

TECHNIQUES

office of gift planning

volume XXIII, issue 2 | fall 2017



Caltech

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RECOGNIZE THIS ALUMNUS?

Do you remember
Blacker House's
giant beanstalk?
This alumnus does.

*Adapted from Big T 1958.
See inside for more.*



CLASS OF
'58

TECHNIQUES

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David Shaffer (PhD '74) and Donna Weistrop (PhD '71)

SHINING STARS

Astronomer couple Donna Weistrop and David Shaffer recently realized a way to advance research beyond their own careers—philanthropy. Among other gifts, the couple has made a trust provision that will establish the David Shaffer and Donna Weistrop Discovery Fund in Astronomy at Caltech.



CALTECH LEGACIES CONNECTING TO CALTECH

Frederic “Fred” Selleck (BS '49) found many ways to stay close to his alma mater: He served as president of the Caltech Alumni Association, regularly attended Reunion Weekends, and, once, crashed a Halloween party at Ricketts with his pre-teen son.

Why did he value his relationship with Caltech so highly? In part because he found like-minded people here—people who thrilled at playing with numbers and reading great works of literature, just as he did.

A native of Long Beach, Selleck enrolled at Caltech in 1942. He paused his studies in chemistry to serve the country during World War II. As an Army radio sergeant, he ventured toward enemy lines to ensure that U.S. mortars hit their targets.

Selleck returned to Caltech after the war, older and with more responsibilities. His parents' marriage had dissolved and times were difficult for him as well as his mother and sister. At one point, he thought he would have to drop out of college, but a Caltech mentor gave him \$500 to cover the cost of tuition.

Caltech

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“Caltech has always been one of the leading research institutes in the world. I wanted to go to Caltech because I thought it was the best.”

—Donna Weistrop (PhD '71)

CALTECH'S FIFTH FEMALE ASTRONOMY PHD

With pioneering spirit, Donna Weistrop forged her own path in astronomy. As a college senior in 1965, she won a prestigious Woodrow Wilson Fellowship that essentially freed her to go wherever she wanted. She went to Caltech, which had few female students and no female astronomy professors at the time. She remembers feeling a weighty responsibility to represent women well in her every action.

At Caltech, Weistrop's adviser was Maarten Schmidt, now the Francis L. Moseley Professor of Astronomy, Emeritus, who had shocked scientists in 1963 by identifying quasars as the most distant, luminous objects yet observed—signifiers of a huge and violent universe.

Weistrop's career after Caltech included years at Tel Aviv University and NASA and in private industry. She ultimately landed at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where, as a professor of physics, she was a co-investigator on the team that built a new spectrograph for the Hubble Space Telescope.

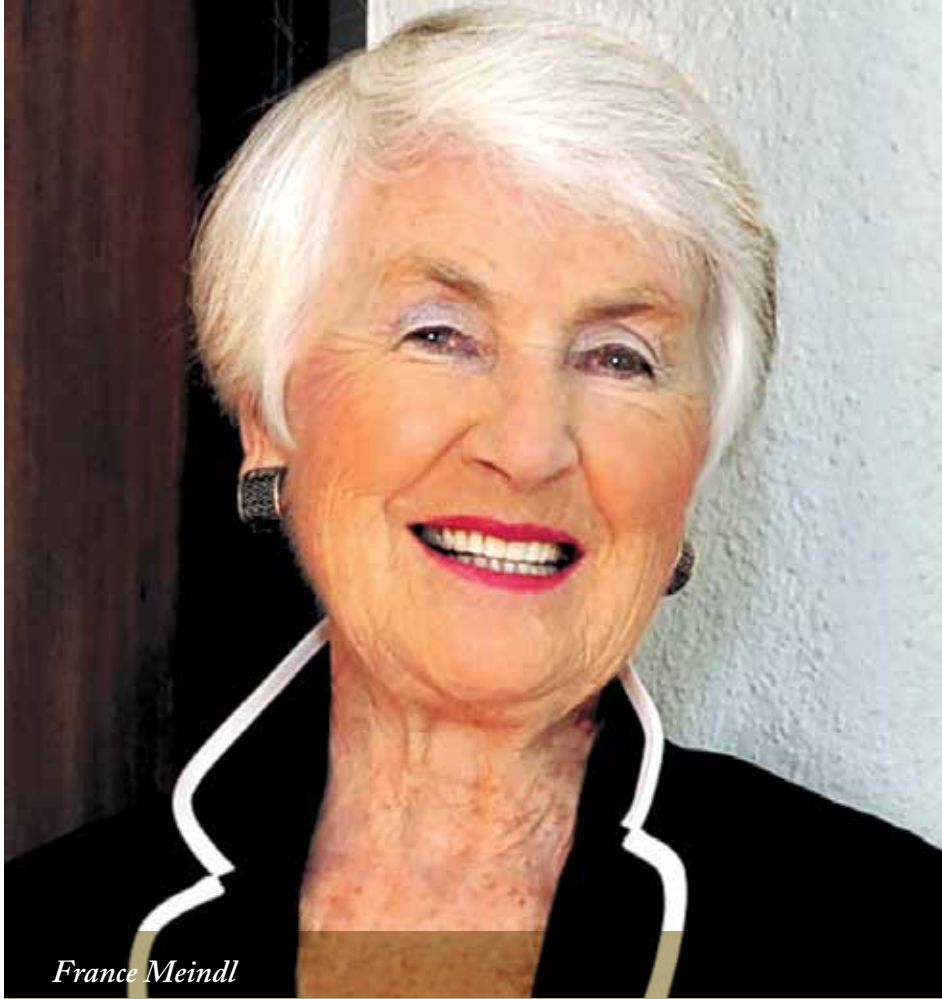
“People in the science community know that there's no better place to come from.”

