

In Memoriam

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James P. Quirk 1926–2020

James “Jim” P. Quirk, a former professor of economics at Caltech noted for his research into the economics of sports, died in June 2020. He was 93. In addition to his sports-related work, which included a paper he co-authored on the role of antitrust regula-

tions in professional sports, he also authored economics papers on space station design, defense contracting, dams and reservoirs, boxing regulations, nuclear power, and capital gains. He was part of a group of Caltech professors that pushed for the creation of a PhD program in economics, which was established in 1972.



Hugh P. Taylor Jr.

(BS '54, PhD '59) 1932–2021

Geochemist Hugh P. Taylor Jr., the Robert P. Sharp Professor of Geology, Emeritus, passed away on October 26, 2021. He was 88. He was one of a half-dozen scientists from Caltech who were selected by NASA

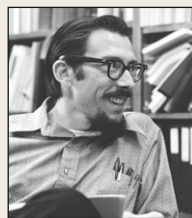
to receive samples of lunar materials collected by Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Along with his graduate adviser, Samuel Epstein, Taylor searched the samples for isotopes of oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, and other elements to determine the temperatures at which moon minerals were formed and to discover any possible interactions between the rocks and water. His later isotope research led to a new understanding of hydrothermal convection on Earth and the effects of rainwater on basaltic intrusions.



Robert H. Grubbs 1942–2021

Robert Grubbs, the Victor and Elizabeth Atkins Professor of Chemistry at Caltech, passed away on December 19, 2021. He was 79. Grubbs was a co-winner of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of the metathesis

method in organic synthesis. Metathesis is a catalyst-aided chemical reaction in which double bonds are broken and forged between carbon atoms in ways that cause atom groups to change places. Grubbs worked to develop powerful new “green” catalysts that helped make the creation of a host of products, ranging from new medicines to advanced materials, more sustainable. He also tackled issues affecting human health, including his work to aid the development of a new kind of replacement lens for patients with cataracts.



James H. Strauss Jr.

(PhD '67) 1938–2021

James “Jim” H. Strauss Jr., the Ethel Wilson Bowles and Robert Bowles Professor of Biology, Emeritus, passed away on December 28, 2021. He was 83. Strauss’s research focused on the replication and assembly of two types

of enveloped RNA viruses: alphaviruses and flaviviruses. These viruses include those that cause encephalitis, yellow fever, dengue fever, and other human diseases. Strauss served as executive officer for molecular and cellular biology from 1980 to 1989.

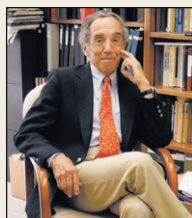


Narendra K. Gupta (MS '70)

1948–2021

Narendra (Naren) K. Gupta, founder and managing director of Nexus Venture Partners in Menlo Park, California, and a senior member of the Caltech Board of Trustees, passed away on December 25, 2021. He was

73. In 2021, Gupta and his wife, Vinita, established the Naren and Vinita Gupta Fellows Program, which provides support for graduate students at Caltech, particularly those in the Division of Engineering and Applied Science. In 1980, Gupta co-founded Integrated Systems Inc. (ISI), an embedded software company. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Caltech Alumni Association in 2004.



Noel R. Corngold 1929–2022

Noel R. Corngold, professor of applied physics, emeritus, passed away on January 24, 2022. He was 93. As a nuclear engineer, he conducted theoretical work on how neutrons behave in reactors. When he transitioned to nuclear physics at Caltech, he dedicated

himself to turning out physics students armed with a wide and deep knowledge of the field. Along with his dedication to teaching, Corngold continued with research in new areas related to transport theory and in particular to photons and charged particles.

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