BEAVER UPDATES

Issue 02: December 2023

Each month, the Office of Student Experience (OSE) will be sending out a newsletter with a first-year student spotlight, as well as community announcements and upcoming events that are designated or open to first-year undergraduate students.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: BRENDAN KERNS

Hometown:
Port Orchard, WA and Metlakatla, AK

Option:
Probably Physics and BEM

What are some of your fav memories of your first-year at Caltech so far:
FSRI; getting to know new people; being on the swim team

If you had a day to yourself, what would you do?
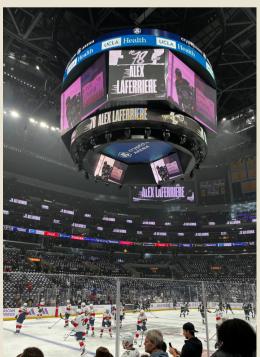Sleep! I also enjoy gaming and want to learn archery when I have time.

If you're a first-year student or know someone who would like to be featured in the next spotlight, please email ipeng@caltech.edu

OSE NEWS

On Nov 16, over 65 first-year students attended the Florida Panthers vs. LA Kings hockey game at the Crypto.com Arena, ending with a win for the Kings! This event was hosted by senior RLC, Steven Metzmaker and sponsored by OSE.

OFFICE OF STUDENT experience
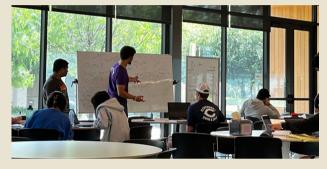
BEAVER UPDATES

PROBLEM SET WORKSHOPS

Newly launched in September, problem set workshops are a new academic initiative for first-year students to work on sets in a collaborative group environment with the support of upper-year peer facilitators.

A total of 59 workshops were hosted this term in rotating locations 3 times a week throughout the houses/residences, as well as the Hameetman building. Pset workshops have concluded this term and will resume in the winter term -- be on the lookout for the schedule soon!

As this is a new initiative, we would like to gather feedback on your experience with pset workshops. Please submit any comments or questions you may have. *Have specific snack requests? Sessions are too long/short?* We welcome any and all feedback!

REGISTRATION OPENS NOV. 16

WINTER COURSE FOR FIRST & SECOND YEAR UNDERGRADS

E100 DESIGNING YOUR CALTECH EXPERIENCE

TUESDAYS, 12PM-12:50PM - WATSON 104 (2-1-0) (P/F)

BEING A CALTECH UNDERGRAD IS BOTH PRESTIGIOUS AND DAUNTING, AND THE EXPERIENCE TENDS TO UNCOVER MANY DIFFICULT DECISIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE.

- HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE "RIGHT" OPTION FOR YOU AND YOUR TRUE GOALS?
- HOW DO YOU DISCOVER ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES CALTECH HAS TO OFFER?
- HOW DO YOU LEAVE CALTECH AFTER FOUR YEARS FEELINGS SATISFIED WITH THE EXPERIENCE?

Designing Your Caltech Experience aims to help students navigate these thorny questions! Using a process rooted in Design Thinking, the course equips students with tools to design a college experience that better aligns with who they are and what they hope to get from Caltech. Through seminar-style discussions, reflective exercises, writing assignments, guest speakers, and peer interactions, E100 teaches students to use design thinking to develop a constructive and effective approach to designing their unique undergrad experience.

WHAT PREVIOUS E100 DYCE STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

- "THE **GUEST SPEAKERS**, **ACTIVITIES**, AND **WORKBOOK** WERE HELPFUL TO ME."
- "THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE COURSE MAKES IT LESS STRESSFUL AND MORE OF A **SUPPORT SYSTEM**."
- "I GAINED **CLARITY ON MY CAREER CHOICE** AND LEARNED ABOUT THE MANY **OPPORTUNITIES THAT CALTECH HAS TO OFFER** AS SUPPORT."
- "I FOUND **BETTER GUIDANCE ON MY CAREER PATH AND FUTURE**."
- "I HOPED TO KNOW WHAT **RESOURCES OUTSIDE OF ACADEMICS** I COULD GET FROM CALTECH. THIS WAS ANSWERED WELL BY THIS COURSE."

