Please message me if you have food you want. I'll go to Costco on Sunday afternoon. Anything else to discuss?

PS: I have silly housing questions that were unanswered in chat. So the early unaffiliated lottery housing, do affiliated and being pulled-in people fill that out too?
SE: I'm supposed to meet with Joe tonight or tomorrow, so I can ask.
PS: So that's also another question, for round 1 lottery if a suite group has a member who is affiliated and they have the highest pick, does that get used?
AnP: No, you can't use affiliated pick numbers
PS: So then the only question is do affiliated people have to fill out the form?
TW: Maybe the form has a thing where you list members of your suite who are affiliated?
AnP: It's closed right now so we can't check
MR: He said he'd open it on Monday
TW: Odds of them opening lottery

numbers on time?
RB: 5%
MR: When are they releasing?
RB: Friday
RN: Did they ever give you the list of double members, Sophie?
SE: No
MR: We need to make sure people haven't opted into multiple houses' lotteries.
TW: Do we have a deadline for our lists?
RN: Last year the deadline was the Wednesday before the weekend when people did their picks
EI: If you get me your lists I can make sure no one is on multiple lists.
PS: For associate members who don't live in the house, does ORE pay? So if they're in Bechtel and they're just an Averite does it get paid? And what about off-campus?
RB: Yeah, ORE will cover the $90 as long as the house is their primary
RN: Associate means the second membership, so ORE won't pay.
PS: Ok

SE: There's also the room picks justification form, you might have to write one up for your houses. Basically just explaining which house positions have house picks and why.
RB: [redacted]
LB: I know CASS accommodations for room picks have to be approved by housing, how will that work with the new guy in CASS?
SE: I have that in an email, "The CASS Office will communicate accessibility needs for students directly to the Housing Office, and the Housing Office will work with the student to assign them to housing that meets their needs."
EI: At the housing meeting, they also said for CASS accommodations other than ESAs you'll have to use your house pick to get the room you need, and if you don't get it they'll hold unaffiliated housing that satisfies your CASS accommodation. For ESA rooms, people who have one will be asked to move if someone else needs it.
SE: Anything else?
RN: So quickly we'd like to go to the frosh rooms, ideally Venerable wants an odd number.
MR: You can take the 1 frosh, my excomm doesn't want it.
RN: Cool, so we're at 31
AnP: Is Ven very high on the percentage of frosh now?
TW: Ven is second-highest, same as Lloyd.
AnP: I wish they would realize that we should have frosh in the houses and save Bechtel for the upperclassmen who want it.
TW: Also for the record Page is below pre-covid numbers, Ven is above pre-covid numbers, and everyone is at pre-covid numbers.

MR: Do y'all have precedent about people dropping out of excomm?
AnP: We might have this issue because someone might study abroad

MR: It's not a vacancy, it's for soc vps, and they run on a ticket
AnP: In our constitution, it's just a runoff election
TW: It would suck for the other person for soc vp if they got kicked out
LW: With us, they just told us who they replaced the position with and we were just like ok
PS: It depends on what your constitution says, and how much your house will care if you break it
MR: Rix cares a lot

AdP: I have one update: Blacker Interhovse is getting fucked over. They're not letting us have the 5/13 date (because it's back to back with Fleming, Mother's day weekend, [redacted]). My plan is to see if we can swap BDR and Blacker Interhovse. So have BDR on 4/29 and our interhovse on 6/3. No guarantee that they'll go for that though.
TW: Me and Aditi have been talking, because it sorta fucks over BDR
RB: Why'd it get moved to begin with?
TW: They want to move Blacker to April 29th, and we want to move BDR to April 29th
MR: What we want is Blacker to fight for June 3 and to have BDR soon, since we weren't gonna have a stage for that party
LW: Why can't it be 5/13?
SE: Because it's back to back with Fleming, Mother's day weekend, [redacted]
AnP: [redacted]
SE: [redacted]
PS: Why is back-to-back an issue? Last year we had multiple interhouses per day
LB: Yeah, Blacker has the neighbor who complains
MR: When is Fleming?
AnP: It's May 20th, but we still haven't gotten anything approved.
LW: [redacted]
AnP: [redacted]
LW: [redacted]
AnP: [redacted]
MR: I learned this last year, but they keep a list of every infraction, and when Rix was on social probation it wasn't for the glass breaking, it was just because of everything since 2013.
SE: Those mofos have all graduated...
MR: Not trying to make you scared, but just wanted to let you know it's probably not one thing but a bunch
AnP: I might talk to you about that
MR: We just had to rewrite the house charter. I think every house had one, written a long time ago.
TW: Where is this?
MR: It was unearthed by Felicia. You won't find it online. You can email for your own house charter if you don't have access to it. We had to rewrite ours in 2013 when we were disbanded.
SE: Are we cool with calling this adjourned?

