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magazine

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
DC Agle, Lori Dajose, Cynthia Eller,
Julia Ehler, Kimm Fesenmaier,
Andrew Moseman, Katie Neith,
Omar Shamout, Chris Quirk

DESIGNER
Jenny K. Somerville

ONLINE DESIGNER
Sergio Solorzano

ILLUSTRATION, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY
Lance Hayashida, Peter Holderness,
Jon Nalick, Sergio Solorzano,
Charis Tsevis, Bill Youngblood

COPY EDITORS
Sharon Kaplan, Carolyn Waldron

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
Shayna Chabner,
Chief Communications Officer

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The newly opened Resnick Sustainability Center will serve as both a hub for sustainability research and as a physical gateway for pedestrians on campus.

Contact *Caltech* magazine at
magazine@caltech.edu

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Letters

On That Note

When I was a student at Caltech (1959–1964), there was a professor who had built a pipe organ in his home. As I remember it (that was 60 years ago!), there were pipes all over his home, but it sounded really great.

Upon further research (from my journal 5/27/1962):

“Drove over to the late Professor Hunter Mead’s home for an organ recital. This 106-rank pipe organ was built over 12 years at a cost of \$33,000. It was a beautiful sounding thing with the sounds coming from all sides. Except for a few small living areas, the house is filled with pipes and even the walls have been pushed back and the roof raised to accommodate more pipes.”

George R. Cannon, Jr. (BS '64)
SAINT GEORGE, UT

Editor’s note: *Hunter Mead, a former professor of philosophy and psychology, and director of musical activities at the Institute, wrote an article titled “The Philosophy of Organ-Building” for the February 1950 issue of Caltech’s Engineering & Science magazine, which documented his home organ project.*

Read the story



Office Ovation

I love this premise and this story (“Inside Look,” Spring 2024)! When I was at Caltech, I loved hanging out in George Rossman’s office. Real and not-quite-real minerals to stump the viewer! George’s most devious nonmineral was a vial of sugar crystals the color (more or less) of emeralds. (However, it might be too esoteric for nongeologists.)

Mary Johnson (BS '76)
SAN DIEGO, CA



A Time for Joy

One of the biggest successes that my daughter had as an undergraduate student at Caltech was “meeting her tribe.” At a time when social-emotional learning and growth was at its most important, she found joy at Caltech (due to professors, TAs, housing, her major, etc.).

She and her partner (whom she met at Caltech) are now successful graduate students on the East Coast at prestigious universities—a large reason why I still open your email—because it all started at Caltech.

A part of this email is simply a “thank you” for your newsletter. Another part is for me to say that I would love to read more about the JOY that students, professors, and administrators find and gather at a school as prestigious as Caltech. Few will think about social-emotional growth at a school like Caltech, but I consider myself to be the luckiest mom in the world because Caltech gave my daughter just that—happiness and joy (among a thousand other opportunities, strengths, talents, and more).

Tricia
ORANGE, CA



A Data-Driven Decade

What an amazing 10 years with @Caltech & @YueLabCaltech! I’m very grateful for the wonderful students, postdocs, and other collaborators I’ve worked with. Thanks to everyone who attended, especially the alumni who traveled back to celebrate!

Listening to the stories that were told, I was struck by the moments that left lasting impressions for students and postdocs. Many moments were not the ones I thought were important, which again reminded me of the influence and responsibility that comes with being an advisor.

Thanks for all the memories, let’s make some more!

Yisong Yue, professor of computing and mathematical sciences, posting on X following his 10-year anniversary party




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