—David Shaffer (PhD '74)

ASTRONOMER-GEOSCIENTIST

Weistrop's Caltech classmate David Shaffer studied with Marshall Cohen, now a professor emeritus. Then a new professor, Cohen was advancing a technique called very-long-baseline interferometry. By combining observations from radio telescopes around the world to gather more information, this method brought high resolution to radio astronomy.

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France Meindl

A SOUND INVESTMENT IN CALTECH MUSIC

Through her gift to create the France Hughes Meindl Endowed Fund for Music, France Meindl established a legacy of support for two sources of much happiness in her life—music and the Caltech community.

“It’s one thing to participate in social activities, and another thing to feel like you’re really part of a community,” says Meindl, who created a charitable remainder trust (CRT) to help ensure that Caltech’s music program will continue to thrive for generations to come.

Meindl was born and raised in Edinburgh, Scotland, where she studied piano and ballet. While visiting the United States in 1958, she met her future husband. They put down roots in Altadena in 1960. But it wasn’t until she sought a Suzuki-method teacher for their four children that she found a sense of belonging. “The teacher needed a studio, and I offered her my house because I had a grand piano,” Meindl says. “It was the perfect environment. And that was the start of it.”

The Suzuki method soon connected Meindl to Caltech families whose children were also young musicians: In this teaching approach, children regularly participate in group lessons and performances. As time went on, her Caltech friendships grew, and she got involved with the Caltech Associates. With the Caltech’s Women’s Club, she has enjoyed leading architectural tours of campus and participating in book discussion groups, and she delights in spending time with friends as she advances her culinary skills in Athenaeum cooking classes.

“Being part of an international community has always been to my liking,” she says. “And there are people from all over the world at Caltech—really kind-hearted, good people who also happen to be brilliant scientists.”

Over the years, Meindl has enjoyed visiting Caltech to attend Earnest C. Watson Lectures and tour faculty labs, witnessing breakthroughs in the making. But chamber music performances top the list of her favorite experiences on campus. From the very first concert she attended, Meindl was a Caltech chamber music devotee.

Meindl has supported many visual and performing arts organizations. To name just a few, she has served as a docent for the Gamble House and the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. She was a founding member of the Pasadena Chamber Orchestra and is a patron of the Camerata Pacifica ensemble, the Crescendo Young Musicians Guild, and the Colburn School of Music. But the Caltech chamber music ensembles have a special place in her heart.

Working with Caltech’s Office of Gift Planning, she established a trust that will support Caltech’s music program in the future. Meanwhile, the CRT provides an income stream for Meindl, who worked as a real estate professional for more than 40 years. As an added bonus, the CRT—which was funded through the sale of a property Meindl had owned that had greatly appreciated in value—helped her direct money to her favorite cause instead of to capital gains tax.

“As I see it, a gift to Caltech’s music program benefits both music lovers and musicians,” Meindl says. “It’s good for Caltech scholars to balance hard science with music. I would say it could only improve their ability to focus on their research—so in that way, the gift also indirectly supports science.”

Continued from Page 1

SHINING STARS

“He and I sort of broke the rules together,” Shaffer says.

