The purpose of the Caltech Y is to provide resources and opportunities for the enrichment of student life; to enable students to learn about themselves and their place in the world community through increased social, ethical, and cultural awareness; and to address changing student needs.

Annual Report
03-04
Select Y Programs: 
2003-2004 In Review

SEPTEMBER
• Y-Hike to the Sierras
• Orientation Trips (Sea Kayaking, Trail Maintenance)
• Orientation Scavenger Hunt

OCTOBER
• Social Activism Speaker Series: Peter Camejo
• Coming Out Day Fair
• Grand Canyon Trip
• Day Hike
• Social Activism Speaker Series: Rahul Mahajan

NOVEMBER
• Dia De Los Muertos Celebration
• Social Activism Speaker Series: Gerard Ungerman
• Community Service Fair
• Day Hikes
• International Education Fair
• Affordable Housing Forum
• Union Station Dinner in the Park

DECEMBER
• World AIDS Day
• Decompression
• Winter Backpacking Trip
• Union Station Dinner in the Park

JANUARY
• Ice Skating – Downtown LA
• Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week
• Women’s Outdoor Adventure Series
• Horseback Riding

FEBRUARY
• Night Hike
• Black History Month Jazz Night
• Primaries & Elections 101
• Social Activism Speaker Series: Alain Dubos

MARCH
• Trail Maintenance
• Day Hike
• Decompression
• Alternative Spring Break Trips (Tecolote, Ensenada, Owens Valley, San Francisco, Navajo Nation)

APRIL
• Make-A-Difference Day
• Community Service
• Social Activism Speaker Series: US Congressman Bernie Sanders
• Health & Workplace Fair
• Day Hikes
• International Week
• Earth Day Concert
• Pre-Frosh Weekend Movie

MAY
• Semana Latina
• Social Activism Speaker Series: Lalo Alcaraz
• Bike To The Beach
• Social Activism Speaker Series: Mike Farrell
• Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Week
• Day Hikes
• Humphrey’s Peak Backpacking Trip
• Women’s Outdoor Adventure Series
• Sailing

JUNE
• Huntington Tea
• Decompression
• Senior Reception
• Yosemite & Nelder Grove Outdoor Trip

PERPETUAL PROGRAMS:
• Friday’s in Fall
• Noon Concert Series
• Tuesdays & Thursdays
• Tutoring (Jr. High & High school)
• 1st Saturday of the Month
• Chancellor Place
• Community Service
• 2nd Saturday of the Month
• Reading To Kids
• Community Service
• 3rd Saturday of the Month
• Union Station Shelter
• Community Service
• 4th Saturday of the Month
• Rebuilding Together
• Community Service

Program Highlights: By the Numbers

• The Y coordinated and/or sponsored 137 programs with a total of 5,500 participants
• 700 students attended the International Food Fair that featured 18 international student clubs
• 200 participants volunteered during Make-A-Difference Day
• 33 backpackers, including 10 student leaders, spent a week in the Sierras on the Y Hike
• 90 graduate and undergraduate students as well as faculty attended the Huntington Tea
• 1500 students were served during three decompressions
• 214 middle- and high-school students enrolled in the Y’s free tutoring program with a total of 58 Caltech student tutors

Front cover photos from top to bottom: Volunteering with the Boys & Girls Club, Y Hike, Volunteering with Rebuilding Together Pasadena, and Y Outdoor Adventures Committee.
October 2004 marks the Y’s 88th anniversary! We will celebrate 88 years of students, programs, and enhancing the quality of student life at Caltech. Throughout the past eighty eight years, the Y has evolved and experienced many changes. Even amidst the transitions, one thing about the Y has remained constant — we continue to be student-focused.

This past year, the Y Board embarked upon the strategic planning process. We began by looking at our purpose and mission statement, and we asked ourselves, “Is our mission still relevant, and for that matter, is the Y still relevant?” All of these questions boiled down to one critical question — what are we about?

