



BEAVER UPDATES

Issue 05: March 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 UPDATES



LUNCH & LEARN

In collaboration with the Caltech Credit Union, SFE hosted a financial literacy workshop on Feb 26 for first-year students. Topics such as budgeting and smart money habits were covered.

FCC Recruitment is coming up in April! We are looking for **motivated** and **engaged** undergraduate students to serve as **peer mentors** (aka orientation leaders) to incoming students during orientation week.

Current first-year students are eligible to apply! Stay tuned for additional information next month.



STUDENT AND FAMILY Engagement



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: FINN FANCHER



Hometown:

Ventura, CA

Anticipated Academic Option:

Mechanical Engineering

Favorite Movies:

The Empire Strikes Back, Life is Beautiful, and The Endless Summer

Favorite memory of your first-year so far:

Rickets open mic night, getting our first NCAA win in basketball, and house formal dinner

TOMORROW

UNDERGRADUATE

OPTION FAIR

Chat with Option Representatives and current students about Option requirements & opportunities

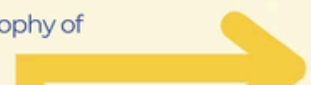
TUESDAY, MARCH 3

**11:30AM-1:00PM
SAN PASQUAL WALK**

Hosted by the
Deans' Office

deansoffice@caltech.edu

- Astronomy
- Biology
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Computation & Neural Systems
- Computer Science
- Environmental Science & Engineering
- Geological & Planetary Sciences
- History & Philosophy of Science
- Information & Data Science
- Mathematics
- Physics





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CAMPUS RESOURCES

Open the PDF version of this newsletter (attached to the email) to click on the embedded hyperlinks.

Caltech Library - library@caltech.edu

Introduction to QGIS | Thurs, March 5 | 2-3:30pm | Zoom

Get a hands-on introduction to QGIS, an open-source geographic information system (GIS) software program. Open to everyone, but great for first-year GPS / geology students or anyone interested in spatial data and mapping. No prior experience is necessary. [Register for the class on the library calendar.](#)

Extended Weekend 24Hrs at Sherman Fairchild Library for Winter Finals

Opening Monday, March 9 at 8:00am, SFL extends its 24-hour access until we close Thursday, March 19 at 8:00pm. Snack and warm refreshments will be back again for those staying up late during the weekend, starting Friday, March 13.

Tessellations and Other Math You Can Touch | Thurs, March 12 | 11am-2pm | Caltech Hall and Sherman Fairchild Library

It's almost International Day of Mathematics! Visit our spaces at the TechHub and Sherman Fairchild Library for interactive tessellations displays and other puzzles and get creative constructing mathematical elements with simple objects. All crafting materials and tools are free to use from our TechHub spaces.



Pi Day Puzzle Challenge Returns | Starts Sat, March 14 | Sherman Fairchild Library

For the third and (maybe final) time, we're setting out our 1000-piece pi sequence puzzle to challenge you to complete starting Saturday, March 14 in the Sherman Fairchild Lobby. In 2024, it was completed after 11 days, 30 minutes, and 17 seconds. Last year, the record was smashed and puzzle completed after 5 days, 17 hours, 57 minutes, and 13 seconds. Will a new record be set this year?



***Reminder!* Return or renew your library book loans by Wed, March 18**

Before you (understandably) dip for Spring Recess, remember to check your library account at library.caltech.edu/libsearch for due dates or to renew your library loans before Wednesday, March 18. Most books must be returned to the library by this last day of Winter Term!



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Student-Faculty Programs - sfp@caltech.edu



SURF@JPL 2026 application is due on Monday, March 9 at 11:59 PM PST

Center for Diversity and Inclusion - ccid2009@caltech.edu

**Paint & Sip: Celebrate Int'l Women's Day & Women's History Month | Tues, March 3 | 6pm
CSS 2nd Floor Common Area**

Paint with CCID using canvases inspired by influential women in STEM. Supplies, appetizers, and mocktails provided while supplies last.



**Centering First-Gen Success to Secure Scholarships by Araceli Cruz, M.A. | Wed, March 4
5:30pm | CSS 2nd Floor Common Area**

If you are a first-generation student, your lived experience can be your competitive edge in scholarship applications. Scholarship committees are not looking for "perfect" students. They are looking for authentic stories of resilience, leadership, growth, and impact. In this interactive workshop, students will learn how to strategically leverage their first-gen identity to craft powerful scholarship essays and compete confidently for funding.

Finals Decompression: Make Keychains & Bag Charms | Tues, March 10 | 4pm | CSS Front Lawn

Take a study break and make keychains and bag charms.

Alternative Spring Break: Lunch at Lacy Park | Tues, March 24 | 11am | Lacy Park, San Marino, CA



Staying on campus and need spring break plans? We got you covered! Join the CCID for lunch and games at Lacy Park. Lunch and transportation will be provided, but since space is limited, RSVP is required.

Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) | Tues, March 31 | 12pm | CSS 2nd Floor Common Area

Celebrate TDOV with CCID and PRISM by making your own flower bouquet. Lunch provided.



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CAMPUS RESOURCES

Student Wellness Services 626-395-8331

Anti-Procrastination Station | Wed, March 4 | 11:45am-1pm | Outside Hameetman

Struggling to start? Bring what you're putting off to our Anti-Procrastination Station, set a timer, and take that first step to build momentum! Even a couple of minutes means you're already on your way. The best part? Get a T-R-E-A-T for just starting. No judgment, just progress.

Meditation Mob | Every Tuesday | 12-12:50pm | Hameetman Club Room 2

We're a drop-in mindfulness meditation group open to all Caltech students facilitated by Lee Coleman, Ph.D., ABPP – an experienced meditator and certified meditation facilitator. No previous experience is required; we offer techniques that are appropriate for everyone from newbies to more experienced meditators. There's no religious component: We offer secular practices that are, whenever possible, based in research.

Coping with Grief and Loss available [here](#).

After-hours crisis services available [here](#).



Caltech Connect

How do I help my friend who is in crisis?

What if they're suicidal?

Monday, March 2nd
7:00pm - 9:00 pm
Avery Library
-
Students Only

RSVP NOW!
Use the QR code.



Presented by SWS Caltech Counseling Services