Meeting adjourned: 3:08 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Emma Isella
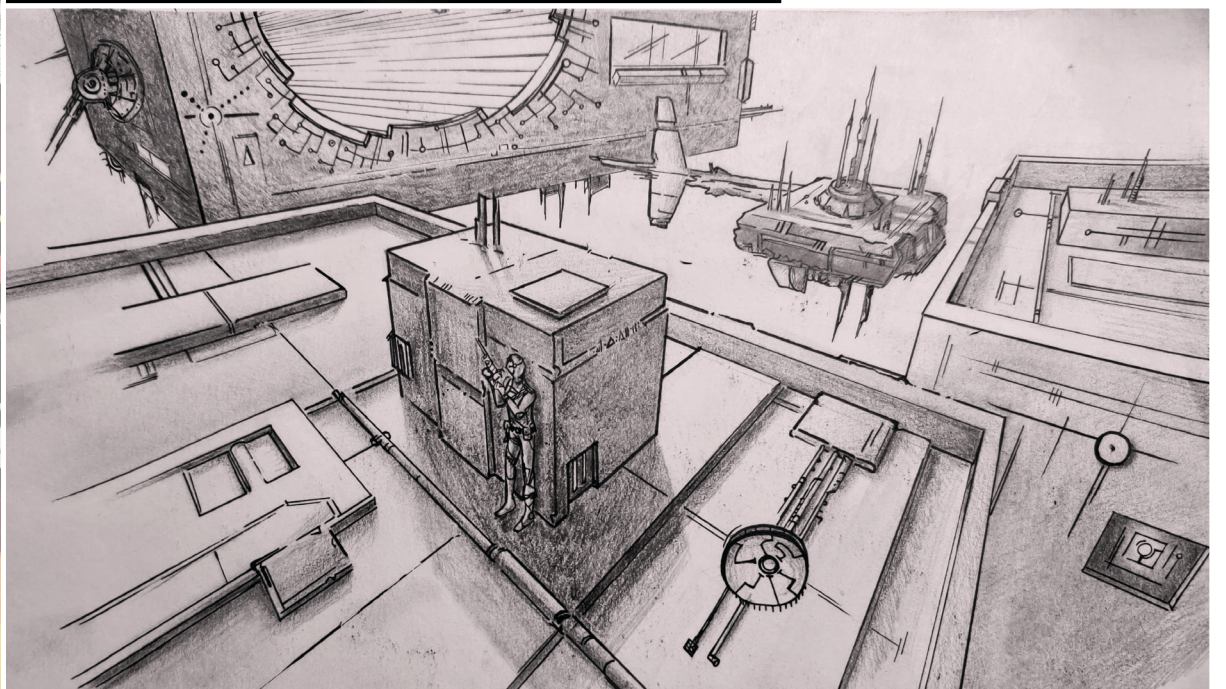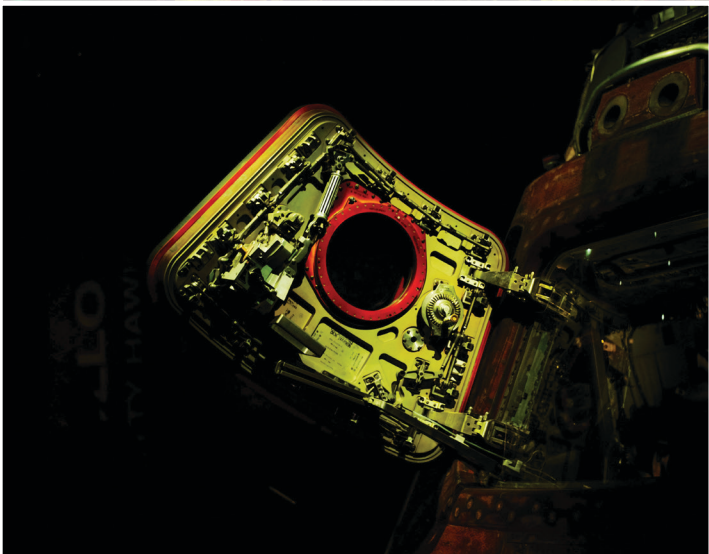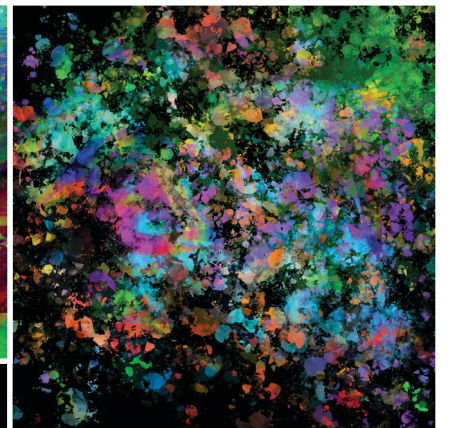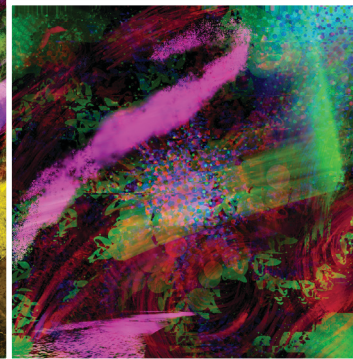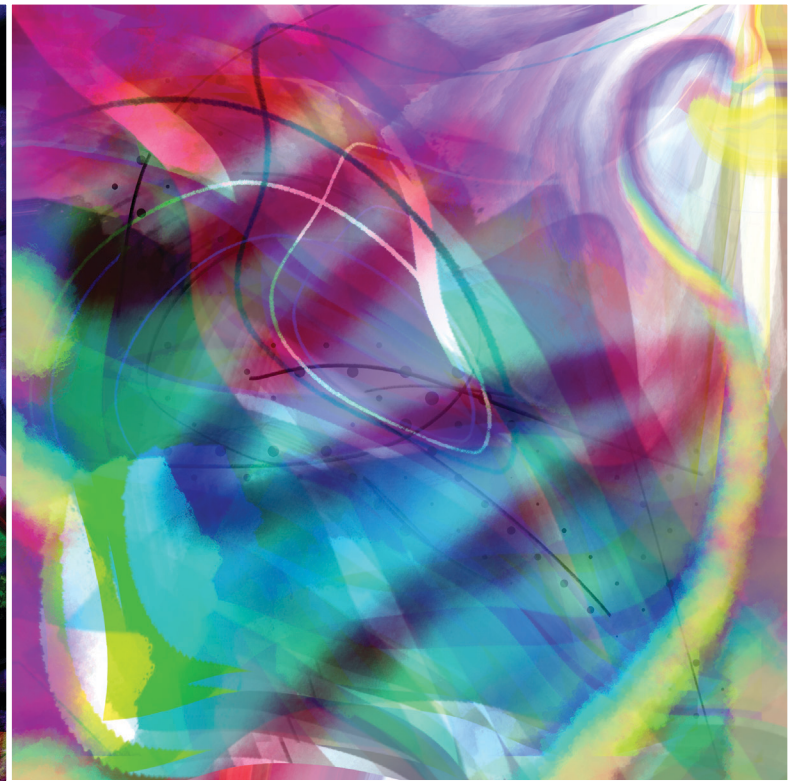IHC Secretary

