TECHNIQUES

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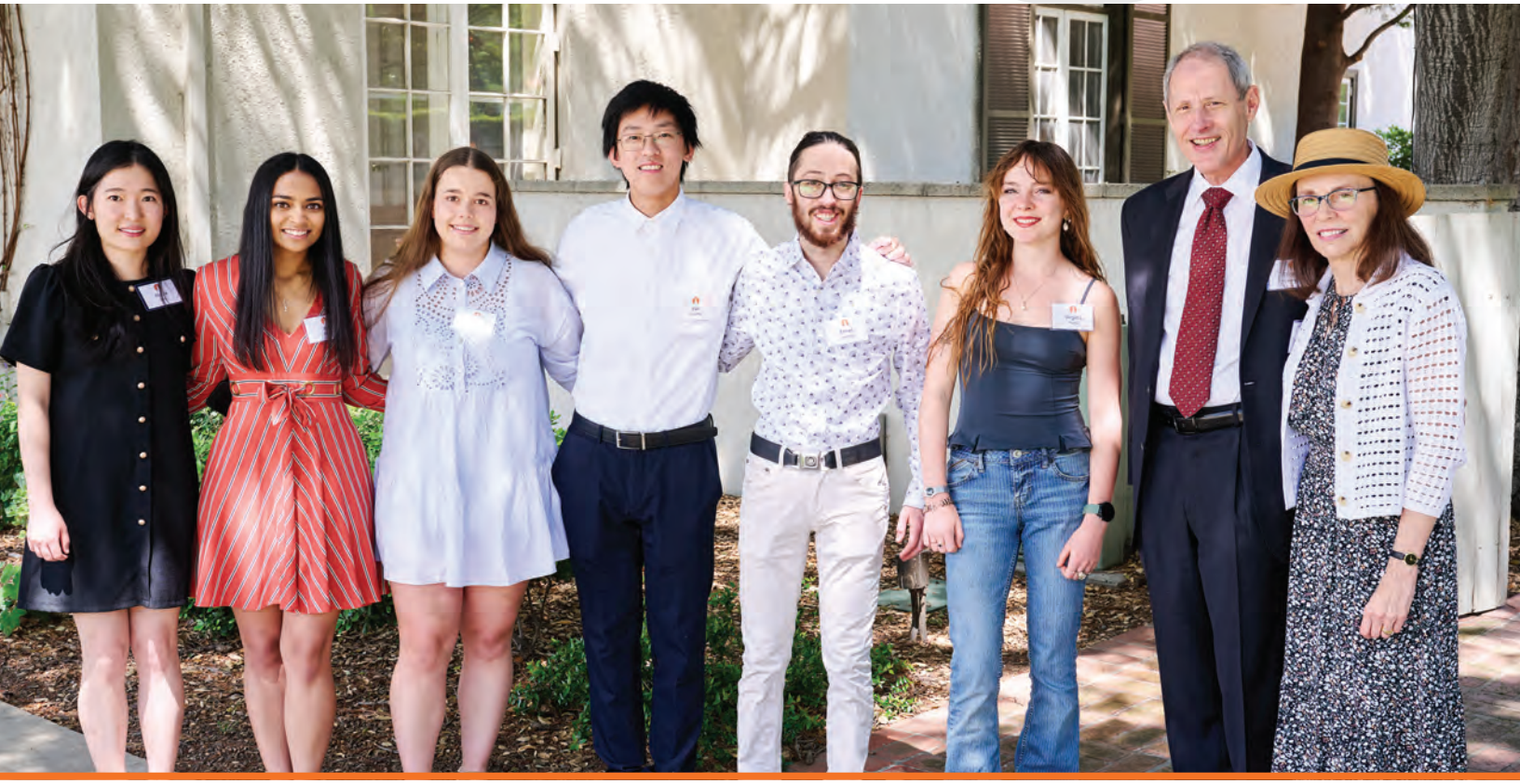


