

[LD]: What is your vision for your tenure in this position?

[SO]: One aspect is implementation of digital technology and its many offerings. Due to COVID, many of our alumni are now more digitally savvy. We had a four-fold increase in the number of alumni who joined our first virtual Seminar Day last year, in comparison to the year prior. While I'm not advocating to carry on with only virtual events, I hope we can adopt a hybrid approach. We know the capability that digital tools can offer us, allowing us to connect with our alumni across the globe, but I still find it difficult to replace in-person interactions. Maybe I'm just old school.

Many of our alumni reside outside of Pasadena, so we want to make sure that there are ways in which they can stay connected and engaged with us. We are looking to increase the diversity of the board to better represent the diversity of our alumni community. Over 50 percent of our living alumni graduated post-'90s, and we have observed an increase in the diversity of our graduating class year after year. Correspondingly, our board should shift its composition and mentality.

We look forward to having international alumni serve on the board, and we will benefit from having a wider global perspective. The end result is better programming that caters to the interests of our diverse alumni.

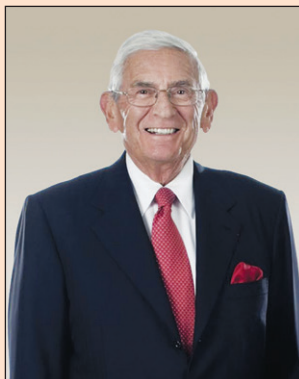
[LD]: How do you envision the alumni–student relationship?

[SO]: The level of rigor at Caltech is, bar none, the highest I've ever seen. It trains you well because the standard is so high. And I think it's good that they keep it high. The challenge is adaptation. Student life at Caltech does not necessarily translate well to life in the real world. Not everything can be solved with rationale or logic. And it's going to be difficult to find another place in the world in which you will find yourself surrounded by people just as smart as you, if not smarter. This is an area in which seasoned alumni can help students better prepare to be successful in the next stages of their careers, to share their perspectives about what it's like after graduation. I've enjoyed getting to know many undergraduates and graduate students [who are] considering careers in the pharmaceutical industry. I've also connected with those considering a career transition. For those alumni who have yet to utilize the new CAA website and Alumni Portal, which is like LinkedIn for Techers, please take a moment and connect.

We're evolving as an organization as well. If there are alumni who have any interest, whether it's serving on the board or collaborating with the board on our diverse programs, please reach out. We're more than happy to connect, whether it's on a personal basis or just to look for ways in which we can have an impact on the Caltech community. 🗨️

In Memoriam

Read more about his life at magazine.caltech.edu/post/in-memoriam



Eli Broad 1933–2021

Eli Broad, founder of SunAmerica Inc. and KB Home, former member of the Caltech Board of Trustees, and a Life Member of the Caltech community, passed away on April 30, 2021. He was 87 years old.

An entrepreneur, civic leader, and philanthropist, Broad was an influential advocate for and generous benefactor of life sciences research, public education, and the arts. Throughout his life, he worked to create and foster new businesses, education organizations, scientific research institutions, and museums.

“Eli Broad’s distinctive vision and influence shaped the landscape of Los Angeles, cultivating the arts, education, and science, and enriching our society,” says Caltech president Thomas F. Rosenbaum. “At Caltech, Eli and Edye catalyzed research in the life sciences, helping our faculty and students illuminate nature and improve the human condition.”

Broad’s commitment was most evident at Caltech through his leadership on the Board of Trustees and his long-standing investments in the Institute. In partnership with his wife, Edythe, Broad donated more than \$40 million to the biological sciences at Caltech through the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. Their generosity helped to establish the Broad Center for Biological Sciences, an interdisciplinary campus hub that houses research groups exploring diseases, disorders, and medical treatments and therapies, and provides flexible funding for professors to pursue bold new areas of science.

“His generosity and concern for the city of Los Angeles, for the arts, and for the biomedical sciences was on a scale that was qualitatively different than anyone else,” says Caltech president emeritus and distinguished professor of biology David Baltimore. “And while he had no scientific background himself, his belief in and commitment to the people around him enabled him to move forward the kinds of biological science—stem cell science, genomic science—that have made a huge difference the last couple of decades.”

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