ASCIT Formal: A Night at the Museum

The 2023 ASCIT formal last Friday, April 14th was a resounding success. Held at the LA Natural History Museum, their famous dioramas and dinosaur bones set the ambiance. Transportation was comparable to last year's–not a massive surprise given the venue was directly next to last year's venue, the California Science-Center. Pictures galore were available via multiple photographers present at the venue. With a backdrop of T. rex and Triceratops fighting, every 5-year-old's childhood fantasy, the venue was legendary. LinkedIn profiles as well as dating profiles will have been updated from the event.

The food was decent; as one student put it, it was an "upscale open kitchen." The live DJ was skilled and had a set comprising all the current hits.

What were your thoughts on ASCIT formal? Future venues?

Art Spotlight

Top:
Kelsie Taylor
"Cracks Appear"
"Madness"
"Splat!"

Left:
Lucas Ancieta
"Portal"
"Elevator into the Caves"

Bottom:
Alicia Zhang
"Shapes of Sound"
"On the Run"

ASCIT 2023 Spring Elections: Candidate Statements

ASCIT President (1 Candidate)

Gabriella Twombly
(Fleming CS '24)

Hello all,

My name is Gabriella Twombly, but most of you might just know me as Twombly. I am running for the position of ASCIT President for the 2023-24 academic year. After serving as your ARC Chair and VP of Academic Affairs on ASCIT BoD this year, I know I have the experience necessary to hold the position and continue the progress of the individuals I would be succeeding. I will keep focusing on enhancing the experience of the Caltech student body both socially and academically. As one of the few juniors on ASCIT, I have worked closely with administration, IHC, faculty, and the other ASCIT positions, so I am confident I will be able to hit the ground running.

I have loved putting together events to help students take advantage of the opportunities Caltech has to offer as well as navigate their academic careers. ASCIT and the ARC have allowed me to do just that. Some of my goals would be:

Organizing social events: I have assisted in the organization of many of the events that ASCIT traditionally holds for the undergraduate community. These include the 2023 Student-Faculty Conference, ASCIT Formal, Student-Faculty Lunches, Pi Day, Midnight Donuts, and more. I am looking forward to implementing feedback from previous events, and I am already thinking of some new opportunities for student enjoyment outside of campus events.

Volunteering: I currently serve on the steering committee for the ASCIT girls mentoring program with the Caltech Y. I would love to continue working with these groups, and also bring in the clubs on campus, for more volunteer & mentorship opportunities. I'm hoping to sustain the work of our current BoD in hosting an annual charity opportunity as well.

Academic Support: I will collaborate with the new VP of Academic Affairs on providing academic support to students. This will include working to improve general wellness on campus, checking up on the suggestions made by this year's SFC special topics, updating research opportunity listings, and generally making students aware of the resources available to them on campus.
Strengthening the bonds between student leadership: The

ARC was able to re twombly. jpeg gain much of the structure lost during the pandemic and strengthen its bonds with representatives from different offices and committees. I would like to carry this on through ASCIT, inside and outside of the board.
Being approachable and transparent: I will continue to be a friendly presence in the Caltech community and act as a resource for any students with any questions or concerns. Just as I did on ARC, I will host office hours (virtual/in-person), communicate student concerns clearly, continue providing public minutes, attend house dinners, and be transparent with ASCIT projects and decisions.

I would be honored to serve as your ASCIT President, and I am excited about the possibility to continue working with the rest of Caltech's leadership to provide the best resources, communication, and opportunities possible for the Caltech community. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me through my email (gtwombly@caltech.edu), messenger, or discord (Twombly#9245).

V.P of Academic Affairs / Arc chair (1 Canidate)

Alex Burr
(Venerable Bi '24)

TLDR: Hi! I'm Alex and I am running for the position of ARC Chair. I have been ARC Secretary for the past year and want to continue working on your behalf to improve academics at Caltech. If elected, my main goals are to improve student experience in the core curriculum, strengthen academic and career advising on campus, help rebuild student-faculty relationships, and most importantly be your advocate to faculty and admin for everything related to academics and research.
Hello! I'm Alex Burr, a junior in Venerable majoring in biology. I am your current ARC Secretary and a member of the Caltech Cross Country and Track & Field teams. I have served on the ARC as the Venerable House Rep and most recently as the ARC Secretary this past year. During this time, I have worked closely with the previous ARC Chair, the Center for Teaching Learning and Outreach (CTLO), various faculty members, and administration to improve the state of academics on campus. As a result, I know what it takes to work with groups outside the ARC to strengthen academics and research on

campus and I am prepared to hit the ground running if elected as ARC Chair. Having been on the ARC for over a year and having worked closely with the current ARC Chair Twombly, I am familiar with the requirements and expectations of the position and would be honored to continue serving you on the ARC. I am excited about the chance to continue and expand our initiatives to provide the best resources, advice, and opportunities to everyone at Caltech.
During my time on the ARC, I have helped organize events for the undergraduate student body, generate resources for the Caltech community, bridge the gap in communication between faculty and students, coordinate the logistics of ARC programs, and much more. I have loved holding events and putting together resources to help students navigate their academic careers at Caltech and the ARC has given me a space to do that. Some projects and events I have had the pleasure of working on include:
Student Faculty Conference: Just this past Tuesday (April 18th 2023) was the biennial Student Faculty Conference, the first in-person SFC in four years. I worked with our current ARC Chair Twombly, the CTLO, the Deans, and other administrators to choose the special topics, select option committee chairs, coordinate the logistics of the event, and contributed to the COVID special topic committee presentation. I am committed to increasing communication between students and faculty to help rebuild the relationships that have been strained over the pandemic. I am excited to present the findings of the SFC with Twombly to the faculty board and will work to make sure that changes to the core curriculum and proposals put forth within each option not only get brought to the right administrators but also implemented.
Freshman Orientation and the ARC Frosh Guide: This past summer I had the pleasure of running the ARC subcommittee that puts together the ARC Frosh Guide, a 39-page document sent to frosh when they enter Caltech outlining the core curriculum, academic advising, logistics of registering for and switching classes, research opportunities on campus, how to get help when things get difficult, and much more. I also contributed to several events during freshman orientation about academics and research. I am very passionate about making sure incoming frosh have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about courses for themselves and am excited to help put together the next Frosh Guide this summer.
Ombuds Training: I have helped run ombuds training in coordination with the current ARC Chair Twombly and the CTLO. The ombuds program is one of the most effective forms of student faculty communication on campus. One of my goals if elected is to continue expanding this program into more classes to help resolve misconceptions and issues directly so both students and faculty can have a better experience in the course.
Connecting Students to Research/SURF: I have helped

