BEAVER UPDATES

Issue 04: February 2026

Each month, Student and Family Engagement (SFE) sends a newsletter with a first-year student spotlight, as well as community announcements and upcoming events that are designated or open to first-year undergraduate students.

SFE NEWS

From Friday, January 30 through Sunday, February 1, Caltech welcomed more than 100 first-year families to campus for the *First-Year Undergraduate Student Family Weekend*, featuring a range of social activities and educational sessions.

STUDENT AND FAMILY Engagement

BEAVER UPDATES

SFE NEWS

Lunch at the Athenaeum

LUNCH

The next First-Year Student Lunch will take place on Thursday, February 5, from 12:00–1:30 PM.

The February lunch will be co-hosted by Vincent Ton, Program Manager in Student-Faculty Programs, and Isabel Peng, Director of First-Year Experience.

With SURF application deadlines coming up, this is a great chance to connect, enjoy lunch, and ask any questions you may have before applications are due on February 22. Sign up here and confirmations will be sent tomorrow (Feb 3) to those selected.

Financial Literacy Workshop with Caltech Credit Union

Thursday, February 26 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Hameetman Conference Room

Living on your own for the first time? We've got you. This interactive financial literacy program, just for first-year students, breaks down the basics of budgeting, credit cards, and smart money habits to help you feel confident managing your finances at Caltech and beyond.

Enjoy lunch from Mendocino Farms and boba. More info will be sent via email soon.

Student Spotlight: Shyna Kashi

Hometown:
Bethesda, Maryland

Intended Option:
I'm still deciding between Computer Science and Electrical Engineering

Dream Vacation:
Japan during cherry blossom season

Fav memories of your first-year at Caltech:
Fleming formal dinner; soccer season as a whole, especially our win against Redlands (first time we've beat them in program history!); the end of rotation and finding out where everyone ended up; and finally the late night outings to In-N-Out my friends and I sometime do after we finish our homework

Student Life and Experience Conference (SLEC) Survey

Survey closes 9am Wednesday, February 4th!

Check your Caltech email for your unique survey link. By participating, you could win a place at a special dinner cooked by Tom Mannion or $1,000 to supplement your next house trip.

Visit SLEC.caltech.edu for more details. For survey related questions, email Joe Ramirez at IRO@caltech.edu.

Campus Resources

Center for Inclusion & Diversity, ccid2009@caltech.edu

Understanding & Responding to Microaggressions & Bias 101 | Monday, Feb 2, 12PM | CSS 2nd Floor Common Area
This workshop focuses on understanding different forms of bias and defining microaggressions. Participants will engage in interactive activities to identify microaggressions and consider different approaches for disrupting them.

Love & Lounge | Thursday, Feb 5, 12PM | CSS 2nd Floor Common Area
Valentine's Day is nearing! Join us for intentional time to give and receive love. We'll be writing letters and cards and creating yummy candy grams.

Growing Papaya Trees by Dr. Jessica Hernandez: STEMinar & Book Talk | Thursday, Feb 12, 4PM | Chen 100
In collaboration with BOND, join us for a book talk featuring Dr. Jessica Hernandez as she discusses her newest book, Growing Papaya Trees: Nurturing Indigenous Roots During Climate Displacement.

Understanding & Responding to Microaggressions & Bias 201 | Monday, Feb 23, 12PM | CSS 2nd Floor Common Area
This workshop expands on the contextual understanding of bias and microaggressions introduced in 101. Participants will review examples, discuss specific response strategies, and explore resources to continue developing effective approaches and gaining additional support.

Dine & Dialogue: Love & Healthy Relationships | Thursday, Feb 26, 12PM | CSS 2nd Floor Common Area
Join the CCID and the Confidential Advocate for a lunchtime discussion on love and healthy relationships. We'll talk about creating healthy habits and how to best show up in all of our relationships.

Financial Aid, finaid@caltech.edu

The priority deadline for continuing students to apply for financial aid for the 2026–27 academic year is **May 20, 2026.**

Submitting your financial aid application by the priority deadline is strongly recommended, as it will ensure that your financial aid decision will be among the first released before the end of the spring term.

