

# TeachWeek Caltech

October 19-23, 2015

## Summary:

- Program: <http://www.teachlearn.caltech.edu/teachweek/2015Program>
  - Six major talks and events, featuring a mix of Caltech faculty and external speakers
  - Nine open classes welcoming non-enrolled students as well as other faculty, staff, and alumni
- Participation:
  - Over 200 unique individuals signed in at events, even though the largest events did not require sign in
    - 30% grad students
    - 15% faculty
    - 14% staff
    - 12% postdocs
    - 4% undergraduates
    - Remainder: visitors, alumni, and other
  - Many people came to multiple events throughout the week.
- Feedback:
  - All RSVPs and sign-ins received a follow-up survey.
  - Feedback was extremely positive: 94% of survey respondents said they would recommend TeachWeek to colleagues. Excerpts of comments are included on the following pages.
  - CTLO received requests to rerun the program next year, with:
    - Schedule during winter quarter to feature different Caltech courses
    - More undergraduate participation
    - Events that continue to respond to faculty/instructor interests, and highlight both Caltech faculty and a few carefully selected external speakers.

## THE FUTURE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING AT CALTECH: AN INNOVATION SHOWCASE

Monday, October 19, 2015

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Guggenheim 101 (Lees-Kubota Lecture Hall)

### TeachWeek Caltech Opening Panel

#### The Future of Teaching and Learning at Caltech: An Innovation Showcase

Featuring faculty with recent Innovation in Education projects, along with other redesigned learning experiences.

Panelists include:

- Paul Asimow, Professor of Geology and Geochemistry
- Kristine Haugen, Professor of English
- Kenneth Libbrecht, Professor of Physics
- Lulu Qian, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering

Moderated by Vice Provost Cindy Weinstein.



The Future of Teaching and Learning at Caltech: An Innovation Showcase - 10/19/2015

<https://youtu.be/8sTMfIqNHKY>

“I liked hearing from other faculty like Paul Asimow and Lulu Qian about ways of engaging students with course material on broad and specific scales.”

“Witnessing Caltech faculty sharing their experiences and being excited about each others' in-classroom teaching innovations was fabulous!”

## ENGAGING STUDENTS BEYOND THEIR FIELD

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Location: Keck Center

### Engaging Students Beyond Their Field:

#### **A Discussion with Caltech Humanities Professors Kevin Gilmartin, Warren Brown, Jennifer Jahner, and Morgan Kousser**

Join 2015 Feynman Prize recipient, Professor Kevin Gilmartin, along with Humanities faculty, Professors Warren Brown, Morgan Kousser, and Jennifer Jahner, for a lively discussion about getting students interested in studying subjects and ways of thinking that take them well beyond their known interests and passions. In Caltech's science-focused environment, teaching in the Humanities offers all of us relevant lessons in facing varied student backgrounds, sparking novel and critical analysis in classes, and supporting students to leave their comfort zone behind for new and deep learning. Facilitated by CTLO Director, Dr. Cassandra Horii.

This discussion is part of a long tradition in which the **Caltech Project for Effective Teaching**, a graduate student organization offering professional development opportunities such as the Certificate of Interest in University Teaching, invites the Feynman Prize winner to speak in the fall. CPET Co-Directors, doctoral candidates **Daniel Thomas and Kelsey Boyle**, will introduce the event and provide a brief history of speakers.



“I really enjoyed hearing Caltech humanities professors speak about teaching science and engineering students.”

“It was great to see the enthusiasm and interest for teaching that exists across Caltech. A colleague commented to me that we so rarely discuss teaching with each other, and this event provided a great occasion for this.”

# TeachWeek Caltech

October 19-23, 2015



**Thursday, October 22, 2015**

4:00-5:00 PM  
**Confessions of a Converted Lecturer**  
 Keynote by Eric Mazur  
 Remarks by President Thomas F. Rosenbaum  
 201 East Bridge

"I thought I was a good teacher until I discovered my students were just memorizing information rather than learning to understand the material," says TeachWeek keynote speaker Eric Mazur. "Who was to blame? The students? The material? I will explain how I came to the agonizing conclusion that the culprit was neither of these. It was my teaching that caused students to fail!" In his talk, Mazur says, "I will show how I have adjusted my approach to teaching and how it has improved my students' performance significantly."

**Friday, October 23, 2015**

9:00-11:30 AM  
**Flat Space, Deep Learning**  
 Workshop by Eric Mazur  
 Winnet Lounge

12:00-1:00 PM  
**TeachWeek Capstone Panel**  
 Featuring Caltech and JPL Faculty, Staff, Researchers, and Students  
 Winnet Lounge

*Classrooms open to guests and teaching consultations available all week by reservation.*

**Monday, October 19, 2015**

4:00-5:00 PM  
**The Future of Teaching and Learning at Caltech: An Innovation Showcase**  
 Panel Discussion with Faculty  
 Lees-Kubota Lecture Hall  
 Reception immediately following

**Tuesday, October 20, 2015**

12:00-2:00 PM  
**Bringing Joy Into Your Teaching**  
 Workshop by Chris Duffy  
 Dabney Lounge

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

12:00-1:00 PM  
**Engaging Students Beyond Their Field**  
 Discussion with Kevin Gilmartin and Colleagues  
 Keck Center Conference Room

4:00-5:30 PM  
**The Teaching and Learning Project: National Photographic Essay Featuring Caltech**  
 Presentation and Discussion with Photographer Martin Springborg  
 Beckman Institute Auditorium

Learn more at [teachweek.caltech.edu](http://teachweek.caltech.edu)



TeachWeek is organized by the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Outreach, with support from the Twenty-Seven Foundation.





The audience buzz in the 201 E. Bridge during the active learning sessions of Dr. Mazur's keynote was wonderful to experience. You could sense the energy from everyone debating with and learning from one another.”

“Even if I don't agree with all of [Mazur's] methods, I definitely admire that he is actively challenging the status quo in undergraduate teaching. His passion for this subject was also quite clear.”

“Confessions of a converted lecturer was a really good session. There were concrete examples of teaching, a demonstration and reasoning given behind the methods. It was interesting, well thought out and organized. I am very interested in teaching techniques and learning in general so I found that particular session intriguing.”