Well, we are still about students. That has never wavered. The number of programs that we accomplish each year and the number of students who participate aren’t nearly as important to us as the impact of those programs. You see, we at the Y, believe that the program is a means to an end. In the process of coordinating and planning an event, the students learn important life skills: leadership, problem solving, flexibility, how to work in groups, how to tolerate ambiguity . . . the list goes on. The Y does not and has never existed merely to develop programs. Instead, we strive to provide opportunities and resources to enable students to develop their own programs. They initiate, create, and lead. In the process, they learn about themselves and their place in the world community.

A few years ago, a student slipped a note under my door following commencement. This note captures everything that we hope to accomplish and encompasses everything that we are about. He wrote:

The Y was the place where I could find support whenever I needed it, where my ideas and feelings meant something, and where I came to remember that there was more to life than science. It was through the Y that I could keep sight of the big picture and my place in it. The Y kept me on track by reminding me that there are more important problems and issues than the worries I had at Caltech.

This is the distinction — the Y is not about programs, it is about students. In recognition of this and the important work that we do, the Y Board reaffirmed our mission and yes, the Y is still as relevant today as it was 88 years ago. As you read through our annual report, we hope that you celebrate our successes — the students and what they have accomplished!
Congratulations to the 2004 ExComm Graduates!

They have truly made a world of difference at the Y and in the lives of many Caltech students. Congratulations! We will miss you!

From the Y ExComm President

Since I’ve been paying attention, the Y has been growing more and more present in everyone’s minds. I can see the enthusiasm and curiosity rising in my fellow members of the Caltech community when I tell them about the latest hike I’ve gone on with the Outdoors group, or all the different volunteering and service opportunities, or the funding available for their own clubs and activities.

The first level of Y interest and participation begins with the realization, “Wow! Look how much the Y can do for me!”

The Techer who spends a little more time, though, and pays a little more attention, may deepen their sentiments and think, “Look how much I can do through the Y.”

Thoughts like this make the space for our imagination and creative use of resources. This year we’ve seen some high-impact events (with high-enthusiasm leaders) like the trip to Humphrey’s Peak, the highest mountain in Arizona, or the Fourth of July trip to the Rose Bowl, which gave many international summer students an American cultural experience to remember.

And I think I speak for so many of us when I say that when I see conditions being engineered and stages being set by those who care through the Y, all in the interest my changing needs as a Caltech student and as a human in general, I am filled with gratitude.

The opportunity to be a student leader in this organization has brought me to some amazing conclusions about what it means to care and to give of oneself--if you haven’t felt warm or fuzzy enough lately, I want to welcome you to the Y (through our new doors! The Y has just moved and we are settling into our new home in the buildings between Ruddock House and the Athenaeum).

A huge thanks to everyone for a great year so far--and lots of encouragement as we look forward together.

Eva Murdock
Junior, Biology Major
The Paul Studenski Award

The Studenski Award, established in memory of former student Paul Studenski, is a travel grant given by the Caltech Y to one or two Caltech undergraduates each year. The grant is to be used to fund time away from campus, during which students can increase self-understanding and reflect on the future by exploring interests that lie outside their formal academic program. The following report is written by Iram Parveen Bilal, the 2003-2004 Studenski Award recipient.

This summer, I got a chance to do what I have wanted to do since I was eight years old—make movies! Even if they were just a two-minute music video and a five-minute documentary, they were products of my creativity. With the help of the Caltech Y’s Studenski Award, I was able to take a four-week introduction class on digital production at the University of Sussex, Brighton this summer.

The program started with a two-minute music video project on “Brighton: The Place and its People.” Our main project was a five-minute documentary on the “busker” or street musician culture prevalent in Brighton and London. We did this in groups of four so that we could interchange and learn the different roles of running the camera, lighting, interviewer, and director.