students find research opportunities, draft emails to faculty, and connect to resources about research and the SURF program. I hope to expand the resources available to students looking to get involved in research by working with the SFP office and the current SURF ambassadors.
ASCIT Teaching Awards: ASCIT Teaching Awards is an annual event run by the ARC to recognize exceptional teaching by professors and TAs. I helped run, organize, and photograph the event last year and would be thrilled to help run it again this year.
Option Advising: In the middle of third term, after frosh have selected their option but before everyone registers for fall term courses, the ARC hosts an option advising fair. I helped organize the event last year and am looking forward to running it again this year if elected. I assisted frosh and other students with choosing their courses, particularly the natural sciences majors, and offered advice and resources about scheduling graduation requirements such as intro labs, menu courses, and HSS classes. I hope to expand this program to every term next year in addition to increasing the number of ARC office hours so that students always have someone to go to for questions about courses.
Course Concerns: I have facilitated communication between students, TAs, and professors to resolve course concerns so that both students and faculty can focus on the content of the course rather than logistic barriers to education.
Website Updates and Accessibility: One of the longest projects I have worked on while on the ARC has been restructuring and updating our website (arc.caltech.edu) in order to make it easier to find resources and advice for your specific questions. Our website now lists all of our events and programs throughout the year (Student Faculty Conference, student-faculty lunches, option advising, ASCIT Teaching Awards, etc.), general academic resources for registration, more specific academic resources (about menu courses, intro labs, pizza courses, and HSS requirements individually), resources to help students get involved with research on campus, a research list of open lab positions on campus, and much more! I hope to continue updating the website with all our events and resources so that current and future Caltech students can use it as the go-to convenient resource for all their academic and research related questions.
I have had the immense privilege of getting to organize these projects and events during my time on the ARC. If elected as ARC Chair I would not only continue with these programs but expand upon the current ARC initiatives to increase accessibility, flexibility, and student wellness on campus. Some proposals I would like to implement include:
Academic Advising: I want to use my experience not only on the ARC but also as a fellow student at Caltech to improve academic advising on campus. Centralizing frosh advising would help alleviate inconsistencies in what courses frosh are told to take, standardize what constitutes a reasonable

overload, and increase both the speed and ease of getting questions about registration answered.
Additionally, I hope to work with each option to publish guidelines on what within-option advising should look like, gather data on what advisees and advisors within each option need for their interactions to be as meaningful as possible, and make it easier for students to get their academic questions answered in a timely fashion.
Professional Mentoring: One of the greatest benefits of being a student at Caltech is the proximity to many extraordinary and brilliant faculty. I hope to work with the ARC and with each option to promote more mentoring about research, possible careers within the field, and how to get positions in industry.
Improve Student-Faculty Relationships: The pandemic exposed and created many issues.
Student-faculty relationships in particular were strained over COVID, making courses more stressful and less engaging, enjoyable, and interesting for everyone involved. I hope to work with the ARC, with the CTLO, and with department administrators to repair these relationships so that learning and teaching is more enjoyable for everyone involved. I propose to do this in part by facilitating more non-academic student-faculty interactions such as department-wide formal dinners, speed-mentoring sessions, career talk lunches, student-faculty lunches, and student-faculty athletic games.
Being a Resource to Students: I hope to be an approachable, helpful, friendly resource on campus for all your academic and research related questions. I plan to hold office hours, promote ARC events and resources, and be transparent about all ARC projects. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out over email (aburr@caltech.edu), messenger, or discord (Alex.B#6458). Hopefully I've been able to convince you that I am qualified for the role of ARC chair and am incredibly passionate about improving academics, research, and student wellness at Caltech. I would be honored to continue to serve you all as ARC Chair. Regardless of who you vote for, please make sure to vote in the ASCIT spring elections on Monday!

ASCIT Director of Operations (1 Candidate)

Ankita Nandi
(Page/Avery MS/En '25)

Hi! I'm Ankita, current junior and member of Page and Avery House majoring in Ma-

terials Science and English. I'm running to be Director of Operations to provide support for campus publications and clubs on campus. To give an example of my campus involvement, I'm a current reporter/columnist and former business manager for The California Tech and on the executive board of APIDA+. I'm also a Title IX advocate for Page/Avery and Orange Watch Coordinator for Page. Through these different commitments, I have an idea of the support clubs and publications need and aim to support the student body in this function as best I can. I'm always open to more suggestions on how to best serve the student body, I am always open to talking about what I plan to do as Director of Operations. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out via Messenger or by email at anandi@caltech.edu.

ASCIT TREASURER (2 CANDIDATES)

Jonathan Booker
(RICKETTS PH/CS '25)

For those who do not know me already, my name is Jonathan Booker; I am a sophomore in Ricketts studying Physics/CS, and I am running to be your next ASCIT Treasurer.

