In Memoriam

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Roy W. Gould (1927–2022)

Roy W. Gould (BS '49, PhD '56), Caltech's Simon Ramo Professor of Engineering, Emeritus, passed away on February 19, 2022, at age 94. Gould joined the Caltech faculty as an assistant professor of electrical engineering in 1955, a year before earning his doctorate. His research focused on plasma physics and thermonuclear fusion, and he served from 1970 to 1972 as director of fusion research at the Atomic Energy Commission, the federal agency created in 1946 to manage the development, use, and control of nuclear energy. He was recruited to serve as a deputy science adviser to President Richard Nixon, but returned to Caltech instead. Back on campus, Gould constructed a tokamak, a device that uses a magnetic field to confine plasma and study its chaotic mechanics.

Eugene N. Parker (1927–2022)

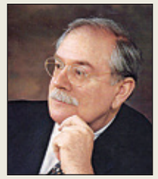
Distinguished Alumnus Eugene Parker (PhD '51) passed away on March 15, 2022, at age 94. Parker was a pioneer in the field of heliophysics, the study of the sun and how it affects Earth, the planets in our solar system, and space beyond. In 1958, Parker correctly predicted the existence of the solar wind, a flow of charged particles that stream off our sun at speeds faster than sound. NASA named its Parker Solar Probe, a mission currently traveling around the sun, in his honor. The mission, which launched in 2018, was the first named by NASA after a living scientist.

Arthur D. Riggs (1939–2022)

Distinguished Alumnus Arthur D. "Art" Riggs (PhD '66), a pioneering geneticist and world-renowned expert in diabetes, died March 23, 2022, at age 82. Holder of the Samuel Rahbar Distinguished Chair in Diabetes & Drug Discovery at City of Hope in Duarte, California, his research profoundly impacted the health and treatment of millions of people with diabetes and cancer, and helped to launch the genetic engineering revolution and the biotechnology industry. In the late 1970s, together with City of Hope's Keiichi Itakura and Herbert Boyer of UC San Francisco, Riggs developed technology that enabled the bacterial production of human insulin. Monoclonal antibody technology developed by Riggs and his colleagues also formed the basis of drugs to treat breast and colon cancer, lymphoma, and autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Carl V. Larson (1940–2022)

Distinguished Alumnus Carl V. Larson (BS '52), passed away on March 27, 2022, at age 92. A native of Mercer Island, Washington, Larson enrolled at Caltech in 1948. He initially intended to study chemistry, but he eventually switched to mechanical engineering. Over decades, Larson and his wife, Shirley, engaged actively with the Caltech community—often behind the scenes and anonymously. Larson served as president of the Caltech Associates and chairman of the board for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships program. Larson was also adamant that one should "give good people the resources and get out of the way." He would often remark—using an aerodynamic analogy inspired by his time as a weather forecaster in the U.S. Air Force and his enthusiasm for vexillology (the study of flags)—that his only intention was to "increase lift without adding drag."



David A. Evans (1941–2022)

David A. Evans (PhD '67), a former Caltech faculty member in the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, died on April 29, 2022, at age 81. Evans studied synthetic organic chemistry at Caltech. After a stint at UCLA, he returned to Caltech as a professor of chemistry in 1974. He stayed with the Institute until 1983, when he joined the faculty of Harvard University. Evans' most influential work involved what is now known as the Evans acyl oxazolidinone method, which is used in the synthesis of polyketides, a class of molecules that are useful as pesticides, pigments, antibiotics, anti-cancer drugs, and medications for treating high cholesterol.