CTLO
CENTER FOR TEACHING, LEARNING & OUTREACH

INSTRUCTOR: MELISSA DABIRI, ASSOC. DIRECTOR OF THE CTLO

BEAVER UPDATES

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Student-Faculty Programs - *email sfp@caltech.edu for additional info and Zoom link(s)*

SURF Virtual Drop-in Session | Tues, 12/5 and 12/12 at 3-4pm
Please join us if you have questions about the SURF program, finding a mentor, the application process, or anything else regarding summer research.

Amgen Scholars Program Information Session | Tues, 12/5 at 4-5pm
This session will provide information on the Amgen Scholars program available at 14 US institutions.

SURF In-Person Drop-in Session | Wed, 12/6 at 4-5pm
Please come to the tables outside of the Red Door if you have questions about finding a mentor, the application process, or anything else regarding summer research.

Caltech Y
caltechy@caltech.edu

Caltech Rise Program
First-year students who have Caltech or Federal Work study can now utilize it to participate in the Rise Program as a tutor, starting Winter 2024. Application here: https://airtable.com/app5OkqlVT7hqaxxp /shrYkph8E04eHy4qS

Reading Partners | Starting Thursdays, 1/11, 3:30-5:00PM (Alternate times available)
Reading Partners' mission is to help children become lifelong readers by empowering communities to provide individualized instruction that produces measurable results. Volunteers are matched with a student and meet weekly to improve reading skills. McKinley School (325 S Oak Knoll Ave) is about a 15-minute walk or a very short car ride away from Caltech. There will be a mandatory orientation on Caltech's campus on Thursday, January 4th. Email ljackman@caltech.edu to get started.

Caltech Y Winter Term Activities
The Caltech Y is busy planning winter term activities. Be sure to check our weekly email announcements for updates on our new Explore LA Cultural Cuisine Tour and to learn more about spring break trip applications to Hawaii and Costa Rica. For program questions and suggestions, email caltechy@caltechy.edu

LEAP Donation Drive
The LEAP Project is hosting a donation drive to support Van Nuys High School and SOAR High School in Palmdale. For more details and the list of requested items, please visit https://leap.caltech.edu/action.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Career Achievement, Leadership, and Exploration (CALE)
career@caltech.edu

Well Wishes from CALE!

Congratulations on your hard work this past fall at Caltech! Completing your first quarter at college is a huge accomplishment, and you should be very proud of yourselves. We wish you good luck on finals and a relaxing break ahead.

As this fall quarter comes to an end, we want to extend a warm thank you to any of you who may have attended our information sessions, workshops, and/or industry days this fall. We are excited to share what we have in-store this upcoming winter quarter. Be sure to mark your calendars with these important dates:

SAVE THE DATES!

JANUARY 2024

Tues, January 23rd
Caltech & Harvey Mudd Winter 2024 STEM Virtual Career Fair

Tues, January 30th
Caltech Sustainability & Energy Industry Day, hosted by the Resnick Sustainability Institute x CALE

Housing Office
626-395-6176, ughousing@caltech.edu

As winter break approaches, we'd like to share some important reminders to begin planning for now.

Required for all residents, per your housing contract:
-Submit a winter break housing form – you are required to notify us if you are staying for any portion of the break. Plan ahead of time. Online form will be sent out to all housing residents and will be due Thurs, 12/7 by noon.
-On the form, you will need to specify exactly which days you plan to remain on campus.

Before you leave for winter break:
-Take out trash and dispose of food in rooms and common area kitchens.
-Turn off all lights and appliances, including your air conditioner.
-Close all windows and lock your doors. Ensure you take your ID with you.

If you plan to stay over break:
- Food service and other administrative services will be closed beginning on 12/23. Dining will reopen 1/2/24. Meal plans will resume 1/3/24.
- Athletic Center will have reduced hours ([gocaltech.com]gocaltech.com).
- Office of Student Experience and the Caltech Security groups will be on campus available for student support.
- Emergency on-call Counseling Services will be available.
- Students also have access to the free TimelyCare teletherapy services (https://wellness.caltech.edu/resources/timelycare-and-other-tools).

For any maintenance concerns:
- For all non-urgent maintenance requests, submit a 'Facilities Service Request' and select 'Student Housing' on your access account. Housing Maintenance will schedule repairs upon return.
- For all maintenance emergency requests, please contact the Caltech Service Center at 626-395-4717. For after hour lock outs , please contact Caltech Security at 626-395-4701.