

The Mars rover Opportunity looks back at its tracks during its southward trek across sand dunes in Meridiani Planum. This image was taken in February, during the rover's current trip toward the 22-kilometer-wide Endeavour Crater. Already nearing its sixth year, the Mars Exploration Rovers have been one of the most successful planetary missions ever.

Read the story on page 12.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In the previous issue of *Engineering & Science*, I announced in this space that *E&S* and *Caltech News* would be suspending print publication at the end of the 2008–2009 fiscal year, with our content migrating to a vastly upgraded Web presence. This decision was part of an Institute-wide reorganization motivated by the desire to keep the financial challenges that face us all from affecting Caltech's core missions of education and research.

I heard from a broad spectrum of readers about this—from the class of 1940 to current undergraduates, from working moms to winners of the Nobel Prize and the National Medal of Science. Alumni, faculty, Caltech and JPL staff, and the broader community all weighed in. Some offered suggestions for the new website; most argued for the portability and durability of print. (A few of the comments appear on page 43.) Your opinions matter, and we will take your views into account as we plan the magazine's future.

Thanks to an anonymous benefactor, *Engineering & Science* will continue in print, at least through the 2009–2010 fiscal year. Meanwhile, the Office of Development and Institute Relations will be conducting a thorough analysis of all of Caltech's communications vehicles and their audiences. Rest assured that, regardless of the medium, the in-depth story of Caltech research will still be told, *E&S*-style.

On the electronic frontier, work on the new websites continues. Look for the launch sometime next year of a new supersite containing the best of *Caltech News*, *Caltech Today*, and *Engineering & Science* plus many new features. In the meantime, in the spirit of empiricism, I invite you to peruse a possible prototype of an interactive version of *E&S* online. Go to <http://EandS.caltech.edu> and click on the thumbnail of the cover. Let me know what you think!

Sincerely,



Douglas L. Smith  
Editor  
dsmith@caltech.edu  
626-395-6730  
Caltech Mail Code 1-71  
Pasadena, CA 91125



*Engineering & Science* is printed on recycled paper containing a minimum of 10 percent post-consumer waste. The paper's virgin pulp comes from trees grown in the U.S. in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council's sustainability standards.