

Random Walk

With Us This Year...

... at least two new students with unusual qualifications — youth and family ties. Graduate student Chi-Bin Chien was barely 16 years old when he registered at Caltech last year. He didn't actually arrive on the campus until this fall, however, because he was spending a year at Cambridge University in England on a Churchill scholarship. At 15, Chien was the youngest recipient of the bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University in the 106 years of the institution's existence, and he walked off with general and departmental honors plus the Donald E. Kerr Memorial Award in Physics. He will be continuing his work in physics at Caltech.

Another kind of rare case is that of Karl Clauser, the fifth member of his family and the first of the third generation of Clausers to register at the Institute. It all began when his grandfather, Milton U. Clauser, and his great-uncle, Francis, took three degrees apiece at Caltech in the 1930s. Francis is now Clark Blanchard Millikan Professor of Engineering Emeritus. Karl's father, Milton J., received a PhD in 1966 and is now a physicist with Sandia Labs in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His uncle, John Clauser, got a BS in 1964, and he is a physicist at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM H. CORCORAN, Institute Professor of Chemical Engineering, died on August 21 while vacationing in Hawaii. Corcoran was an alumnus, with BS, MS, and PhD degrees from Caltech, and he was an active participant in the academic and administrative life of the community. He served for ten years as Caltech's first vice president for Institute Relations. He was a distinguished chemical engineer, educator, and industrial consultant, and the holder of many awards, including in 1980 the Engineer of the Year Award from the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering. He was also a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

A memorial service in Corcoran's honor was held in October, and *E&S* will report on it in a forthcoming issue.

Coming Up



WHEN Peter J. Wyllie (above) arrives at Caltech in July 1983, the man who shakes his hand most cordially is likely to be Barclay Kamb, professor of geology and geophysics. Wyllie, who comes as a professor of geology, will also be taking over as chairman of the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, and Kamb will be stepping down after holding that post for 11 years.

Wyllie, 52, is currently the Homer J. Livingston Professor and chairman of the

Department of Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago. He went there in 1965 after being on the faculties of Leeds University in England, The Pennsylvania State University, and Scotland's University of St. Andrews, where he had received a BSc, a BSc with honors, and a PhD. He is an authority on the formation of igneous and metamorphic rocks, and he has over 200 scientific papers and three books to his credit, as well as a number of awards for teaching and research.

Counterpoint

IN THE May issue of *E&S*, Sue VandeWoude reported on the 1982 Student-Faculty conference, including the fact that a discussion of "the need to educate grad students and new faculty about the honor system" had taken place. That statement created some protest among graduate students who feel that though the discussion did indeed take place the assumption on which it was based was unwarranted. Here, for example, is a letter we recently received:

Dear Editor:

As the immediate past chairman of the Graduate Student Council, I feel it is necessary to express a counterpoint to Sue VandeWoude's "The 1982 Student-Faculty Conference."

The undergraduate student body has no monopoly on the introduction, education, and enforcement of the honor code. The so-called "need to educate grad students . . . about the honor system" has been fulfilled for several years now by the G.S.C. and the Caltech administration. Even Caltech undergrads who continue as grad stu-

dents are "educated." My contacts with alumni, faculty, administration, and individual undergraduates have never yielded any substantial allegations of graduate student misconduct. It appears that only in the collective anonymity of fora such as the conference are these doubts expressed. If the behavior of graduate students is of such concern, why are we never given a chance to express our views and concerns?

Unsubstantiated charges by any sector of the Caltech community are harmful. These charges start as rumor and soon become accepted as fact. The maturity of the graduate student body prevents equally malicious countercharges from being levied against the undergrads.

I hope that greater caution is exercised in the future before such potentially damaging statements are made or, worse, printed.

Sincerely,
Albert Lin, PhD '82