At the end of this four-week intense course, I realized that in addition to being passionate about filmmaking, I was also not so bad at it. It was very encouraging. I recently received my transcript from the University and have ended up with an A in the course. It is indeed great to know that one is good at their passion. I am now applying to film schools and in addition, I can now show my summer experience in interviewing, editing and shooting to help me with my applications. If it were not for the Caltech Y and the Studenski Award, I would certainly not have been able to afford this and would not be as clear about my professional inclination as I am now.

The Lucy Guernsey Service Award

The Lucy Guernsey Service Award was established by the Caltech Y ExComm in honor of Lucy Guernsey, the Y’s Executive Director from 1989-1991, in recognition of her leadership, dedication to students, and diligence to furthering the Y’s commitment to volunteerism. The award is given annually to a student who exemplifies a spirit of service, for their involvement with service projects, and for their leadership in community and volunteers service efforts.

The Lucy Guernsey Service Award was presented to Spencer Mortensen for his outstanding contributions to the Caltech Y and the community at large. Spencer, who was born in Logan, Utah, was actively volunteering in his community while still a high school student.

Spencer was introduced to the Y during his freshman year and became a member during his sophomore year. He served as Vice President during his senior year. Among the many Caltech Y activities, Spencer has worked with such organizations as Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together Pasadena and the Santa Monica Trails Coalition. Spencer also participated in Alternative Spring Break each year he was enrolled in Caltech. He attended the trip to Tecolote, Mexico during his first three years and served as a trip leader to the Y’s inaugural trip to Ensenada, Mexico in March 2004.

In addition to serving on ExComm, Spencer was also president of the Caltech Environmental Task Force, where he was able to engage in community service activities such as visits to the Boys and Girls Club in order to educate children on environmental issues. Spencer has also served as the Marks House Representative, where he planned and organized social events. Spencer reflected, “The Caltech Y and the Environmental Task Force are what I loved the most. They are the two things I am going to remember when I leave.”

Upon graduating with a degree in Mathematics in 2005, Spencer hopes to continue his commitment to international service by joining the Peace Corps. The Y is confident that the Peace Corps will be fortunate to receive such a dedicated and impassioned young man into their organization.

Note: Iram Parveen Bilal was accepted to USC’s prestigious School of Film and was awarded a Watson Fellowship. She has declined admission to USC in order to study dance in India, Kenya, and Ireland as a Watson Fellow. She will use film as her main method of study during her trip and hopes to reapply to USC after completing her Watson.

Spencer Mortensen
September is the month of new beginnings. It marks the arrival of new students, the start of another year for returning students, and this year, the Caltech Y opens the gates to our new home, both literally and figuratively. Originally built as stables, the new Y facility features large wooden gates at the entry of our plaza. Perhaps it was meant to be. After all, the Y represents a gateway to endless possibilities for many students.

When one first glances at the Y, they see a few programs of interest, or perhaps even the full calendar of activities waiting to be explored. But those that fling the gates wide open, see not only a wealth of programs but opportunities for leadership and involvement as well. Students such as Eva Murdock and Rebecca Adler, each featured in this annual report, are actively involved in setting the vision and direction of the Caltech Y through their service on the Y Student Executive Committee (ExComm). This significant experience in the leadership of a non-profit organization is unparalleled. But it is easy to see the commitment made by members of the ExComm. Many, like Eva and Rebecca are also involved with Y committees that are active in their own way, such as the Y Community Service, Outdoors, or Social Activism Speaker Series Committees. Each of these groups mixes members of the Y ExComm with other student leaders eager to make a difference in their area of specialty.

