

Caltech magazine

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PRODUCED BY CALTECH'S OFFICE OF
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
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magazine.caltech.edu

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Caltech magazine ISSN 2475-9570 (print)/
ISSN 2475-9589 (online) is published at
Caltech, 1200 East California Boulevard,
Pasadena, CA 91125.

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20; Sergio Solorzano: 3 (bottom), 25, 28, 34-35;
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Michrowski: 40; Shutterstock/MarySan: 41 (top);
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stock/goodbishop: back cover.

This issue includes FSC-certified paper, and
is printed by Lane Press, South Burlington,
Vermont.



Above: Student teams compete in the 38th
annual ME72 Engineering Design Competition
on March 9, 2023.

Letters

A Teacher's Power

It was with delight that I read about the naming
of the Lee F. Browne Dining Hall earlier this
year. Mr. Browne was my chemistry teacher at
Blair High School, Pasadena, prior to his joining
the staff at Caltech. I attribute my winning
of the 1968 American Chemical Society High
School Chemistry Contest to Mr. Browne's
expert teaching, sparkly personality, and love
of chemistry. Although I elected not to attend
Caltech and not to major in chemistry, I will
never forget the contribution this wonderful
man made to my life!

—Stephen Riffenburgh, MD
SOUTH PASADENA, CA

Reflecting on "Reflections of '72"

I definitely believe that anyone who wishes to do
engineering and sciences should not be limited
by what society tells them what they can or
cannot do. There should be no quota for any race,
but rather encouragement for [people] tradition-
ally not seen as "smart" to pursue an education

@JacsonJanele on Twitter

A Mentor Remembered

Many thanks for the latest edition of the maga-
zine. I enjoyed reading many stories, especially
the In Memoriam pieces. I especially appreciated
the tribute to Leon Silver, whom I remember
from my undergraduate days in the early 1960s.
Lee was born in Monticello, New York, not far
from where we now have a summer cottage.
Although I was principally interested in geo-
physics, I profited from the excellent courses
that Lee taught and appreciated the interest
he took in me, which continued throughout my
career in mineral physics at Columbia, the
Australian National University, and, for the
past half century, at Stony Brook University.

—Bob Liebermann (BS '64)
SETAUKET, NY



The snowy San Gabriel Mountains
as seen from Caltech Hall Library
on March 1, 2023.



Leafed Out?

Interesting details in the article about trees
(Fall 2022, "Caltech in Five Trees," page 8). But
what happened to the olive trees that gave their
name to the Olive Walk?

—Martin Goldsmith (MS '52, PhD '55)
SEAL BEACH, CA

Editor's note:
Fear not! The 20 olive trees (*Olea europaea*) along the Olive
Walk have not gone anywhere!

Winter in Antarctica

In your article about Zhongwen Zhan (*Caltech*
magazine online, March 2023), you state that
the Antarctic winter "is too inhospitable for
human scientists to hang around."

In fact, people from the U.S. Antarctic
Program (both scientists and support staff)
do spend winters in Antarctica, both at
McMurdo Station (a few hundred) and at the
South Pole (about 50). Some of those people
are even affiliated with Caltech! For example,
Professor Jamie Bock's group in PMA oper-
ates telescopes at Amundsen-Scott South Pole
Station through the Antarctic winter. The
Antarctic summer season is used for telescope
upgrades and repairs while science data are
collected during the Antarctic winter, and the
team generally includes at least one scientist/
engineer to ensure that the telescope remains
operational through the winter.

—Asad Aboobaker
JPL Systems Engineer
ALTADENA, CA

Editor's note:
Read about Professor of Geophysics
Zhongwen Zhan's recent research trip to the South Pole:

