



# A New Audience: Inviting Postdocs Into the Game

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Caltech Alumni Association  
CASE XV, December 2007

CALTECH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



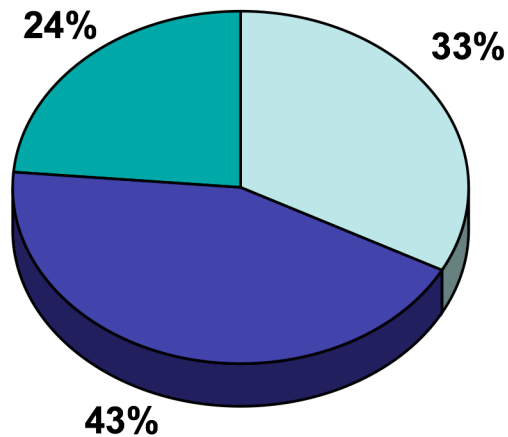


# Who Are Postdocs?

- Scholars pursuing academic work or research beyond the doctoral degree
- Nearly 650 postdocs at Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)



# Postdocs in the Campus Community



Undergrads    Grad Students  
Postdocs

~650 postdocs

~900 undergraduates

~1,200 grad students

~21,000 alumni



# Our Organizations

- Caltech Alumni Association (CAA) 1897
  - Mission refers to “the Institute, its alumni, and its students...”
- Caltech Postdoc Association (CPA) 2001
  - Focuses on:
    - Professional development
    - Quality of life issues for postdocs





# Organizational Interaction

- Alumni Board Representation
- Membership
  - Alumni bylaws allow current and former postdocs to join, with same membership privileges as alumni





# Benefits to Postdocs (I)

- General:
  - Large network of professional contacts, suite of career services & resources
  - Regular calendar of social events on campus and around the country
- Specific
  - A *caltech.edu* email account
  - On-line alumni directory (are not listed in it)



# Benefits to Postdocs (II)

- Specific - *continued*
  - Caltech Alumni LinkedIn Group (are listed)
  - One-on-one help with alumni networking
  - Alumni job listings online
  - Membership benefits (for dues-payers)





# Benefits to Association

- Networking resource for students & alumni
- Strong bonds with the Institute
  - Postdocs often stay longer than undergrads
- Recognition as permanent members of the campus community
  - Counters feeling of marginalization
  - Encourages community participation
- Future donors & volunteers





# What We Do (1)

- New Postdoc Reception (since 1999)
- Biotech Industry Night
- PhD/Postdoc Career Conference
- Management Consulting Club & Alumni Gathering



# What We Do (2)

- Medical Device Forum
- Alternative Career Fair
- Brown Bag Career Series
- Seminar Series:
  - Résumé v. CV
  - Networking & Social Etiquette
  - Academic & Industry Interviewing





# Challenges

- Database
- Prioritization & Opportunity Cost
- Awareness
- Competition with their alma maters