Attendees at the Torchbearers Appreciation Luncheon, from left: undergraduates Alyssa Shin, Ria Patel, Hannah Ramsperger, Yao Huang, Ethan Labelson, and Virginia Pistilli, with Caltech President Thomas F. Rosenbaum, Sonja and William Davidow Presidential Chair and professor of physics, and Katherine T. Faber, Simon Ramo Professor of Materials Science. Credit Chris Flynn/Caltech

WHAT'S INSIDE

GOOD NEWS FROM CALTECH

Caltech

Alumnus Establishes Professorships as Part of his Legacy

Peter Jordan (BS '57) remembers many happy hours spent tinkering with a chemistry kit in his basement as a kid growing up in Los Angeles. "One day, my experiment got out of hand," he recalls. "My parents were having a party, and the smoke came up the stairs. I didn't do that again."

He did, however, keep up his interest in chemistry, choosing it as his major at Caltech before earning a PhD at Yale University and going on to enjoy an almost 50-year career at Brandeis University, where he conducted research in theoretical biophysical chemistry. Now, through a generous bequest, Peter has established two new professorships at Caltech: the Hans Jordan Professorship in Electrical Engineering and the Peter C. Jordan Professorship in Chemistry. The endowment will also fund research support for both professors.

"I hope that whoever is in those chairs will feel that they have absolute freedom to work on whatever they want," says Peter. "I know that anyone who's sitting in that chair as a Caltech faculty member will be doing some interesting stuff that I've never thought of."

A FATHER'S LEGACY

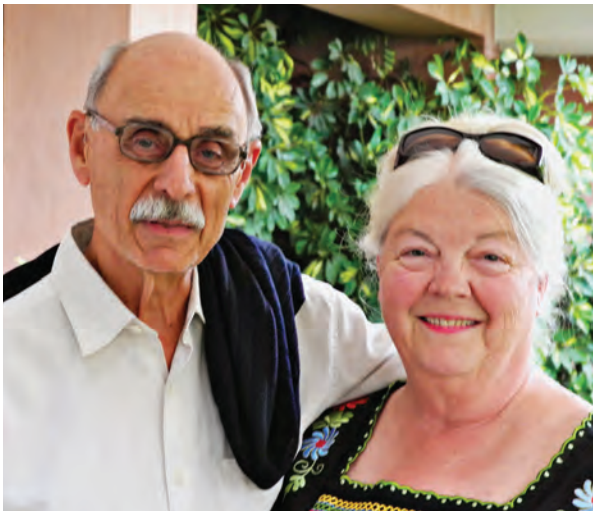
For Peter, there was never really any question that he would attend Caltech for his undergraduate years. "My father talked it up all the time when I was growing up," he says. "I thought it was the only place to go."

Hans Jordan (for whom the first professorship is named) was an electrical engineer who fled Nazi Germany for California with his wife and young son Peter in 1940. Unable to secure an academic position, he became chief engineer for a machinery company and, in his spare time, designed and patented one of the first reliable garbage disposal systems. During the post-war building boom in Southern California, modern homes all came equipped with these appliances, and Hans reached a level of commercial success that gave his family financial stability and enabled Peter to pursue a college education.

PAULING, BERGMAN, AND THE PATH TO THEORETICAL CHEMISTRY

Peter, who was equally good at math, physics, and chemistry at Caltech, chose to major in the latter, he says, "…because it was fun and it came naturally to me." Future Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling happened to be teaching the first-year student chemistry course when Peter arrived on campus. "He set a tone that made you want to learn from him," says Peter. "He projected enormous enthusiasm for his subject."

In his second year, he took a course that Pauling co-taught with Gunnar Bergman, who was then Pauling's research assistant. "Pauling had either just gotten a Nobel Prize for work in chemistry or he was about to get it," recalls Peter. "The final exam for this course was a half-hour oral exam with Pauling and Bergman peppering us with questions. That was the scariest thing I'd ever done in my life!"



Peter (BS '57) and Barbara Jordan

"I hope that whoever is in those chairs will feel that they have absolute freedom to work on whatever they want."