Jonathan So, or JoSo as he is affectionately known, is one example of the many ExComm members who are active in other leadership positions outside the Y. JoSo is not only the ExComm Treasurer, but he also plays a significant role with Building Bridges, a community service club on campus. Through him and his involvement in the Y ExComm, the Y has been able to support the efforts of this group who are making a difference in their own way. But it doesn’t end there. In addition to the students who make up the direct leadership team of the Y, there are numerous other student clubs, organizations, and leaders who find ways of utilizing the Y’s resources and opportunities to exercise their own activism and put their leadership skills to use. One such organizer is graduate student, Asa Hopkins who first came into contact with the Y through the Social Activism Speaker Series Committee, which he now chairs. The SASS Committee invites provocative community leaders to promote awareness of global issues in order to challenge Caltech community members to seek ways to address world needs. Asa was also involved with Peaceful Justice at Caltech, an independent student organization that met in the Y Lounge and was founded, in part, by Y student leaders in the days following 9/11. Recently, Asa founded Caltech Votes!, a non-partisan collective of Caltech community members, including the Y, that seeks to engage students in the world through their voting.

Many talented and engaged students work with the Y, directly and indirectly, on exciting projects that make real differences in the world. They have discovered as Eva Murdock has so aptly put it, “how much [they] can do through the Y,” and we are all better off for their discovery.
Rebecca Adler
ExComm Vice President
Junior, Biology/History & Philosophy of Science Major

Excerpt from a speech given at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting, June 2004

For myself and so many other students at Caltech, the Y has been a tremendous asset. My involvement with the Caltech Y ExComm and my interactions with the board members have indeed made a tremendous difference to my life at Caltech. Coming in as a new student, the annual Y Hike allowed me to become involved and meet other students who were also interested in the outdoors before classes even started. Thanks to the Caltech Y, I felt like I had an immediate group of friends who helped me become acclimated to this new and unique environment. This welcoming atmosphere is what caused me to become a member of the ExComm. Since then, I have really gained an appreciation for all of the hard work and commitment that goes into each and every Caltech Y event, not only from members of ExComm, but from students in the Caltech community, both graduate and undergraduate, Y Staff members, and also the board members. I am truly thankful for the opportunities and support that the Y has been able to offer me thus far during my time at Caltech. There have been countless cultural, and community service events that have helped distract me from work and make the course load much more bearable. Additionally, the support I’ve received from the Y has been amazing.

At the end of my sophomore year, I eagerly anticipate future successes of the Caltech Y and look forward to positively contributing to even more than I have in the past. As summer begins, I look forward to helping with the upcoming Y Hike for the summer of 2004 and making a difference to the upcoming freshman in the same way that others did for me. Thanks again for all of your support.

Your Support Makes a Difference

Rebecca Adler
ExComm Vice President
Junior, Biology/History & Philosophy of Science Major

03-04 Programs

This year, a new crop of emerging leaders brought their own unique talents and ideas to the Caltech Y, building on the successes of the past, but also taking programs to new heights and in new directions. The 03-04 academic year included many innovations such as two new Alternative Spring Break trips to Ensenada, Mexico and Owens Valley, increased efforts for Make-A-Difference Day resulted in a new high of 200 participants, and bold new outdoor trips to the Grand Canyon and Humphreys Peak in Arizona, just to name a few. A trip to Zion National Park and a number of events designed to focus attention on some of the important issues of a National Election year are among those events we are likely to see this coming year… the possibilities ARE endless!
Meet the new Board Members

Richard Beatty (Class of ’77), Gnome Club member and JPL engineer for 15 years, co-founded the “Triangle Project”, a non-profit for new foster parents in L.A. County. He is a member of the Anglican Chorale of Southern California, and the Gay & Lesbian Alumni Association of the University of Notre Dame.

Doreen Mason was the former nursing director of the Caltech Health Center. She is married to Peter. They met when they were both serving on the Caltech Y Board in the early ‘90s.

Peter Mason is a Caltech graduate (BS ’51, Ph.D.’62). He has taught in the Electrical Engineering department at Caltech and is currently working part-time in the Physics department. He is returning for his third term on the Caltech Y Board.