If you miss the priority deadline, you can still submit any missing documents and get a financial aid decision.

You will not receive less financial aid if you complete your financial aid application after the priority deadline; however, it will take longer to receive your financial aid decision.

Reach out to finaid@caltech.edu or 626-395-6280 if you have any questions

Campus Resources

Caltech Library, *library@caltech.edu*

Extended 24-Hours at Sherman Fairchild Library for Midterms | Feb 2–Feb 13 | Sherman Fairchild Library

It always arrives sooner than anticipated, but if you're up late this weekend for Winter midterms, so are we 📚 Sherman Fairchild Library's 24 hours is extended through this weekend with late night snacks and warm drinks for those metaphorically hitting the books. For daily hours, as usual, visit library.caltech.edu

#LoveData Week | Feb 9–Feb 13 | Sherman Fairchild Library

A week-long mini celebration to all things data. The Caltech Library will be hosting a workshop open to anyone about how to make their data more accessible to everyone. Students at Caltech are also welcome to register for the workshops at the UC Love Data Week calendar. Also keep an eye out around our library spaces for displays and whiteboards to spread the love.

Lunar New Year at the Library | Feb 16–Feb 20 | Sherman Fairchild Library, 1st Floor Lobby

Stop by the first-floor lobby of Sherman Fairchild Library to draw your best horse and celebrate the Lunar New Year with snacks and sweets to share in the luck and abundance.

Make Your Own Lucky Red Envelope | Thursday, Feb 19, 11AM–2PM | Sherman Fairchild Library, 1st Floor Lobby

We're bringing our TechHub tools over to Sherman Fairchild Library lobby so you can gift your colleagues, friends, and loved ones the gift of luck and learn to make your own red envelopes.

Student-Faculty Programs, *sfp@caltech.edu*

2026 SURF Application deadline is 11:59pm PST on Sunday, February 22nd

SFP Drop-In Advising Hour | Feb 3 at 12-1pm and Feb 5, 10, 12, 17, and 19 at 3-4pm | Red Door

The Student-Faculty Programs Office will be hosting weekly drop-in sessions to provide assistance to students seeking a 2026 SURF. Please join us if you have questions about finding a mentor, the application process, or anything else regarding summer research.

SURF 2026 Information Session | Feb 5 at 12:15-1:15 PM | Zoom link can be accessed here

Interested in spending your summer conducting research at another university or research institution? Join the Student-Faculty Programs (SFP) Office for a virtual information session focused on the Off-Campus SURF application process and experience!

Campus Resources

GROUP TUTORING SESSIONS

WINTER

BI 8	**MONDAYS**	8:00-10:00PM
CH 1B	**MONDAYS**	8:30-10:30PM
MA 1B	*ANALYTICAL* **THURSDAYS**	8:00-10:00PM
	PRACTICAL **SATURDAYS**	2:00-4:00PM
MA 1D	**TUESDAYS**	8:00-10:00PM
MA 3	**TUESDAYS**	2:30-4:30PM
PH 1B	*ANALYTICAL* **SATURDAYS**	2:00-4:00PM
	PRACTICAL **THURSDAYS**	8:00-10:00PM

📍 SAC Study Rooms: SAC 13 & 14

Interhouse Party Season

Tips for 1st Years February Edition

Navigate interhouse party season with confidence. 3 down, 5 more to go!

1 Keep a cup in hand

Holding a red cup with a non-alcoholic drink makes it less likely someone will offer you alcohol. Easy win.

2 Use the classic out

"I have somewhere I need to be early tomorrow morning." It's true – you'll be somewhere, whether that's sleeping in, running a few miles at the Rose Bowl, working on sets, or enjoying coffee at Red Door.

3 Stick with your people

Use the buddy system: stay with friends you trust, look out for each other, and step in if something feels off. No friend left alone.

Yours truly.

SFE x SWS