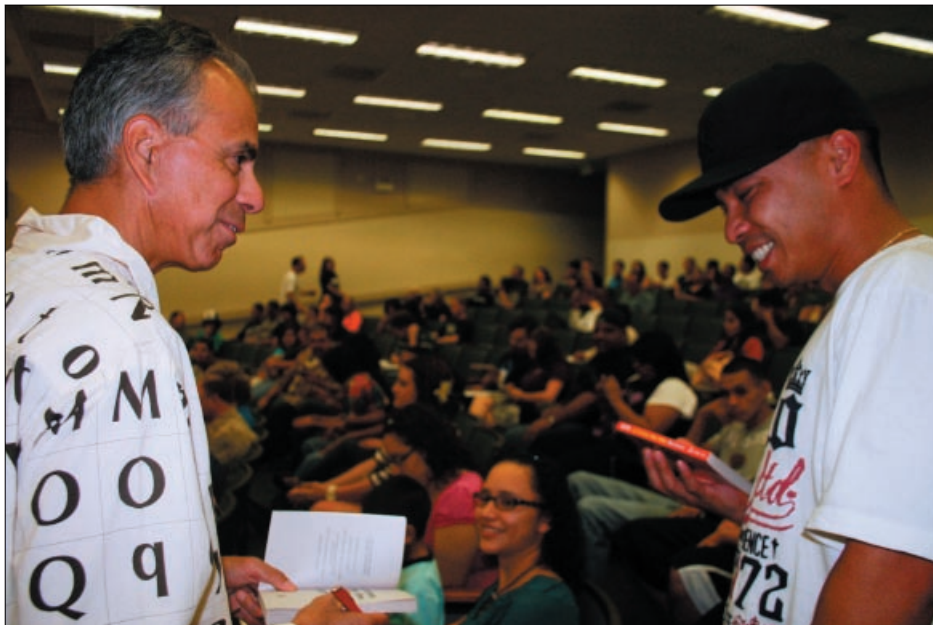


# CURRENTS

News from Reedley College

December 2010

## Soto draws packed crowd



*Acclaimed and local author Gary Soto autographs one of his books after his lecture at Reedley College on September 16.*

Author Gary Soto opened the Reedley College Lecture Series to a standing room only crowd on September 16.

The award winning writer shared segments of his life story and revealed the inspiration for some of his works. Before reading several poems and passages from his books, he entertained the audience with humorous stories.

Soto answered many questions from the audience. Many of those questions came from students who would like to follow in his footsteps. At the end of the presentation Soto autographed his books

for the audience. He took time to ask each individual getting an autograph about their life story and their educational and career goals.

Soto was raised in Fresno and attended Fresno City College, Fresno State and UC Irvine. He is the author of eleven poetry collections. His "New and Selected Poems" was a 1995 finalist for both the Los Angeles Times Book Award and the National Book Award. He produced the film "The Pool Party," which received the 1993 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Film Excellence.

## Students receive a 'curious' reading from RC basketball

The Women's Basketball Team purchased 100 copies of "Curious George" books for all of the first grade students at Jefferson Elementary in Reedley.

Then, on October 29, Principal Ruth White introduced Men's Basketball Coach Brian Fonseca, players from the Men's and Women's teams, and Clyde, the Reedley College mascot, to her 72 first grade students. Fonseca and players Kevin Young, Jasmine Waiters, and Andrea West took turns reading the book to the students.

Fonseca had the players add a geography lesson to the reading. Each player showed the students where they were from using a world globe. After the reading, the players autographed the books and each student was given a copy of "Curious George." Coach Fonseca told the students that he wanted to see them at Reedley College in the fall of 2022.



*Men's Basketball player Kevin Young shows elementary students where his home state of Michigan is on the globe.*



**From wind to win  
for students  
Page 3**



**Honors student is  
also state champ  
Page 4**

# News personalities make campus appearances in Oct.

## *Graciela Moreno shares her story with RC*



(L-R): ASB Vice President Jason Sorenson, Channel 30 Anchor Graciela Moreno, Student Trustee Kalya Urbano, and ASB President Kourtney Dyer.

