

Caltech Graduate Studies Office

It's August and the fall term is almost here! We've got a lot of exciting plans for Graduate Student Orientation, and we can't wait for your arrival. Orientation week officially kicks off with the Institute's Convocation on Monday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m. The day concludes with an outdoor reception at the home of Caltech's President Thomas F. Rosenbaum and Professor Katherine Faber, immediately followed by dinner and a Science Talk by Professor Katie Bouman. The following day's activities include a formal welcome by Dean David Chan and the Graduate Student Council Co-Chairs followed by presentations from the Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity (CCID) and Equity and Title IX, and a Faculty Panel. All events will be recorded or shown live via Zoom. Meals will be served outside.

In advance, we invite you to watch [pre-recorded video modules](#) to learn more about Caltech's resources. The modules should be viewed no later than the end of Orientation week, September 24, 2021.

In this newsletter you will find the following: an introduction to the newest member of the Graduate Studies Office, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, R. Darrell Peterson, information about the Graduate Summer Research Institute (GSRI), brief introductions from the Center for Inclusion and Diversity (CCID), Equity and Title IX, Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation, Dining Services, Performing and Visual Arts, and the Center for Teaching, Learning and Outreach (CTLO), as well as important dates. You'll hear more about these resources during Orientation on September 20 – 22, 2021.

We will also hold one final Zoom drop-in hour on September 15 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. A reminder and a Zoom link will be sent by email before the scheduled date.

As a reminder, for more information about life at Caltech, lectures and events, and Caltech news, you can check out our main website at www.caltech.edu.

The Graduate Studies Office Staff

David Chan

R. Darrell Peterson

Natalie Gilmore

Claudia Andrade

Helen Duong

Jacob Dalton

R. Darrell Peterson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies



We are excited to [announce](#) that R. Darrell Peterson joined the Graduate Studies Office team on August 4, 2021. Dean Peterson, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees at James Madison University and his Ph.D. in educational leadership from Iowa State University of Science and Technology, comes to Caltech from Monmouth University in New Jersey, where he has served as the associate vice provost for graduate student services since 2017. At Monmouth, he was responsible for developing and coordinating resources and services for 1,500 graduate students. Previously, he had dedicated eight years to Boston College, the last five of which were spent as the director of the Office of Graduate Student Life.

What do you enjoy most about working with graduate students?

I greatly appreciate the diversity of backgrounds, interests, and experiences that graduate students bring to the academic environment. Graduate students are focused, committed, and passionate about their disciplines, and it is an honor and a privilege to serve and support them as they pursue their academic goals and aspirations. Graduate school was one of the most transformational and impactful experiences of my life, and it is my hope that each and every graduate student member of our community will someday be able to say the same of their experiences at Caltech.

What are you most excited about experiencing at Caltech?

I am most excited about getting to know the graduate students and gaining a better understanding of their experiences at Caltech. I look forward to listening, learning, and contributing as part of my commitment to the graduate student community. Once things are back to normal, I also look forward to participating in some of Caltech's longstanding special events, activities, and traditions.

What advice do you have for thriving in graduate school? What helped you be successful in graduate school?

My advice would be to actively and intentionally connect with others including peers, advisors, faculty, and staff; to pursue activities and interests outside of your academics as your schedule allows; to take full advantage of the programs, resources and services available to you; and finally, to embrace the highs and lows inherent in the journey – everyone experiences them at one time or another.

You are new to Southern California, what are some things you want to see or try?

I look forward to visiting some of the most iconic national parks in Southern California and beyond. I also hope to visit as many different college and university campuses in the area as possible. And finally, I love good food, so I look forward to exploring the wide variety of cuisines available throughout the area, especially those that are unique to Southern California (any suggestions would be greatly appreciated).

What message do you have for the incoming class?

Welcome! I am a new member of the Caltech community as well, so we will all share the experience of transitioning to this dynamic and vibrant academic environment. I wish you all the very best as you begin your academic journey at Caltech, and we look forward to working with you in pursuit of your goals and aspirations. Work hard, take good care of yourselves, and remember that the Graduate Studies office is always here to provide assistance and support.

Now you've learned a bit more about Dean Peterson, we know that Dean Peterson is eager to get to know you too! You can find him in the Center for Student Services, room 230, or connect via Zoom or by sending email to rdpeters@caltech.edu.

Graduate Summer Research Institute (GSRI)



Twenty-nine incoming graduate students will participate in Caltech's 2nd Annual Graduate Summer Research Institute (GSRI). GSRI is a program for students from historically marginalized and/or underserved groups and is focused on academic and professional development, community building, and mentoring. This 10-day event will provide participants with the opportunity to meet with upper-class graduate students, faculty, and campus administrators, as well as, attend workshops and local outings.

<https://sfp.caltech.edu/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-programs/graduate-summer-research-institute-gsri>

The program is being hosted by the Student-Faculty Programs office. This office works with campus partners to coordinate efforts geared toward diversifying our graduate student community. These efforts include providing undergraduate research opportunities to historically underserved populations through the WAVE Fellows program; attending conferences to introduce students from other universities to Caltech's graduate programs; and providing support to incoming graduate students through our GSRI program.

Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity (CCID)

Caltech fosters an environment where various perspectives are valued by seeking out exceptional individuals from a broad range of backgrounds and experiences. A key office that supports this work is the Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity (CCID). You can learn about our initiatives by visiting diversity.caltech.edu.



Tashiana Bryant (pictured), will join Caltech on August 30 as the new director of the Center for Inclusion and Diversity (CCID).

A higher-education professional with more than a decade of experience with campus-based organizations that promote and support inclusive communities, Tashiana "uses research to bridge theory and practice, and to develop effective approaches that foster a sense of belonging for historically minoritized and marginalized students, staff, and faculty," says Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux, Caltech's assistant vice president for diversity, equity, inclusion, and assessment, in announcing the appointment. "Building on the longstanding success and versatility of the CCID's education, advocacy, and allyship efforts, Tashiana will lead the development of programming and activities that build partnerships across campus, expand cultural awareness, and cultivate appreciation of, and capacity for, culturally affirming practices."

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve and move the Caltech community forward in the commitment to diversity and inclusion efforts at the Institute," says Bryant. "To me, working with such an esteemed community of scholars is exciting and can open the door to new possibilities in diversity, equity, and inclusion work on the campus. I want to promote cultural exchange and cultivate a sense of belonging for students, postdoctoral scholars, faculty, and staff. I look forward to working together with the Caltech community in building a just and inclusive community."

The CCID notes the following:

- We are committed to providing **Education, Advocacy, and Allyship** to create a community of Equity and Inclusive Excellence at CIT.
- **Education, Advocacy, and Allyship:** We strive to increase institutional and personal capacity for diversity resulting in a community committed to equity and inclusive excellence.
- **Awareness and Education:** We are committed to building cultural competencies and skills supported by workshops and training for the entire Caltech community. We welcome consistent assessment and feedback for sustainable change.
- **Advocacy through Collaboration:** We work with the Caltech community to promote and provide access to information and resources to support academic and personal goals. The CCID creates and provides programs and services in response to the changing needs of our community.
- **Allyship:** We create inclusive spaces and skill building opportunities for all members of the community to engage with issues related to their individual identities. We provide resources and promote an environment that is supportive for all.

In addition to the office dedicated to this work, the following is the Caltech Statement of Community. It is intended to articulate the values and standards that are important to the success and health of our campus. It was developed with input and feedback from the campus community, and as a "living" document, it will continue to develop and grow as our community does the same.

Caltech is a community dedicated to scientific and engineering exploration, and to academic excellence. At the heart of our mission is unwavering dedication to honor, integrity, equity, and diversity. Together these values help create and sustain a community where all are committed to the goals of academic and personal achievement.

- *We affirm that academic excellence is built on bringing together the best faculty, students, scholars, and staff.*
- *We acknowledge that a multitude of perspectives is essential to all we do. As a community, we understand that civility and mutual respect for diversity of background, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, age, disability, and marital and family status, are critical.*
- *We are dedicated to creating and sustaining an environment in which such diversity will flourish.*
- *We are committed to honor and integrity in all areas of work and campus life. Guided by these principles and the Institute's Honor Code, members of our community are expected to treat one another with respect and dignity.*

- *We hold ourselves to the very highest standards of intellectual and academic rigor. The freedom of open expression is essential to the exchange of ideas and furtherance of knowledge; we expect at all times that such exchanges occur in a manner that conforms to academic integrity and professionalism.*

All who work, live, study, and teach at Caltech are here by choice; implicit is a respect for these principles, which are an integral part of our mission.

equity+titleIX OFFICE

Welcome to Caltech! We look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

The Equity and Title IX Office is a key campus resource where students can get help addressing concerns relating to discrimination on the basis of social identities, including race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identify, gender expression, disability, medical conditions, and religion. The Equity Office also provides and coordinates support, guidance, and assistance with concerns or complaints specific to sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other forms of sexual misconduct, including dating and relationship violence and stalking. The staff in this office are here to help you talk through your concerns. We also train individuals, groups, and labs across campus to build a common understanding of rights, respect, and boundaries at Caltech.

The Equity and Title IX Office can be reached by phone, email, in person, and via Zoom. You can learn all about our team and how we can help at equity.caltech.edu!

Equity and Title IX Office
205 Center for Student Services
equity@caltech.edu, 626-395-3132
equity.caltech.edu

Hima Vatti
Assistant Vice President Equity, Equity Investigations and Title IX Coordinator
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Teresa Mejia
Campus Sexual Violence Advocate
teresam@caltech.edu, 626-395-4770, bit.ly/advocatepage

Again, welcome to the Caltech community!

Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation

The Braun Athletic Center (BAC) is currently open to all graduate students and their spouses/families. To purchase a membership for spouses/families please contact Heather Morgan hmorgans@caltech.edu.

Want to find the latest information on what is going on in the Athletics, Physical Education & Recreation department? Check out our website gocaltech.com here you will be able to find information on our Intercollegiate sports teams and what's happening in recreation. Grad students, do you still have intercollegiate eligibility or want to help coach a team? Contact Mark Becker mbecker@caltech.edu or the applicable coach.