Over the past year, I have been serving on the Board of Directors as the ASCIT Secretary. During my time as ASCIT Secretary, I used my platform to make a lot of change happen that some said were impossible. I recovered many ASCIT/IHC records that have been thought to have been lost since before ethe pandemic. I worked with SIF and the Board of Directors to get over $14,000 of ASCIT equipment, including the new speaker system. Additionally, I worked with and assisted Winter, the current CRC Chair, to pass the amendment that reactivated the CRC. Over this term, I have served as the Business Manager of the California Tech and have worked with Ankita and Michael to create a system that automates menial tasks to bring back the Tech to publishing regularly and to paying its editors and writers.

This year alone, ASCIT was requested $600,000 in club funding when the entirely of our annual budget excluding endowment payout and other sources of conditional revenue. Additionally, increased restrictions and red tape have caused houses to pay more for events including interhouse parties. As ASCIT Treasurer I will make sure that houses and organizations have the funding that they need. At the end of this week, the members of ASCIT will vote on whether dues should be raised from $33 to $40 per term. This change will allow for more funding to be allocated towards these

events. If houses and clubs are still not able to receive funding for their events and functions, I will continue and extend the current Treasurers' efforts to personally work with each house and club to get the money that they need by reaching out funding sources within Caltech or by taking advantage of ASCIT's 501(c)3 status to solicit donations from outside sources and alumni.

As ASCIT Treasurer, I want to make it to where Orange Watch (OW) members are paid with money instead of GrubHub credit. This will not only provide more incentives for more under graduates to join OW, but it will also allow the IHC and the OW Coordinator to be able to hold (OW) members accountable for not fulfilling their roles. My plan is to extend the system that I helped create to pay writers for the California Tech as their business manager by streamlining the process to onboard all members of ASCIT that provide services to the organization. This will make campus not just more fun, but safe as well. Additionally, I want to both continue the efforts of the current Board of Directors by working with the IHC and various alumni organizations to establish a network of alumni that will donate directly to undergraduate life. I will extend this effort by creating a direct and easy line for alumni to donate to various specific houses/organizations.

I have really enjoyed serving this school for the past year by having the opportunity to serve as ASCIT Secretary. I have done the best I could to make life easier, fairer, and less stressful for everyone involved in the Caltech community. I care about the students in this school and anyone who says otherwise is wrong. I feel like there is more work to be done. This needs to be crystal clear: everything that I have said in this statement and during my previous term in office has been true to the best of my ability and can be verified by the current members of the Board of Directors.

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to say hello, I'm usually hanging out in the Ricketts Lounge, or you can reach out through Messenger or Discord Jbooker053#9278.

Purvi Sehgal
(LLOYD CS '25)

Hello everyone!
My name is Purvi Sehgal, and I am a sophomore CS major in Lloyd. I am running to be your ASCIT Treasurer for multiple reasons. Previously, as Caltech's unaffiliated CRC Rep, MHF Committee member, and a member of Lloyd House's Excomm (Lloyd Rep), I have enjoyed serving large groups of students and contributing to their betterment. In the process, I have built relationships with administration, which I will leverage as ASCIT Treasurer. Thus, one of my first action items is working with admin to get reimbursements processed more easily and faster.
In the past years, we have had

more funds than what was spent. Therefore, this year, I will spend more of our funds by supporting more student clubs and groups and providing greater professional development opportunities such as hybrid/in-person career fairs. In my opinion, deciding how to spend extra funds should be an open process with your input being factored into the decisions, so I will conduct surveys for suggestions.
As Treasurer, I will also improve financial transparency & accountability by having transactions, spending, and other financial information made available to you. I will ensure that this system stays in place, even after I am no longer Treasurer. Lastly, I pledge to allocate money in a way that maximizes the student body's benefit.
In short, as your Treasurer, my action items are to (1) streamline and speed up the reimbursement process, (2) spend extra ASCIT funds on student-run clubs/groups, professional opportunities, and events, (3) involve the student body when determining how to spend extra funds, (4) improve financial transparency/accountability, and (5) keep the finances healthy and implement budget balancing.
Please reach out to me at psehgal@caltech.edu if you have any questions! Thank you, and don't forget to vote Purvi Sehgal for ASCIT Treasurer!