– Peter Jordan

Peter says he began leaning toward theoretical chemistry partly because Bergman encouraged him in that direction. However, an incident that occurred when he landed a summer job working in the organic chemistry lab of John "Jack" Roberts at the end of his sophomore year may also have influenced him.

"I came in one Monday morning, and the lab looked a little odd because one of the hoods had blown out during the weekend—a graduate student had been following a preparation, and it exploded," says Peter. "I thought, 'You know, maybe theory isn't so bad.'"

THE FREEDOM TO PURSUE THEIR INSTINCTS

Peter's research interests focused on the ways in which biophysical and biochemical processes are controlled in the body with potential health applications in targeted drug delivery or medical imaging. During his career, he has published more than 100 scientific papers and authored a textbook.

Peter has no idea what the holders of his endowed chairs will choose to work on. And that is just fine, he says. "I want them to be able to follow their instincts and do what they find enjoyable. It probably will be useful, too."

Torchbearers Legacy Society

Membership in the Torchbearers Legacy Society is extended to those who have made provisions in their wills or living trusts, named Caltech as a beneficiary of life insurance or retirement accounts, or completed other deferred gifts—all in support of the Institute.

In recent months, the following people have joined the Torchbearers:

Anonymous

Bernadette Aliprantis

Antony C. Bakke (PhD '78)

David N. Beratan (PhD '86)

Arlene Y. Chiu (PhD '81)

Kenneth T. Fong (BS '70) and Betsy Keyack

Katherine Holcomb

Jesus Mancilla (BS '93)

Steven A. Matthews (BS '74, PhD '78) and Rebecca Stein

David C. Moore (BS '03) and Helen F. Chuang (BS '03)

Richard M. Murray (BS '85) and RuthAnne Bevier

Kent Nakamoto (BS '75) and Martha J. Wunsch

Ronald E. (BS '67) and Miriam C. Peterson

Alexander D. (BS '73) and Roxanne Petruncola

Paul B. Ré (BS '72)

ESTATE GIFTS

The generosity and foresight of alumni and friends are crucial to Caltech's success. Below are just a few of the many individuals who have recently supported Caltech through estate gifts.

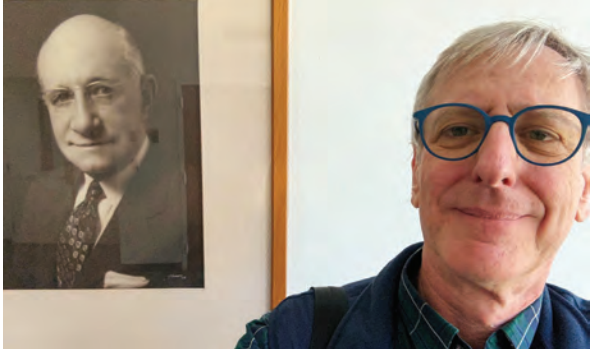
Robert P. Balles contributed funds to a mathematics scholars award.

Rockwell M. Daniels provided support for the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

William S. Dickey provided unrestricted support to the Institute.

Michael M. (BS '60, MS '61) **and Mariel J. Mann** provided support for the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Martin (MS '52, PhD '55) **and Brita K. Goldsmith** provided support for the Division of Engineering and Applied Science.



David Beratan (PhD '86) with a picture of John Hopfield.

Fueling the Enterprise of Discovery

As a doctoral student in chemistry during the early 1980s, David Beratan (PhD '86) recalls a Caltech community that was highly collaborative and creative. The chair of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at that time was Harry B. Gray, a role he held prior to being named the founding director of the Beckman Institute. Gray was instrumental in attracting such faculty as Rudy Marcus, John Hopfield, Ahmed Zewail, and Bob Grubbs to the Institute. All four would become Nobel laureates, a feat that Beratan describes as astounding.

"The Caltech faculty that Harry recruited were at their peaks of creativity during this time, and interactions among the faculty taught me the power of cross-disciplinary interaction and collaboration," says Beratan, who states he joined Hopfield's nascent group largely because the physicist seemed to be having the most fun with his research.