Sharyn Miller is a faculty member in the Department of Higher Education and Organizational Leadership at Azusa Pacific University. As the former Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at Caltech, Sharyn has worked with the Caltech Y for ten years.

LeRoy (Lee) Fisher is a Caltech graduate (Class of ’78) and majored in Electrical Engineering. He currently serves on the Gnome Club Board and is married to Susan.

Susan Murakami-Fisher is a graduate of Caltech (Class of ’75) and majored in Biology. She is a pathologist at Huntington Memorial Hospital and is a past president of the Gnome Club.

Anthony Leonard is a Caltech Mechanical Engineering graduate (Class of ’59) and was a member of Ricketts House. He serves on the Gnome Club Board, and is a professor of Aeronautics at Caltech.

Gretchen Leonard is involved with the Linda Vistans. She returns to the Y Board for a second term and is married to Anthony.

Bob McEliece (Caltech BS ’64, Ph.D. ’67) is a long-time professor of Electrical Engineering at Caltech and consultant at JPL. He received the 2004 Shannon Award and has scaled Scafell Pike without supplementary oxygen.
Ways to Give

When you make a gift to the Caltech Y, you can choose how the funds will be used, as well as many options for making your gift. Unrestricted Gifts allow the Caltech Y to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest. Your gift may be used across the entire spectrum of Caltech Y programs and needs. Directed Gifts allow you to choose the Caltech Y area of interest that most suits your intention. All gifts are tax deductible.

Types of Gifts

Outright Gifts provide immediate funding for current programs or can be used to build the Caltech Y endowment to ensure a healthy future. Here are some types of outright gifts for you to consider:

- **Cash Gifts** are simple and easy, made directly to the Caltech Y. A minimum gift of $125 person or $250 per couple qualifies you as a Friend of the Caltech Y.

- **Gifts of appreciated securities, stocks, and bonds** can provide a considerable tax advantage if transferred to the Caltech Y before they are sold. You may be able to avoid a capital-gains tax or create a valuable income tax deduction depending on your situation.

- **Gifts of Real Estate** such as a second property, vacant land or income generating property, can provide a much needed boost to the Caltech Y endowment and provide you with an enormous tax savings.

- **Gifts of Personal Property and Gifts in Kind** are great sources of donations. Signed memorabilia, rare books, artwork, and collectibles are sought by the Caltech Y for upcoming fundraising auctions and events.

Planned Gifts include bequests, life-income plans and many other estate options. Significant tax savings are possible and you would ensure the future of the Caltech Y for many years to come.

United Way Pledges. You can contribute indirectly through the United Way throughout the entire year. If you are a Caltech employee, please designate the Caltech Y as your funding choice.

Your gifts make a difference and enable the Y to continue to impact the lives of students and the community.

A Year with Friends

It was an exciting year for the Friends of the Y! The Fall Friends Dinner featured Michael Prather, an avid advocate for the Owens Valley River. His presentation included a candid look at the conditions that the river is facing and the impact it has had on the wildlife in the area. Attendees learned of the efforts that are being made to save this dying land. The Winter Friends Dinner featured Ken and Gabrielle Adelman. They spoke about their court battle with Barbara Streisand, their love of flying, and their fight for the California Coastline. Finally, the Y had the pleasure of hosting Richard Koshalek, President of the Art Center College of Design. He shared his vision for the Art Center and their plans for their new building. All in all, it was a great year with Friends!
Interested in
What’s new at the Y?
Stop by the Caltech Y office or log onto our website: www.caltechy.org

The Caltech Y Has Moved!
The Caltech Y is now located in the buildings we fondly call “The Stables.” Originally built as stables, these buildings have been used as garages, a women’s residence hall for the early women of Caltech, and various campus offices, most recently Campus Life and Housing. Now, these buildings house the new Y offices.

Stop by and visit us in our new location! We are on San Pasqual, north of the Athenaeum.
What is the Caltech Y? and Where is it?