Shaffer also worked for several organizations after leaving Caltech, but he spent most of his career at NASA. There, he advanced radio interferometry—in reverse. He turned his focus from sky to Earth, using celestial reference points and the slowly changing positions of the radio telescopes themselves to contribute to the first precise measurements of tectonic plate motion.

SATISFIED PHILANTHROPISTS

The discovery fund that Shaffer and Weistrop are endowing at Caltech will support special initiatives, particularly in radio and optical astronomy.

“We have seen where a few bucks to do something like develop new equipment is very useful,” Shaffer says. He recalls Cohen tapping discretionary funds from Caltech’s president to buy an amplifier that made a big difference in their experiments.

“I’m hoping the discovery fund will provide opportunities for people to do things they otherwise might not be able to—go to meetings or take

on new projects,” Weistrop adds. “I also hope it indicates to women in astronomy that there is a good future for them. When I was at Caltech, it was very difficult being a woman and there was little encouragement. I hope that just having my name on this gift will show female students that they can have successful careers and give back.”

Shaffer and Weistrop feel thankful that Caltech introduced them to the international scientific community—men and women they see as united by respect for facts and the desire to learn how things work and solve problems.

Now, the couple hopes their giving will pique interest among other members of that community.

“We’ve sort of learned philanthropy in the past 15 years,” Shaffer says. “I’m pretty sure that some people with comparable backgrounds may not realize the good things they can do. We hope they might be inspired.”

RECOGNIZE THIS ALUMNUS?



Living in Blacker House, this alumnus witnessed a number of house antics. There were elaborate, ephemeral courtyard structures constructed for the annual Interhouse Dances, including a pirate ship, a beanstalk of giant proportions, and a Mississippi River showboat. Also indelibly imprinted in his memory is a second-floor dorm room that was transformed on Ditch Day into a beach with about a ton of sand.

This alumnus was a mechanical engineering major, but humanities courses were the ones he enjoyed most, and his favorite professor was Robert Sharp (BS '34, MS '35), chair of the then-Division of Geological Sciences. Outside of classes and studying, the alumnus spent hours taking pictures for the yearbook and developing them in the darkroom. (He took the photograph used for the cover of this issue of *Techniques* in November 1957.)

One of the most memorable events of his life occurred during his senior year. In February 1958, through its Leaders of America program, the Caltech Y invited Martin Luther King, Jr., to campus. The alumnus had the privilege of attending both speeches the civil rights leader delivered at Caltech.

After graduating, the alumnus worked in the Southern California aerospace industry. He currently enjoys retirement in Santa Clarita, where he edits the historical society's newsletter. He has

remained connected with Caltech by participating in the alumni volunteer program, regularly attending the Earnest C. Watson Lecture Series, and visiting the campus for reunions and Seminar Days.

Over the years, **Gordon Glattenberg** (BS '58) has given numerous gifts to his alma mater. He is grateful for receiving an outstanding education and his many fond memories. With his 60th reunion around the corner, he will serve as a role model, having already established a meaningful tribute by naming Caltech as a beneficiary in his will, thereby joining the Torchbearers of Caltech. "It's a point of pride, having graduated from Caltech," he says. "It was a grind, but for all that, it sure looked good on a résumé!"



Gordon Glattenberg (BS '58)



Torchbearer

In recent months, the following people have joined Caltech's Torchbearers Legacy Society.

HONOR ROLL:

Ronald (BS '66, MS '67) and Judith Douglass

Sergio Edelstein (PHD '87) and Batia Rabec

Allan B. Elkowitz (BS '70)

Martin (MS '52, PhD '55) and Brita Goldsmith

Dr. Hamid and Manijeh Ghamary Habib-Agabi

George (BS '78) and Mary Hendrickson

James (BS '72) and Barbara Ketcham

David L. Nelson (MS '75) and Michele Montllor

Robert F. Ringland II (MS '59)

Bernard (BS '55) and Masha Frydman Schweitzer

Frank C. Smith, Jr. (BS '44)

ESTATE GIFTS

From the estate of **Joseph Charyk**, Caltech received \$50,000, and additional gifts were made in his honor, to support the Charyk Lab for Bio-Inspired Design.

From the estate of **Frederic Benning**, Caltech received more than \$15,000 directed to the Caltech Fund.

From the estate of **Raymond Allen**, Caltech received over \$170,000 in unrestricted support.

PLEASE ...