Beratan is now the R.J. Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Duke University, where he has spent the last 25 years of his career. Much like his Caltech mentors, he embraces an interdisciplinary approach to his research, holding professorships in both biochemistry and physics. He is also affiliated with Duke's programs in computational biology and bioinformatics as well as structural biology and biophysics.

Still inspired by those early years in Pasadena, the Caltech alumnus has made plans to create the Beratan Family Graduate Fellowship through a bequest to the Institute.

"The generous mentoring, off-scale creativity, sense of optimism, curiosity, and engagement conveyed by these faculty were transformative," says Beratan. "While I learned some great science and worked on terrific projects that launched my career, it was the positive engagement and generosity of the faculty, and the examples of fearless questioning associated with impossibly difficult scientific challenges, that changed my life."

NOTHING IS BEYOND REACH

When Beratan learned that Hopfield was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2024 in recognition of his pathbreaking work in neural networks, the former student was over the moon. He described Hopfield as a profoundly insightful scholar as well as a kind and generous mentor.

"John's door was always open, and he was never too busy to speak with us," says Beratan.

Hopfield illustrated for Beratan and his fellow students that no scientific question was out of bounds for investigation and human reasoning. "Nothing is beyond reach," recalls Beratan.

He also encouraged his students to pursue life beyond campus. "When he spotted us in the lab on the weekends, he scolded us and suggested that we spend that time with our families," says Beratan.

INVESTING IN ALL CAREER STAGES

Reflecting on his own career, Beratan attributes some of his most exciting moments at Duke to his interactions with students. "I have been fortunate to have creative, engaged, and passionate students who have made remarkable contributions," he says.

Beratan hopes that investing in Caltech graduate students will support the process of knowledge creation and data-driven decision-making that he views as instrumental in advancing the world forward.

"We really can't do our work without excellent graduate students," says Beratan. "We worry about how we're going to recruit the best students and support them over four or five years. I think this kind of unrestricted support for graduate students is just critical for the enterprise of discovery and science."

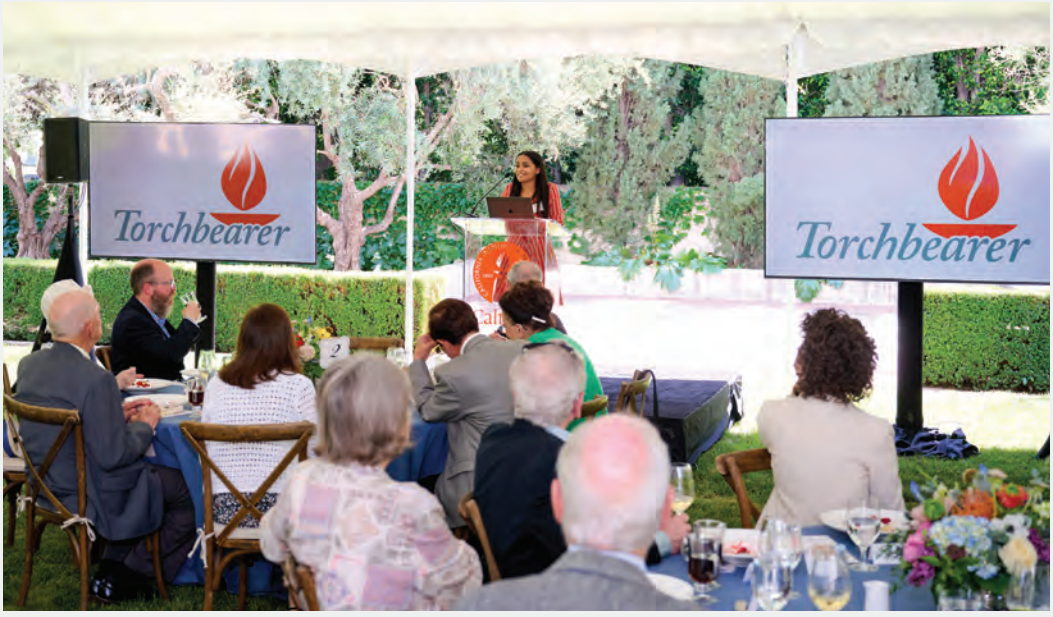
Torchbearers Celebrated at Appreciation Luncheon

Nearly 100 Torchbearers, students, faculty, and staff gathered at the president's residence on April 18 for a special luncheon hosted by President Thomas F. Rosenbaum and his wife, Katherine T. Faber, the Simon Ramo Professor of Materials Science.