The Caltech Y will celebrate its 88th birthday in October of 2004 as one of the oldest organizations on campus with a continuous history of serving the students and its mission of enriching student life. The Y programs are student created and facilitated by the Y staff. New and renewed programs in recent years include Make-A-Difference Day, Alternative Spring Break Trips, and the Social Activism Speaker Series.

Make-A-Difference Day this year involved over 200 participants volunteering in numerous locations around Pasadena and the surrounding area doing various types of volunteer work on a Saturday. The activities ranged from building a patio to tutoring high school students; this is real community service. Spring Break had five groups of students going to more distant locations for three to five days to do similar work.

The Social Activism Speaker Series was a major program when I was a student in the early 50’s and was then known as the Leaders of America Series. It later ceased for a number of years. However, in the past five years, it has become an active program again, bringing a variety of speakers to the campus to meet with students and speak on social issues.

These are only three examples of the many activities and programs throughout the year that involve the undergraduate students and many graduate students. The Y student ExComm and the Staff are open to student ideas and suggestions for activities.

The Y is strongly respected and supported by Caltech both directly and indirectly. Significant outside support comes to the Y from Friends of the Caltech Y, alumni, Faculty, Administration, and outside organizations and foundations. We thank all of you for your support of the Caltech Y.

The Y and its Board and Staff are seeking to expand the circle of support that makes possible these opportunities and activities for the students.

“Where is the Y?” is an interesting and exciting question. For several years, the Y has been in the new Center for Student Services building on the corner of Holliston and San Pasqual. In August of 2004, the Y moved south across San Pasqual into the two buildings between the Athenaeum tennis courts and the North Student Houses. There is more space for the Y and a location closer to the Student Houses and the main part of the campus. This expansion will better accommodate the Y and further growth in its programs and activities.

The past year has been an outstanding one for the Y. The Y Board, its committees, the Staff, the Student ExComm, and the move to the new offices will be a combination to make 2004-2005 another outstanding year and help the Y to better achieve its mission of enriching student life. Certainly, the Y is worthy of our increased support.

On behalf of myself and Barbara, thank you Students, Staff, Supporters, and Board for making our service on the Board so enjoyable.

John Gee
Chairman of the Board of Directors
2003-2004
The programs at the Y would not be possible without the support of our Donors…

**Benefactors**
($10,000 and above)
Robert and Delpha Noland

**Wes Hershey Friends**
($1000 and above)
John and Virginia Andelin
John S. Edwards
John and Barbara Gee
Carl and Shirley Larson
Don and Jane Pinkerton
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**Sustaining Friends**
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Miriam Feldblum
Gerald Houser
Anthony and Gretchen Leonard
Dana Roth
David Werntz

**Contributing Friends**
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Ralph Wolf
William Woods and
Beverly Sawyer Woods

**Organizations That Help**
**Make a Difference**

The Caltech Y would like to thank the following campus groups/offices for their contributions to and sponsorships of Y programs:

- Alumni Association
- Associated Students of Caltech (ASCIT)
- Campus Life
- Career Development Center
- Counseling Center
- Gnome Club
- Government & Community Relations
- Graduate Student Council (GSC)
- Graphic Resources
- International Student Programs Office
- Master of Student Houses
- Moore-Huffsteder Fund
- Multicultural Student Education Office
- Office of Public Events
- Student Faculty Programs Office
- Vice President for Student Affairs Office
- Women’s Center

We would also like to thank the following groups for their generous contributions:

- The Tournament of Roses Foundation for sponsoring Make-A-Difference Day
- The Caltech Employee Federal Credit Union for sponsoring Alternative Spring Break
- The Smiland Paint Company in Alhambra for donating paint for Alternative Spring Break

We welcome the Tournament of Roses Foundation and the Caltech Employee Federal Credit Union (CEFCU) as new partners. We look forward to continued partnerships!