

Endnotes

What do you remember most about your Caltech commencement day?



Several of the other electrical engineers had created a new type of audio amplifier. They rented several stadium speakers and set them up on the rooflines of the adjoining buildings. When the band started to play, the engineers poured several kilowatts of “The Ride of the Valkyries” into the courtyard, overwhelming every other sound.

Bruce Casner (BS '75)
NEENAH, WI

My immigrant father was always a man of few words; he was not easily pleased, and he was never one for much pomp and circumstance. But on that June day, I think he felt and appreciated what a special place Caltech is, as did I and the rest of my family. This sense of honor and pride has been a source of much happiness from that day until today.

Demetrios Missios (BS '88)
LONG BEACH, CA

My parents were there. They had doubts about me going for a science PhD after I graduated from college with a BA in English. But when I finally received my PhD in physics, they were so proud. They have passed away since, but I'll always remember that day with them. And the great party we had that evening at my home with so many of my fellow graduates—the relief I felt at achieving my dream was amazing. My parents danced along with my friends.

France Córdova (PhD '79)
SANTA FE, NM

My mother took a picture of the wrong person receiving a diploma!

Robert Murphy (BS '84)
JAMUL, CA



President Rosenbaum's smile at each and every degree recipient. Maintaining such a genuine smile for hours is not possible without a certain inner peace!

Harsha Reddy (MS '18)
PASADENA, CA



We had the first President Bush speak at our commencement. I recall all the extra security. Plus the class president leaning in to ask the president something before giving him a hug. His question? “Can I give you a hug? Or will the Secret Service tackle me?”

Michael Kwan (BS '91)
SUNNYVALE, CA

I was very happy! David Baltimore joked: “MIT got Bill Clinton. We got Bill Nye. Who is jealous of whom?”

Richard Yeh (BS '98)
BROOKLYN, NY

Our commencement speaker, Ray Bradbury, turned to the graduating PhDs and told them: “I want you to go home tonight and call up every person who ever told you that you couldn't do it, and tell them to go to hell.” I carried that energy with me all the way through graduate school.

Sarah Milkovich (BS '00)
LOS ANGELES, CA

My mother spotted Richard Feynman on the Olive Walk and tried to line up a photo of me so he'd be in the background. I suggested we go over and ask if he would pose with me. Of course, he obliged, even though I am a biologist! She created a poster of the adorable photo, which my dad hung in his office.

Robin Wilson (BS '86)
BALTIMORE, MD



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