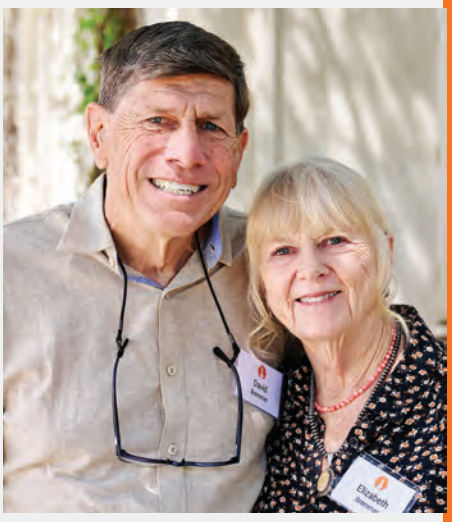
"You've made a statement about the future, that you see Caltech as the kind of place that can define the future," said Rosenbaum, holder of the Sonja and William Davidow Presidential Chair and professor of physics. "We are really grateful that you are investing in that."

Ria Patel, a double-major in computation and neural systems and business, economics, and management, gave heartfelt thanks to attendees for their support. "At Caltech, excellence isn't competitive—it's collective. We genuinely succeed together," said Patel, who is completing her fourth year. "Places like Caltech don't exist by accident. They exist because people like you care enough to invest in students you may never meet."

Woodward Fischer, the Jean-Lou Chameau Professor of Geobiology and divisional academic officer for geological and planetary sciences, gave a presentation on the singular event of oxygenic photosynthesis. "Aerobic respiration is incredibly powerful. It yields the most energy of any metabolic process," said Fischer, describing how this response to oxygen in the environment freed organisms from the constant pursuit of energy and enabled them to thrive.



Student speaker Ria Patel (Class of 2026). Credit Chris Flynn/Caltech



From top: Woodward Fischer, Jean-Lou Chameau Professor of Geobiology and divisional academic officer for geological and planetary sciences; David (MS '73, ENG '75) and Elizabeth Bremmer; Maggie and Hamid Habib-Agahi. Credit Chris Flynn/Caltech

How Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) Work

Charitable Gift Annuities can provide you with a fixed source of income while supporting Caltech. Rick Robertson, executive director of the Office of Gift Planning, answers some common questions he receives regarding CGAs as a planned giving option.

Q. What are the benefits of a CGA?

A. In exchange for a gift of cash or securities valued at $25,000 or more, Caltech will provide individuals reliable, fixed payments for life. When the gift annuity ends, its remaining principal passes to Caltech to support initiatives important to the donor.

A gift of cash or securities gives the donor an immediate charitable deduction, and part of each payment is tax-free, increasing each payment's after-tax value.

Q. Is this easy to set up?

A. Yes, a CGA is a simple contract between the donor and Caltech.

Q. Who can receive payments?

A. The donor chooses who will receive payments from the gift annuity. Often it can include a spouse or other close family member.

Q. How reliable is this payment?

A. Payments are backed by the general resources of the Institute and remain secure and dependable regardless of market conditions.