Reedley College Hispanic Heritage Month Committee welcomed Channel 30 News Anchor Graciela Moreno on October 11.

Graciela talked about her upbringing in Five Points as a migrant farm worker and said that her parents didn't expect her to finish high school. She shared a story about her father telling her not to go to high school.

Graciela graduated from high school and earned her bachelor's degree in communications from CSU Stanislaus. Her first television job was as a producer for Univision's Sacramento affiliate while she was in college. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she returned to Fresno as lead anchor for KFTV Channel 21.

A year later in 1997, she joined the ABC-30 Action News team. She currently co-anchors the weekday editions of Action News at 6 and 6:30 p.m. Graciela has earned three Emmy Awards. She also produces and hosts Latino Life, a half hour weekly program that focuses on the issues and people making an impact in the Latino community. Reedley College English instructor David Dominguez has been featured on her show.

## *Stefani Booroojian promotes breast cancer early detection with the Buddy Check program*

KSEE 24 News Anchor Stefani Booroojian spoke at Reedley College on October 20 for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Associated Student Body (ASB) at Reedley College invited Booroojian to speak about her Buddy Check program which encourages women to remind their "buddy" once a month to do a breast self exam (BSE).

She discussed the pink ribbon which symbolizes breast cancer month. "People think of pink as a feminine, delicate color, but I think of pink as a color of strength," said Booroojian. She added that it is seen everywhere even in hardware stores. Many professional sports have added pink including the National

Football League.

Booroojian told the audience about the number of women who have written to her to say thank you because they detected their own cancer as a result of her program. Stefani has been on this crusade since 1996 and says, "What truly is amazing is how many lives have been changed by our Buddy Check program."

She left Buddy Check packets filled with information and stickers to place on their calendars on the 24th of each month to remind them of their BSE. She said this was not a female endeavor only. She encouraged the men in the audience to share the packets with their mothers, sisters, aunts, and girlfriends.



With pink balloons representing breast cancer in the background, KSEE 24 News Anchor Stefani Booroojian speaks to a full audience in the Reedley College Student Center on October 20.

*Currents* is a quarterly publication for the students, faculty, and staff of Reedley College. For comments, suggestions, or story ideas, please contact the Reedley College Public Information Office at (559) 638-3641 ext. 3322 or send an e-mail to: [lucy.ruiz@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:lucy.ruiz@reedleycollege.edu).

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Lisa McAndrews • Interim Title IX Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator  
995 N. Reed Ave. • Reedley, CA 93654 • (559) 638-3641 ext. 3258





# Reedley College engineering students win design challenge

Reedley College students took first place at the Central California Engineering Design Challenge.

The 14th Annual event was held on Saturday, November 6 at the Clovis Center. This year's theme "Gone with the Wind" challenged teams to design a vehicle that used the wind generated from a fan to travel the farthest and straightest as possible. The design had to use compact discs for wheels and fit in a 12x12x12 box. It could not use any other energy to move the vehicle.

The Reedley College team of Julio Zepeda, Anthony Reyna, Derek Perez, and Harmeet Dhaliwal were the overall winners of the competition. There were 244 students divided into 61 teams of four vying for the trophy.

In addition to the Reedley College teams there were participants from CSU Fresno, Fresno City College, Willow International, and College of the Sequoias.

In addition, the Reedley College team of Joshua Moreno, Maira Hernandez,



(L-R): Anthony Reyna holding the winning design, Derek Perez holding the trophy, Dr. John Heathcote (instructor) and Julio Zepeda also holding the trophy.

Mauricio Calderon, and Monica Silva took third place.

The winning Reedley College team entered the competition with the premise of keeping their design simple. The end result was two compact disc used as wheels with a cylinder resembling a paper towel tube between the two CDs.

Perez, a Reedley College engineering major from Dinuba, said, "It was pretty interesting to see all of the prototypes."

Zepeda, a math major from Sanger, added "a lot of people were surprised that we won with a simple idea."

Fellow math major Reyna from Dinuba said, "I have never done anything like this before but I knew our project was going to do well," he said.

Dhaliwal, an engineering major from Parlier, stated that the response to winning the competition has been great, "people are really happy and excited that we won."

## Reedley College awarded a \$3 million grant

Reedley College has been selected to receive \$3.185 million under the Title V-Strengthening Institutions- Hispanic Serving Institutions Program. The five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education will provide Reedley College \$637,000 each year.

The goal of the Title V Grant is to increase the number of Hispanic and low-income individuals attending college and completing postsecondary degrees. Adelfa Lorenzano is serving as the acting coordinator for Title V, and Michelle Sticker is serving as acting Title V counselor.

Reedley College will use four key tactics to increase Hispanic student awareness, retention, graduation, transfer, and career pathway knowledge. The plan will include pre-college partnerships with local high schools (K-16 Bridge), updated career and transfer centers, new on-cam-

pus programs to assist new Hispanic students in achieving their college goals (Freshman Academic Success Team and Alianza de Transferencia), and plans to improve the college's library.

The effects of these strategies will interconnect to create an overall support network for incoming college students. The K-16 Bridge program will encourage college and community linkages and increase overall student and family understanding of college challenges. The updated centers will promote career and educational success and further encourage students to set goals and manage their school plans.

Both the Freshman Academic Success Team (FAST) and the Alianza de Transferencia (Transfer Alliance Program) will provide the necessary framework to support students in achieving

educational goals. Updated library services, including a laptop loan program, will provide them with the tools to succeed. Each of these components will focus on Hispanic students, who comprise 60 percent of the campuses enrollment, but will also benefit the college's student body as a whole.

Diana Banuelos, director of grant funded programs at Reedley College stated, "This grant will bring sweeping changes to the Reedley College campus. It will build a career center and will allow students to learn about jobs that they want to do and that they are good at."

A Hispanic-Serving Institution is defined as an eligible institution of higher education that has at least 25 percent Hispanic full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate enrollment.



# Women's Basketball Team visits Children's Hospital

The Tigers Women's Basketball Team brought smiles to the faces of the small patients at Children's Hospital Central California.

On October 15, 12 players, along with Head Coach Dan Kilbert, headed to Madera to play a few games off the court.

The team traveled to the Child Life Classroom and Playroom with 60 basketballs as gifts for the young patients. They carried large sacks of black and orange balls inscribed with Reedley College Tigers.

Several young women entered the classroom where a grinning oncology patient invited them to play Monopoly.

On the other side of the classroom several athletes set down their basketballs and picked up drumsticks and guitars to play Band Hero on the Wii video game.

Coach Kilbert said it was the first time these players had visited Children's Hospital, but from the big smiles they brought to many faces the Lady Tigers were definitely on top of their game.



*(L-R): Reedley College Women's Basketball players Taylor Smith and Shelby Angangan speak with a patient at Children's Hospital Central California and share a basketball with her.*

## Reedley College student has heavy win

Reedley College student Austin Fite won the Northern California Powerlifting Championship on November 13 in Modesto, California. This is the second state title Fite has won in the three years he has been competing.

Two years ago he bench pressed 325 pounds to win the state title in his age group. He took last year off from competing for the championship title to prepare for this year's competition. It seems to have paid off for Austin because he surpassed the national record of 363 pounds.

Competing against 150 other 18-19 year-olds in the 165-pound bracket, he successfully opened the Modesto competition with a lift of 363 pounds. He followed with a successful record breaking lift of 375 pounds. He came up just a little bit short in his last attempt to lift 380 pounds.

Although Austin was declared the champion with a record lift of 375 pounds he



*Austin Fite won the Northern California Powerlifting Championship in November.*

has no plans to stop there, "I would like to compete in December or early next year while I'm still in this bracket to increase the record to make it harder to beat," stated Austin.