ASCIT SOCIAL DIRECTOR (1 CANDIDATE)

Snigdha Saha
(RICKETTS CS '24)

Hi everyone,
I'm Snigdha, and I am running to be your next ASCIT Social Director! Currently, I'm a full Skurve and a social Lloydie majoring in Computer Science and minoring in IDS. I am the current Food Committee Chair, an Admissions Ambassador, and a member of our Fluid Dynamics a cappella group, and of Caltech Dhamaka! You may have also seen me around campus organizing various events such as Diwali and Holi. This past year, I have also held an ASCIT Staff Position under the current Social Director (Matticus), and have been helping out with various events such as TechFest, alternate Interhouses, and the Multicultural Fashion Show!
Over the past few years, I've been able to pursue my passion for improving the quality of student life on campus. Here are some things I worked on:
FoodComm:
• Gather student feedback through campuswide QR codes and forms
• Return of waited dinners, salad bar in the houses
• Better vegan/vegetarian options (still a work in progress!)
Independent Events:
• Revive Holi with APIDA+
• Bring Diwali to the Olive-

walk to make it a larger community event for undergrads
ASCIT (Staff Position with Matticus)
• Building relationship with Tom and others
• Seeing first hand the intricacies of ASCIT event organization
Through these experiences, I have learned how to develop and maintain relationships with campus authorities in a way that allows student voices to be heard and student lives to be enhanced. My primary goal as Social Director is to apply this skill on a higher level to be able to make the experience of being on campus more fun and exciting! Here are some more specific goals I will be pursuing as Social Director:
1. Student Voices in Social Events: I firmly believe that all events are created and hosted for the students, and thus it is very important to ensure that student events are reflective of student opinions. I will pursue a feedback system to gauge campus interest at a regular cadence to thus allow students to express what kinds of events they would like to see on campus.
2. Continuing Old Events: Over the last two years back on campus, ASCIT has done a fantastic job at bringing back pre-pandemic events and introducing new ones such as ASCIT Formal, TechFest, Winter Carnival, Halloween, Fashion Show, and so on. It is clear that these events are now an integral part of being a Caltech student and I plan to continue these traditions with the support of ASCIT.
3. Maintaining the Little T - specifically Pasadena/LA Exploration: I know that a large portion of the student body does enjoy going out and exploring the LA area, including myself. However, I've also noticed that many students feel blocked by

either the lack of a car or the lack of knowledge. Currently, we do have this guide within the Little T, which was revived this past year as an easily accessible online guide. I want to work with the new Director of Ops to continue and maintain the guide and the Little T. I truly want to better the experience of being a Caltech student, and I am certain the ability to take inexpensive, hassle-free breaks off campus will be a helpful addition to student life!
4. New Events:
a. Multicultural Food Fair: Given how diverse the student body is, I want to better represent all the cultures and backgrounds on campus. If there's one thing all Caltech students tend to love, it's free food! So, spinning off of the Multicultural Fashion Show, I am committed to hosting a diverse food fair with a mix of student-prepared food and outside vendors to introduce students to a wide variety of foods from across the world!
b. Clash of the Classes: Caltech is built on the foundations of collaboration, and I want to extend this idea past the classroom through fun competition
- the idea is to have minievents throughout a certain period where classes compete with each other to collect points, and eventually the winning class will get some prize. I know Ricketts already does this to an extent and it's been a huge success! This will be very low commitment from students too, and hopefully events they can do on the way

to class or during study breaks - just a fun way to engage in campus activity.
c. More widespread De-Stress Events: There are several de-stress events that happen around midterms and finals, but the student body is not always well-informed of them. An integral part of improving the student life is to improve mental health, and thus I want to focus on hosting more de-stress events and providing more awareness about the events that already happen!

As your next ASCIT Social Director, I am committed to creating events that are not only fun and exciting, but representative of the Caltech student body in its entirety. I know Caltech can be extremely difficult and stressful, and I want to do my part to help make college more fun. My favorite part of Caltech is the people, and I am so excited to be able to work with the new ASCIT BoD and all of you to have some great events and parties in the coming year. If you liked my ideas above, and/or have enjoyed my contributions to Caltech in the past few years, I would really love to have your vote. If you have any questions, comments, or thoughts, I am more than happy to receive a message on Facebook, Instagram, or email (snigdha@caltech.edu) or even come find me in Ricketts!

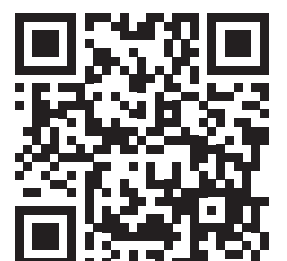## UNAFFILIATED BOARD OF CONTROL REPRESENTATIVE (1 CANDIDATE)

Diego Barcenas
(DABNEY AY '26)

Hello, my name is Diego Barcenas and I am running for unaffiliated BOC rep. The honor code is something that is very special and unique to Caltech, as it allows us to have take-home exams. As a BOC rep, I would do my best to help enforce the honor code to ensure that the tradition of the honor code continues.

VOTE HERE!!!

Election ends at 11:59pm on April 24, 2023

https://donut.caltech.edu/1/surveys

CDS: THE CALTECH DINING SCOOP
TRINITY LEE | COLUMN

photo by Asha Rollins

"Patience, young grasshopper"

New Red Door Items?

