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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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Printed by Courier Graphics Corporation, Phoenix, AZ



Pictured on the cover: Julia Ehlert Nair

Left: Graduate student Jieyu Zheng took this photo of a snowy egret at a Caltech lily pond on January 2, 2025.

# Letters

## **Cycling Celebrity**

Readers connected with our #SoCaltech profile of Caltech graduate student and cycling advocate Elina Sendonaris.

Read it here



I'm a JPL-er and Pasadena resident, and just wanted to reach out to thank you for taking that opportunity to promote the Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition [CSC]! I grew up in a car-centric suburb, then spent much of my early adulthood commuting by bicycle in a more walkable city and loving the feeling of freedom and connectedness, and the health benefits it provided. Now I'm living in Pasadena feeling like we have such potential to be a cycling-friendly city but are really missing the necessary infrastructure. I have two young daughters, and I would love to be able to bike with them around town, but for the most part, it just doesn't feel safe.

I signed the petition for the All Ages & Abilities Greenway and will continue to keep an eye on the CSC social media for opportunities to support their work. Thank you for using your platform to promote a worthwhile cause!

> -Joseph Russino PASADENA, CA

Please thank Elina for her efforts to improve cycling. I am doing the same thing in her native Bay Area—Castro Valley. Sadly, it is far more challenging than it should be, and we recently lost a battle to install bike lanes on a spine of our connected bike network because nobody would remove parking—so disheartening. Anyway, I just want her to know there are others out there supporting her efforts.

> -Bruce Duahi CASTRO VALLEY, CA



#### **Laser Focus**

It's a Coherent 699 laser in the photograph (not 599). I have used both.

-Mark Lindsay (BS '84)

ESTES PARK, CO

Editor's note: The laser described in our "Shine a Light" story (Fall 2024) was the Coherent 599 dye laser, but the photo wrongly depicted the 699.

# Organ Donation

I read George Cannon's letter about Hunter Mead, the Caltech professor who had a large pipe organ in his home [Fall 2024]. As a member (originally) of the class of '76, I was not able to meet him. In fact, the end-of-year Caltech musical event was called the "Hunter Mead Memorial Concert!" I have been the Caltech organist for 50 years. I also served for a while on the LA Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Finance Committee, where I discovered Dr. Mead was one of only two major donors to our fund! Alas, the concerts are now called "Bandorama," and we are forgetting about a fascinating person.

> -Les Deutsch (BS '76, PhD '80) CHATSWORTH, CA

### **Previous Paleontologists**

On page 16 of the Fall 2024 issue of Caltech magazine, you state: "Julia Tejada is only the second paleontologist to join the Caltech faculty," the first being Chester Stock. What about Heinz Lowenstam? During my sophomore year (1972-73), I spent time working in his lab. Wasn't he a paleontologist? What I observed of his work would certainly be classified as paleontology.

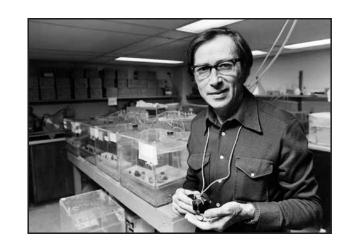
-Mary Eichbauer (BS '74)

BENICIA, CA

As a former inmate of Jerry Wasserburg's "Lunatic Asylum," I enjoyed the article "Signatures from the Past," but Julia Tejada is not the second paleontologist on the Caltech faculty. She may be the second vertebrate paleontologist. As far as I know, Heinz Lowenstam, professor of paleoecology from 1952-83, didn't work on vertebrates, but he was certainly a paleontologist.

> -G. Price Russ III (PhD '74) WALNUT CREEK. CA

Editor's note: Indeed, in "Signatures from the Past" (Fall 2024), we should have identified Julia Tejada as the second vertebrate paleontologist to join Caltech's faculty. We appreciate those who wrote in defense of Heinz Lowenstam.



**Heinz Lowenstam** 

Spring 2025 Caltech magazine magazine.caltech.edu