Austin is a chemistry major in the Pete P. Peters Honors program at Reed-

ley College. The 2009 Reedley High graduate is also working as a lab technician at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Parlier. He is part of a group of scientists conducting experiments that will help almond and grape growers fight against bacteria that are spread by the glassy winged sharpshooter. The goal is to find the right chemicals so that biological engineers can create resistant hybrid trees and vines.

Austin will graduate from Reedley College in May and transfer to CSU Fresno to earn his bachelor's degree. He then plans to attend pharmacy school at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. His ultimate goal is to use his passion for chemistry to work as a compounding pharmacist and make medications.

As for his future in weight lifting, he plans on being competitive for a quite some time. "I hope I don't get hurt because I see it as a lifelong sport," added Fite.



# Baseball winds up for change

Steve Pearse is starting his first season as the head baseball coach.

Before coming to Reedley College this summer, Pearse served as an UCLA assistant coach since 2008 and was an instrumental part of the Bruins run to the 2010 College



Head Coach Steve Pearse

World Series. His assistant coaching experience also includes University of the Pacific, Long Beach State University, Fresno State, University of California-Berkeley and Laney College. Steve played professional baseball with the Montreal Expos in 1988-89.

"I am honored to be named the next head coach at Reedley College", said Pearse. "Having spent 12 years in the Valley as a player and coach I realize how much of a rich tradition that the area has for baseball. It is going to be great to rekindle relationships formed over the years and getting those people involved with the program," he said.

"Having the opportunity to hire someone with Steve's experience, as a player and coach, presents a wonderful opportunity for us at Reedley College," added President Dr. Barbara Hioco.

Pearse received a bachelor's degree from San Francisco State University and a master's degree from St. Mary's College in physical education.

Pearse hired Josh Labandeira and Jim Gagnon as assistant baseball coaches.

"I am fortunate to be able to bring in two quality baseball guys that have had experience playing at some very high levels. Labandeira has always had a great pulse for the game and kids respond to him. He was the product of a community college and our players will be fortunate to have a former major leaguer around," said Pearse.

Labandeira had a stellar career at

Fresno State where he was WAC Player of the Year and All-American Shortstop in 2001. He was drafted by the Montreal Expos in the sixth round of the 2001 amateur draft and reached the major leagues with the Expos in 2004. He retired in 2008 after spending eight years in profes-

sional baseball. Labandeira will be the hitting, outfield, and third base coach for the Tigers.

Gagnon, a 1983 graduate of Exeter High School, will serve as the Tiger pitching coach. Gagnon attended College of the Sequoias for two years before moving. He was a former teammate of Pearse's in 1987 at Fresno State. "Gagnon's knowledge and attention to detail is really going to help our program out from the pitching perspective. He is a student of the game and knows what hard work is. To be connected to Bert Holt, Pete Beiden, and Bob Bennett (who were former coaches of his) have helped mold him into the baseball man he is," added Pearse.

Coach Pearse is also creating a new club for baseball fans, the Reedley College Bullpen Club. Memberships begin at \$10 and the proceeds go directly to the Baseball program and student/athletes. The funds will be used for field improvements, equipment and resources for the student/athletes to become better students, athletes, and individuals.

The Reedley College Bullpen Club will host a season kick-off dinner on Saturday, January 15. Guest speaker will be Hall of Fame Baseball Coach Bob Bennett followed by the introduction of the Reedley College 2011 Tiger Baseball Team. For tickets call Pearse at (559) 638-0394 or Richard Bruce at (559) 431-3774.

## SPORTS NEWS

Several Reedley College Football players made the All Central Valley Conference Team. They include: Alphonse Coleman-WR, Avery Collins-WR, Jeff Kidd-QB, Eric Sykes-DL, Thomas Marshall-DL, and Jovanny Carvajal-SS.

RC Women's Volleyball players were also selected All Conference award winners. Brianny Williams was named 1st Team, Jennifer Klilewer was named 2nd Team, and Heather Hall and Kelly Achey were given the CVC Honorable Mention.

The Women's Tennis Team participated in the ITA championship Tournament at Fresno City College on September 25-26. Reedley College's Nicole Simoni was named the ITA Northern California Singles Champion.