Regardless of whether you're an early bird or a night owl, you have probably noticed a difference or two in the Red Door menu this term. The breakfast menu offers a brand new Blueberry Waffle dish, the Pulled Pork Sandwich was swapped out for a Ham Mozzarella one, and the Corndog has become a new nighttime favorite. What's up with the sudden change? Are these new items here to stay?

"So these are things we are rotating! What we try to do is every term we will bring in something new for everyone in our community to enjoy," RD Marketplace Operations Manager, Eddie Hurtado shared in an interview. "For summer, we want to bring back tasty, fruity options that are available seasonally [such as] the Berry Salad, or the Peach Salad."

It certainly seems like this rotation is popular among undergraduates! There's been a mix of reviews about the blueberry waffles and the ham mozzarella sandwiches (doesn't the ham mozz remind you of the Caprese... just with ham instead of tomatoes?), but no one can deny the corndog frenzy that has swept the campus. CDS General Manager Frances Yokota attests to this popularity, "Kids are asking for it during the day! But then it wouldn't be special."

Hopefully the variety keeps the Red Door menu appealing to students for the rest of term! However, many students agree that they find certain menu additions to be unappetizing... such as surprise grasshoppers in their shakshuka. Ann Zhu (ChE '24, Avery) recounts the traumatic moment when she identified the unwelcome guest. "I moved a piece of garlic bread and realized 'Oh, there is something underneath my garlic bread!'" Since the incident, she has been too anxious to order her favorite breakfast item again.

Both Frances and Eddie were astonished at this news. One suggestion to prevent any future surprises was for lids to remain on top of any sauces as much as possible when not serving. "Dining Services does our best to provide the best service and quality of food for everyone in our community, and we're going to make sure that this issue does not happen again, " Eddie promises.

Will bugs make a reappearance in our food? Will the corndogs remain in style? Only ~~time~~ YOU will tell! Contact your House Food Comm representative(s) with your thoughts or opinions about any food served on campus, or feel free to fill out our online feedback form at bit.ly/caltech-foodfeedback

CORE AND COVID: CALTECH HOSTS BIANNUAL STUDENT FACULTY CONFERENCE

In a Commission Action Letter issued on March 3, 2021, the WASC listed a number of issues regarding the Core Curriculum that Caltech needed to respond to. These included redeploying teaching resources to enhance flexibility in core classes, how well core humanities and social sciences develop communication skills, and how well students are prepared to be good citizens and leaders.

With that, the committee conducted a 66-question survey of 298 undergrads about core. Based on the survey, the committee suggested discussing the flexibility of core, the efficacy of classes, opportunities for exploration, and support for students. The committee's findings and recommendations were as follows:

Menu and seminar classes should be merged to increase scheduling flexibility, more topics should be offered, and these classes should be better advertised to frosh.

78% of students take CS1, and many classes use it as a prerequisite. CS1 should replace a current core class (likely a HSS). Different tracks of the course may be offered based on major

32% of students complete their intro lab frosh year, which defeats the purpose of them being used to explore a new field. Ch 3 a/x drives students away from the chemistry major due to its difficulty and poor management. The committee recommends making Ch3 part of the intro labs, which would reduce enrollment in the class, hopefully making it better taught.

Over 75% of students think there are too many HSS requirements. >49% of students think the writing intensive hums do not improve their writing skills. Hiring certified writing instructors and having more combined STEM and humanities classes (i.e. Ethics and A.I.) could alleviate these issues.

For Ma1a, 70% found the class did not improve their understanding of calculus. Further discussion on integrating proof based math into core is needed.

Overall, the committee wants core to allow students to explore fields of their choice, but still prepare them to succeed in their major-specific coursework. A total of 15 units from core are advised to be dropped.

Possible topics to investigate in the future include teaching quality of core sciences, usefulness of pseudo-core classes like Ph 2 and Ma 3, and topic-splitting courses like B1 b, Bi 1 g, and Bi1 x.

Right: The Flexibility in the Core Curriculum committee's proposed changes to the first year schedule, aimed at encouraging students to finish all frosh requirements during their frosh year.

Fall
Ma 1a (9 units)
Ph 1a (9 units)
Ch 1a (9 units)
Writing-Focused Hum (9 units)
CS 1 / Menu / Intro Lab (6 - 9 units)
Winter
Ma 1b (9 units)
Ph 1b (9 units)
Ch 1b (9 units)
Frosh Hum (9 units)
CS 1 / Menu / Intro Lab (6 - 9 units)
Spring
Ma 1c (9 units)
Ph 1c (9 units)
Bi 1 (9 units)
HSS / Other Elective
CS 1 / Menu / Intro Lab (6 - 9 units)