

## Dish and Discuss: Part 2 Social Activism: Training for Change

### A few clubs/orgs/opportunities at Caltech

#### **Beaver's Who Give A Damn (Club status pending)**

This group is for anyone who is passionate about issues of social justice, activism, and awareness. We aim to advertise and organize for movements within the Caltech community, as well as in the greater Los Angeles area, which advocate for and support marginalized groups.

This club is aiming to get official club status from Caltech, with the idea that we will hold regular events raising awareness, bringing volunteers together, and increasing our allyship.

Leadership: Their Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BeaversWhoGiveADamn/>

#### **BLAC - Black Ladies Association of Caltech**

The goal of BLAC is to increase the presence and promote success for African American women in science and technology.

Leadership: <https://www.facebook.com/blacscience/>

#### **BSCIT/NSBE - Black Students of the California Institute of Technology**

The Black Students of the California Institute of Technology, is a student chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). As such, we aim to advance the careers of Black scientists/ engineers and to create career-networking opportunities.

In addition, one of our primary goals is to build a community and a social network for African-American students through events held at the Institution. Leadership: Stephanie Threatt and Matt Gethers

#### **Caltech Republicans (Club status pending)**

We are Caltech's right of center group advocating and promoting conservative ideals through discussion, debate, and outreach. In these difficult times where conservative students get harassed for expressing their views, we provide a safe space for them and others who wish to participate in discussion and events without shying away from controversial topics.

People of all beliefs and backgrounds are welcome Leadership: Brittany Percin (president), Kanan Mehta, and Kinam Park

#### **CLASES/SHPE/Club Latino**

The Caltech Latino Association of Students in Engineering and Sciences (CLASES) is a student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). CLASES is a Latinx organization at Caltech committed to aiding and advancing undergraduate Latino/as in their future careers as scientists/engineers. CLASES also collaborate to promote understanding of the social and cultural barriers faced by Latino/as and enrich the broader Caltech community with our diverse culture.

Leadership: William Schmidt, Miguel Gonzalez, Mason McDougall, Mike Anaya, Clement Cid, Chanel Valiente

#### **Feminist Club**

The Feminist Club promotes the discussion of feminist issues on campus and beyond. Our club will hold group discussions, movie nights, outreach to younger students, bring speakers to campus, provide talks, and more by working with the center for student diversity. Leadership: They can be found on Facebook "Caltech Feminist Club."

#### **Grad/Postdoc Chat:**

Grad/PD Chat is a great way to meet other underrepresented minority (URM) graduate students and postdocs. This group is facilitated by a licensed psychologist and is open to all URM-self identified (African American, Black, Hispanic, Latinx, Asian Pacific Islander, Native American) graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. This confidential space provides resources to address issues of inclusion and equity.

Leadership: Caltech Center for Diversity

#### **Graduate/Postdoc Women\*:**

This drop-in gathering allows graduate and postdoc women to explore topics pertinent to their academic, professional and personal lives. Having the space to share stories and hear those of others in a comfortable and confidential atmosphere is a great opportunity to tap into the strengths and supportive network of women at Caltech.

Leadership: Caltech Center for Diversity

#### **Married/Partnered Group (MPG):**

The MPG discussion group provides a space and time to talk about being a young, married/ partnered woman\* in STEM and how to navigate your professional and personal lives in the context of a competitive graduate school environment.

Discussion is moderated by a licensed psychologist. Leadership: Caltech Center for Diversity

### **Organization of the Associated Students of the Indian Subcontinent OASIS**

Organization of the Associated Students of the Indian Subcontinent (OASIS) at the California Institute of Technology. OASIS is a cultural club which serves to bring together students from the Indian Subcontinent at Caltech and organize events that showcase the different cultures from the area. OASIS also provides a platform for the Caltech community to experience the rich traditions of this area. Many popular festivals are celebrated, and an annual culture show is usually put up every spring. Other activities involve regular movie screenings and potluck dinners.

Leadership: For updates on upcoming events, subscribe to our mailing list at [https://lists.caltech.edu/listinfo/oasis\\_members](https://lists.caltech.edu/listinfo/oasis_members) (link removed due to spam requests). <http://oasis.caltech.edu/>

### **SASS – Social Activism Speaker Series**

The goal of the Social Activism Speaker Series is to expose Caltech students, as well as the community at large, to the many diverse issues that face us, both locally and globally, so that the scientists of tomorrow may use their skills, ingenuity, and leadership to address these issues. The speakers we bring to campus are from varied backgrounds and have dedicated their lives to important social struggles. Their ability to share their experiences with students-bringing new awareness and stimulating thought and discussion-is part of what makes the Speaker Series a success. Many speakers are also scientists themselves who have spent much of their career examining the social and cultural implications of their work. The series seeks to develop in the student population and other community members a respect for diversity, a confidence in one's ability to affect social change, and the knowledge of how to do so. Leadership: <http://sass.caltech.edu/about.shtml>

### **The Caltech Y Advocating Change Together (ACT) Award**

Do you want to raise awareness of a particular issue or cause on campus?

The Caltech Y ACT Award offers students an opportunity to explore an issue, get involved, and educate and engage others at Caltech. Caltech Y activists determine the cause they will address, how they want to learn about the cause, and what type of programs they will organize to raise awareness on campus.

Funds are available to help students explore the issue - through conferences, trainings, workshops, or traveling to work with a mentor organization – nationally or internationally; and to plan programs to promote the cause on campus. Watch for applications available by the start of spring term.

### **Young Democratic Socialists of Caltech (Club Status pending)**

We are the Caltech chapter of Young Democratic Socialists, the youth/student wing of Democratic Socialists of America. As the largest socialist organization in the United States, DSA is committed to building an intersectional coalition against racism, xenophobia, imperialism, patriarchy, LGBTQ-phobia, and the system of capitalist exploitation that undergirds them all. Our purpose in the Caltech chapter is to educate and organize around these struggles on campus, throughout greater LA, and within our communities across the nation and the world. Leadership: Facebook Young Democratic Socialists of Caltech

### **Women Mentoring Women- WMW**

Women Mentoring Women is a program for matching postdoctoral scholars with upper level graduate scholars, and upper level graduate scholars with first year graduate scholars for a one-to-one mentoring experience. We are in our 2nd year of matching undergraduate women with upper-class undergrad women, graduate women or staff.

The purpose is to provide support for women in STEM negotiate their academic, professional, and personal development. Each mentoring match meets over a one-year period—some meet monthly, others bi-weekly. Each month there are workshops, discussions or networking socials. Matches receive coffee card stipends, and weekly resources on mentorship and professional development. Leadership: Caltech Center for Diversity

### **Women in Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy WiPMA**

Women in Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy (WiPMA) is a group dedicated to fostering an inclusive community for women scientists at Caltech. Leadership: <https://www.facebook.com/CaltechWiPMA/>

### **Women in Chemistry WIC**

The goal of the Caltech Women in Chemistry Committee is to support the careers of women in chemistry and related sciences. We achieve this by participating in graduate recruitment, providing networking opportunities, hosting events to speak with established women scientists, and serving as an advocate for issues related to gender and science. This group is dedicated to bringing women scientists together to share ideas and discuss topics relevant to navigating in a male-dominated field. Leadership: <http://www.cce.caltech.edu/content/women-chemistry>