Read more about their lives at magazine.caltech.edu/post/in-memoriam



Harold Brown 1927-2019

Harold Brown, who was Caltech president, emeritus; life member of the Caltech Board of Trustees; and former secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), passed away on January 4. He was 91 years old. During Brown's presidency (1969–77), he made significant changes to the undergraduate curriculum, developed a campus master plan, and paved the way for women to be admitted to Caltech (in 1970).



Fiona Cowie 1963-2018

Fiona Cowie, professor of philosophy at Caltech, passed away on December 9 at the age of 55. She joined Caltech in 1992 as an instructor in philosophy and was appointed assistant professor in 1993, associate professor in 1998, and professor in 2010. Cowie's research explored the evolution of the human mind and philosophical questions about language. She was a proponent of the theory that language is not an innate product of the human brain but is instead a technological innovation.



Walter Burke 1922-2018

Walter Burke, longtime president and treasurer of the Sherman Fairchild Foundation and a life member of the Caltech Board of Trustees, passed away on November 1. He was 96 years old. First named to the Caltech Board of Trustees in 1975, Burke was elected a life member in 2009. In 2014, Caltech and the Sherman Fairchild Foundation honored Burke with the creation of the Walter Burke Institute for Theoretical Physics.



Wilhelmus A. J. Luxemburg 1929–2018

Wilhelmus Luxemburg, emeritus professor of mathematics at Caltech, passed away on October 2. Luxemburg joined Caltech in 1958, becoming full professor in 1962, a position he held until 2000. Luxemburg's most notable work was in the theory of Riesz spaces (partially ordered vector spaces where the order structure is a lattice) and infinitesimals (entities too small to be measured).