Reedley College Women's Golfer Lexi Zanovitch qualified to play in the NorCal tournament and advanced to the State Championships where she finished 21st.

Assistant Football Coach Scott Pollock opened his home to the family of a British stroke victim. Patrick Hoare had a stroke while visiting Yosemite. Scott's fiancé was Patrick's doctor. While Hoare was recuperating in the hospital, his wife Marina and daughter Lilly stayed at the home of Pollock for two months. Upon Hoare's release the family came to Reedley College to learn about American football by observing practice.



# Campus Kudos

Ryan LaSalle's screenplay "Naked Tribe" was given a "consider" analysis grade by ScriptShark (owned by the New York Times) placing it in the top 2-3% of all material they review. ScriptShark is currently representing the script to find potential buyers. Ryan's screenplay "Ultra" was just named a semifinalist in this year's Scriptapalooza competition placing it in the top 3% of 3,500 plus submitted screenplays. Ryan is an English instructor.

This summer, English instructor David Dominguez formally accepted an invitation to join the Ragdale Writers' Residency in Lake Forest, Illinois. In June, he was featured on ABC Channel 30's "Latino Life." He also participated in The Poets of Fresno Summer Reading Series. In July, his second collection of poetry, *The Ghost of César Chávez*, and the poem "Domestic" were showcased on Poetry Daily, one of America's most widely visited poetry websites. Recently, he was interviewed by poet Michael Medrano, who hosts the radio show "Pakatelas."

Nancy Frampton, ESL instructor, is a member of the Academic Senate CCCAssess Task Force charged with reviewing vendor proposals for the creation of a system-wide placement test in reading, writing, ESL, and mathematics. The proposed instrument would place students into non-credit and credit basic skills courses up to English 1A (transfer level). Meetings will be held in December and January. If approved for permanent funding, this project is targeted to be implemented in the summer of 2012.

Business instructor Eric Nasalroad has created a partnership with the Lyles Center at California State University, Fresno to create a program that produces entrepreneurs ready to execute solid business plans.

Ron Nishinaka, retired Reedley College instructor was sworn in as a State Center Community College District Trustee on Tuesday, December 7.

The NASA facility at Dryden Field near Edwards Air Force Base has selected Reedley College students to fill its two internship positions. The program involves a paid internship for two se-

mesters (or a summer and one semester) at the Dryden or Edwards facilities working in the maintenance or fabrication shops. There were only two positions available and because of our previous history Reedley College students received both of the internships. Reedley College student Sam Sullivan will begin his internship as a fabrication technician on August 16 and Jason Nelson will begin in January. There is a strong possibility these internships will lead to full time employment upon graduation. These are dream jobs in the industry and once employed few people leave NASA. Presently we have six Reedley College graduates working for NASA and many more have retired out. This also opens the door for surplus donations. Reedley College will be receiving an F14 engine to be used for instructional purposes.

Reedley College held a Veterans Service November 10 in Veterans Park. The guest speaker was Steve Buck, Reedley College building generalist and retired Master Sergeant, United States Marine Corp. The Veterans Resource Center Open House took place immediately following the ceremony.

Reedley College hosted the Fresno County School Trustees Association Dinner Meeting October 19. RC President Dr. Barbara Hioco welcomed everyone to the meeting after RC Student Trustee Kayla Urbano led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 125 school board members from various local cities in attendance. Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Larry Powell gave a report on the state of local education. He was followed by Holly Jacobson with the California School Boards Association. Holly serves as the assistant executive director of leadership development & policy analysis. She oversees much of CSBA's policy agenda including curriculum, standards, assessment, reform and restructuring and coordinated services for children. The trustees were treated to a delicious meal prepared by RC Food Services. The Floral Design Class prepared beautiful orchid centerpieces under the direction of instructor Laurie Garza and horticulturalist George Heaton. The trustees especially enjoyed the new Student Center. Many of the trustees were alumni or had family members who attended Reedley College and they were impressed with the new facility.