BAC offers 3 weight room areas with circuit machines, free weights, and multiple squat racks. The facility also offers outdoor tennis and pickle ball courts as well as indoor squash and racquetball. We have two outdoor pools and an outdoor track and field space. During the week we offer several pick up times for basketball, volleyball and soccer. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Facility schedules and hours can be found at rec.caltech.edu. Click on facility schedules, then the area you would like to see.



Dining Services

Caltech has four main dining locations on campus to satisfy any craving or meal. From fresh ground espresso beverages to ramen, we have it. Each location has its own unique menu. Please refer to our [website](#) for dining locations, menu information and hours of operation.

CDS is committed your health and wellness! We've recently launched new menus at each of our locations. Wherever possible, we've replaced or removed a number of processed food ingredients with minimally processed or unprocessed alternatives. We also feature a number of antibiotic free, natural, minimally processed meats and cheeses. We hope you enjoy all of our improved changes!



This month, we're making some renovations at Broad Café. We'll have new furniture (inside and outside) and a renovated kitchen! We expect the renovations to be completed before fall term begins! Many graduate students frequent Broad Café, so this is exciting news! We're also keeping the extra patio tables around Chandler Café and the Red Door Marketplace for extended outdoor seating. Red Door Marketplace will begin weekend hours on October 2nd, and will begin late night hours (until 2 a.m.) on Monday, September 27th. Chandler Café will begin dinner service and Avery will restart its Bowl Concept that Monday as well. In order to reduce congestion at Chandler Café and the Red Door Marketplace, we're planning to open the South Kitchen for lunch and include additional outdoor seating. We're doing everything we can to provide safe environments for dining here on campus.

For those students who would rather prepare their own meals at home, the Caltech Marketplace offers grocery services. Orders must be placed 48 hours in advance and can either be picked up at Chandler Café, Monday to Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., or delivery is available to the Catalina Apartments. More information and the product list can be found at [Caltech Marketplace](#).

We pride ourselves on providing a fun, exciting, and innovative college dining experience. Our dining options have something for everyone! Follow the [Dining](#) link to find a place to eat on campus or order groceries for pick-up or delivery. Our staff looks forward to serving you!

Performing and Visual Arts



Caltech offers excellent opportunities for the study and performance of music, theater, and the visual arts.

The Performing and Visual Arts [faculty](#) are committed to quality in performance and education, and share a dedication to serve students who wish to enrich and broaden their college experiences.

Students can receive [academic credit](#) for their participation.

Performing and Visual Arts plays a vital role in realizing the Institute's mission of "...educating outstanding students to become creative members of society."

A wide variety of public events, including our performances, can be found on the [CaltechLive!](#) Website. To check out a few examples of past performances, click on the links below.

<https://youtu.be/kikJKSKhSxs>

https://youtu.be/jRkhUit_m6g

For further information, please visit pva.caltech.edu.

The Center for Teaching, Learning and Outreach (CTLO)

The [CTLO](#) supports all graduate students in their professional development as teachers, whether as teaching assistants, instructors, mentors or future faculty. We offer [both short courses and a quarter-long graduate course on pedagogy \(E110\)](#), [numerous outreach opportunities with local K-12 schools](#), and advise the [Caltech Project for Effective Teaching \(CPET\)](#). You may be interested in CPET's two certificate programs – [the Certificate of Interest in University Teaching](#) and [the Certificate of Practice in University Teaching](#). Please join CPET's listserv by reaching out now to cpet@caltech.edu.

The CTLO looks forward to welcoming you at our annual [Teaching Conference!](#) Please note that this is a required component of Graduate Orientation week for all incoming graduate students. We will be reaching out with more information as we get closer to Orientation, but in the

meantime, please note that there will be a few asynchronous assignments to be completed *before* September 22nd, in addition to our Teaching Conference activities on September 22nd.

On behalf of [all of us](#) at the CTLO – Cassandra, Jenn, Mitch, Kitty, Leslie, Elizabeth, Matthew and Emile, welcome to Caltech!

Calendar and Important Dates

- August 18: Graduate Students with Families Zoom hour (6–7 p.m. PST)
- August 26: Graduate Studies Zoom drop-in hour (10–11 a.m. PST)
- September 1: Graduate students begin arriving for fall term; fall health coverage begins
- September 15: Graduate Studies Zoom drop-in hour (3–4 p.m.)
- September 16–17: International Student Orientation
- September 20–21: Graduate Student Orientation
- September 22: Caltech’s annual Teaching and Learning Conference
- September 24: Complete viewing of online Orientation modules
- September 27: Last day to complete the Responsible Conduct of Research course
- September 27: Start of fall term and first day of classes*
- October 15: Deadline for Caltech students to comply with the revised vaccine policy (together.caltech.edu/updates/general/08162021)
- October 26: First paycheck for students receiving a stipend through Caltech

*Fall instruction will be in person, and classes are not expected to have a remote option.

Contact Us

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Pasadena, CA 91125

Hours: Monday–Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.