Q. Does the payout rate depend on age?

A. Yes, the older the income beneficiary, the larger the payment provided by Caltech.

SAMPLE RATES AND PAYMENTS FOR A $100,000 GIFT

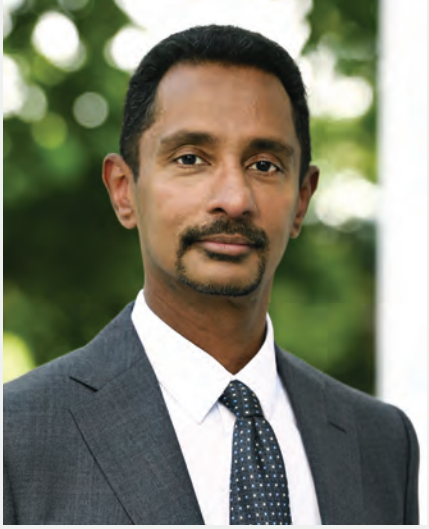
AGE	ANNUITY RATE	ANNUAL ANNUITY
90	10.1%	$10,100
85	9.1%	$9,100
80	8.1%	$8,100
75	7.0%	$7,000
70	6.3%	$6,300
65	5.7%	$5,700
60	5.2%	$5,200

Please note that this information is provided for illustrative purposes and is not intended as tax or legal advice. Rates are based on those suggested by the American Council on Gift Annuities and are subject to change.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY PROCESS

Good News from Caltech

RAY JAYAWARDHANA APPOINTED CALTECH'S TENTH PRESIDENT



Dr. Ray Jayawardhana will become Caltech's tenth president.

Dr. Ray Jayawardhana, an accomplished academic leader and renowned astrophysicist who currently serves as provost of Johns Hopkins University, has been named Caltech's next president, the tenth in the Institute's 105-year history.

"Ray is a leader of exceptional distinction who brings a complement of qualities—as a pioneering astrophysics researcher, respected university administrator, and compelling science communicator—that together will ensure Caltech builds on its legacy of transformational research and exploration to benefit humanity," says Caltech Board of Trustees Chair David W. Thompson (MS '78). "The Board's unanimous decision reflects our confidence in Ray's ability to chart Caltech's future—advancing our mission, inspiring our community, and elevating the Institute's global impact."

Jayawardhana will assume his new position on July 1, 2026.

"I am deeply honored to have been selected as Caltech's tenth president and to join this remarkable community of trailblazers," says Jayawardhana. "For more than a century, Caltech has achieved extraordinary and enduring impact from a deceptively simple formula: empowering brilliant minds to explore important questions with imagination and courage and making bold commitments to efforts others might consider too risky or far-fetched."

At Caltech, Jayawardhana says he will partner with faculty and other stakeholders to advance bold, catalytic investments in innovative ventures on campus, at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), and across the Institute's suite of global observatories; enrich the experience of undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows; and expand the Institute's engagement with the public.

Jonas Zmuidzinas (BS '81), the Merle Kingsley Professor of Physics and chair of the Institute's search committee, said that from the beginning of the presidential search, the input and insights from members of the Caltech community were clear: the community was looking for a leader who is not only an accomplished scientist or engineer, but who embodies Caltech's commitment to excellence in all ways.

"We heard that the community was looking for a strong communicator; an individual who has a record of leading with integrity, courage, and creativity; a leader who possesses the ability to be an effective steward of JPL; and someone who inspires support and confidence among philanthropic partners. We understood that we were asking for a lot and are pleased to share that in Ray, we have met—if not exceeded—our community's expectations," Zmuidzinas says. "Ray brings to Caltech a stellar record of academic leadership and a record of working collaboratively with the faculty, with other leaders at his institution, and with external partners to deliver outstanding results."

Jayawardhana will succeed Thomas F. Rosenbaum, Caltech's ninth and current president, who concludes his service as president in June 2026 after 12 years in office. Rosenbaum, a professor of physics and the Sonja and William Davidow Presidential Chair, maintained a condensed matter physics research group during his presidency, authoring several dozen research papers and mentoring graduate students and summer undergraduate research fellows throughout his tenure. He will remain on the faculty and continue this research.

"I am humbled and inspired by the leaders who've come before me and by the legacy of excellence and ambition that defines this unparalleled institution," Jayawardhana says. "I look forward to helping write Caltech's next daring chapter of discovery and innovation."

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