# Student journalism goes digital

Reedley College student journalism entered the digital age this month when they launched The Chant Online (<http://thechantonline.blogspot.com>), an online version of the school newspaper.

The new publication includes stories published in the print version along with web-only features.

One of the values of an online publication is being able to update the news more rapidly.

According to advisor Terri Main, another advantage of an online publication is. "A school print publication is pretty much limited to the local area. Online, though, you can reach around the world. Alumni, community members and prospective students can keep informed about campus news and activities on the web no matter where they live."

Another function of the online publication is to give students experience with online publishing.

For more information about the online publication email The Chant staff at [thechantstaff@gmail.com](mailto:thechantstaff@gmail.com).

## RC film goes to film festivals

Reedley College's "Artists of the Great Western Divide" has been accepted into film festivals in New York, Italy, and the Netherlands.

The film was screened at the Chashama Film Festival on November 13, 2010 in New York. It was also screened at the Streaming Festival in Italy, the Netherlands and online in November.

"Artists of the Great Western Divide" is a recently produced student video led by Reedley College art instructors Janice Ledgerwood and Diran Lyons. It takes a look at three artists - Paul Buxman, Matthew Rangel, and John Spivey - and their creative response to the San Joaquin Valley of Central California. The film was a collaborative project with the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, a non-profit Central California land trust.

Paul Buxman is a native to the San Joaquin Valley and has dedicated himself full-time to painting and farming since 1980. He studied plein air painting in Illinois. His son developed leukemia which sent Buxman on an environmental quest to clean up the San Joaquin Valley's

water, soil, and air quality. He pioneered clean farming techniques which led to many sustainable practices used today. His artwork hangs in our nation's capitol as "a reminder to our leaders of what we must preserve."

Matthew Rangel is a printmaker whose featured work was inspired by a pilgrimage he made from the Valley floor to the highest reaches of the Great Western Divide of the Sierra Nevada. His print series, A Transect - Due East, is the result of this journey. During his travels, Rangel became acquainted with many knowledgeable and unique individuals throughout the Kaweah River Watershed that influenced his artwork and experience with the land.

John Spivey is a poet, writer, and avid photographer born in Exeter, CA. His family were early pioneers in the San Joaquin Valley. Spivey's work includes the book, The Great Western Divide: A History with Crow, Coyote, Chaos and God, and digital photographs that document the color-saturated beauty of the Sierra Nevada.

The full version can be viewed at this link: <http://www.imdb.com/video/wab/vi4257220121/>

## International students ask, answer questions for congressman



*Rudy Mendoza and Anthony Ratekin speak with Greivi Diaz from Honduras.*

Anthony Ratekin and Rudy Mendoza, field representatives for Congressman Devin Nunes (21st District), recently met with Reedley College international students on November 29.

Reedley College has a partnership with Georgetown University which brings students from Central America, South America, Haiti, and Mexico to the campus to learn about agriculture and business. At the end of the two-year program the students return to their home countries with an economic development action plan to improve their communities.

Ratekin and Mendoza met the students and learned about their home countries and their action plans to improve conditions back home. They listened to the various action plans which included such projects as building a

community center and library in Guatemala; providing safe drinking water in El Salvador; planting fruit trees in Honduras, Mexico, and Haiti. The projects are intended to help vitalize the economy and improve living conditions. The students become agents of change in their home countries.

The international students had an opportunity to question Ratekin and Mendoza about Congress and American politics. The representatives addressed many questions about taxes, health care, and NAFTA.





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## Upcoming Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
January 5	New Student Orientation
January 10	First Day of Spring Classes
January 15	Baseball Bullpen Dinner
March 24	Kaleidoscope
March 26	iXplore Conference
April 9	PPH Conference
April 14	Green Summit
May 4	Tiger Awards



*For more information on these events, please contact Lucy Ruiz at (559) 638-0322 or at [lucy.ruiz@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:lucy.ruiz@reedleycollege.edu) or visit the Reedley College website at [www.reedleycollege.edu](http://www.reedleycollege.edu)*