Please let us know if you have provided for Caltech in your will or living trust, or if you have designated Caltech as a beneficiary of retirement accounts, a charitable remainder trust, or another type of planned gift. And if you have already done so, thank you!

We would like to formally recognize you at the annual Torchbearer appreciation luncheon on April 21, 2018.

To learn about membership in Caltech's Torchbearers Legacy Society, please contact us at (626) 395-2927 or giftplanning@caltech.edu.

AND THANK YOU



IS IT TIME TO UPDATE— OR CREATE— YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

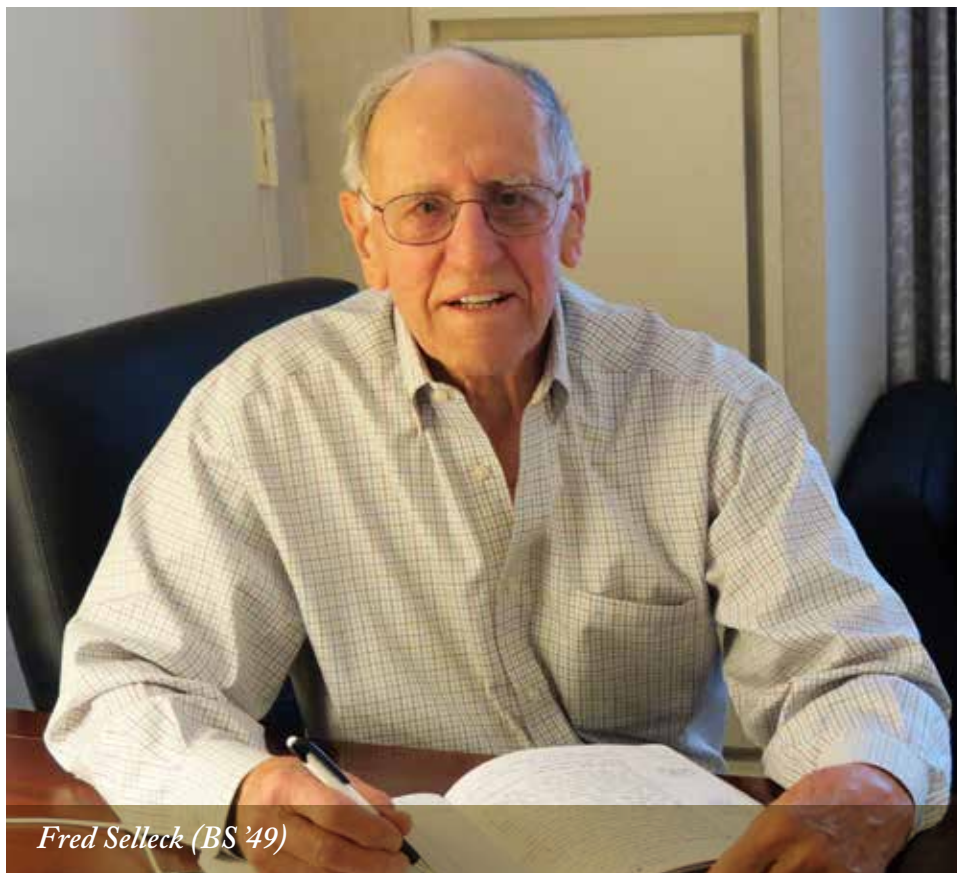
It's a good idea to review your estate documents every seven years, or whenever there is a significant event in your family, such as the birth of a child or grandchild, sale of a business, or retirement. Caltech's Office of Gift Planning welcomes your questions about charitable giving as you prepare (or think about preparing) your estate plan—a lasting expression of what you have valued in life.

CALTECH LEGACIES

That act of generosity was never forgotten and strengthened Selleck's appreciation of Caltech. After he went on to a successful career with Fluor Corporation, he made generous gifts of his own. He gave to chemistry, classical music, and the humanities at Caltech.

Selleck, who passed away in June 2017, also established a charitable gift annuity to support the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. His children plan to honor their father's affection for Caltech by holding his memorial service at the Athenaeum.

"It was not lost on him that Caltech people are changing the world, from advancing artificial photosynthesis to furthering our understanding of cancer," says his son, Jeffrey Selleck. "He was proud of his connection to Caltech and wanted to support the people there."



Fred Selleck (BS '49)

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Techniques is published by Caltech's Office of Gift Planning. For more information about the stories featured in this issue, or if you have questions about deferred or other planned gifts, please contact us.

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