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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Whitney Clavin, Lori Dajose,  
Kimm Fesenmaier, Davin Malasarn,  
Andrew Moseman, Ann Motrunich,  
Carol Rasmussen, Omar Shamout

DESIGNER  
Jenny K. Somerville

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER  
Dennis Lan

ILLUSTRATION, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY  
Lori Dajose, Lance Hayashida,  
Peter Holderness, Dennis Lan

COPY EDITORS  
Sharon Kaplan, Carolyn Waldron

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS  
Shayna Chabner,  
Chief Communications Officer

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[magazine@caltech.edu](mailto:magazine@caltech.edu)



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# Letters

## Moment of “Gravity”

Just read your Quantum Gravity article. Phenomenal!  
Beautifully written, a great tour of Caltech physics.

**David Zierler**

Director, Caltech Heritage Project  
(see story on page 15)

## Waste Water?

Very good story about extremely extensive  
research into our SoCal water situation. But no  
mention of dumping half our precious resource  
into the ocean for political reasons. We search to  
the heavens for reasons but ignore the obvious!

**George Cooke (BS '53)**

## Socially Aware

*A roundup of social media reactions to stories  
posted on [magazine.caltech.edu](http://magazine.caltech.edu).*

... there's no one quite like Dr. Libbrecht!

**Geoff Steeves** on Facebook  
in response to a story featuring professor of physics  
and snowflake expert Ken Libbrecht (BS '80).

So proud of you Mahider 🥳 keep up the good  
work!!! 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

**Gomez Maria** on Facebook  
in response to a #SoCaltech profile on Mahider Gessesse.

Thank you, @Caltech @CaltechMagazine, for  
featuring my talk!

**Lei Li (PhD '19)**, postdoctoral scholar research asso-  
ciate in medical engineering, on Twitter in response to a  
story about his photoacoustic engineering research that  
included a video of his TED Talk.

Sounds like something I'd say.

**Joe Parker**, assistant professor of biology and bio-  
logical engineering, on Twitter in response to a  
story on rove beetles featuring his quote:  
“They're the chemists of the animal kingdom.”

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The chalkboard! I love it! One of my favorite places on the campus. Grateful that it exists and is maintained.

**conrad773** on Instagram in response to a photo of Rana Adhikari, professor of physics; and Kathryn Zurek, professor of theoretical physics.



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## For the Record

The following individuals who responded to the Endnotes question in the Fall 2021 issue were not able to be identified due to a technical issue. In recognition of the *Break Through* Campaign, alumni were asked: “What has been your most significant personal breakthrough?”

My biggest breakthrough was completing the ME master’s program while a single parent raising a 3-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son. It wasn’t easy.

**Alvah T. Strickland (MS ’65)**  
HONOLULU, HI

My autism diagnosis. Regarding Caltech, it explained why I flamed out: pressure and poor social knowledge. In retrospect, I realize that I was far from alone in being autistic. It also helps me understand my autistic son, who may very well go to Caltech.

**Chuck Coleman (MS ’87)**  
ALEXANDRIA, VA



*California Winters*, a painting by Pasadena resident Victoria Benitez, features the Caltech campus.

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## Endnotes Sneak Peek

What are your fondest memories of Mead and/or your undergraduate chemistry classes there?

I was a TA for freshman chemistry lab in Mead in 1984–85. One day, one of the students suddenly called out, “I think I have a problem!” For reasons never made clear, he had leaned heavily on the distilled water spigot. His weight had pulled the spigot out of the pipe entirely! Distilled water was gushing out of the open pipe as he tried to block the flow with his hands, which made it spray everywhere. I started following the pipe back to its source. The pipe went to a main, which went across the ceiling and out of the lab room into the hallway and then down the hallway and out of the building into Noyes next door! I raced into Noyes to see if there was some place to shut the flow down inside. Someone from the stockroom there knew where it was and we got the water shut off, but not before we had created an enormous flood!

**James E. Hanson (PhD ’90)**  
MILLTOWN, NJ

For more memories of the Clifford S. and Ruth A. Mead Memorial Undergraduate Chemistry Laboratory, see Endnotes on page 40.

