

# BOARD REPORT



PG&E crews have started their work at the site.

## AND SO IT BEGINS

Two major construction projects are under way at the same time on campus – almost directly across from one another. Preparations for construction of the McClarty Center for Fine and Performing Arts have begun, with the clearance of approximately 500 nectarine trees at the 2.5 acre site. PG&E crews have begun their work as well. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place Wednesday March 2 at 10am. More details on the big event coming soon!



## BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

The Reading and Writing Center moved into the library at the start of the Spring 2022 semester, and the new-look expanded space is turning heads on campus. Equipped with brand new desks, tables and chairs, students now have plenty of space to work as well as relax. The expansion now includes five new and permanent adjunct offices, as well as upgraded storage space, a waiting area, student computer banks, and smart tables throughout the room for students to utilize their own laptops. “We are thrilled with this wonderful upgrade,” said RWC Coordinator Deb Borofka. “We look forward to serving many more students in the months and years ahead.” The center offers both in person and on-line services, and students can drop in or schedule appointments in advance. The RWC was founded in 2003 by faculty Eileen Apperson and initially was only offered as a part time service on campus. In the eighteen years since, the RWC has grown into a full-time Academic Student Center with a full-time faculty coordinator and 22 peer tutors.

## VACCINATION CLINICS, COVID TESTING

RC continues to provide free COVID-19 vaccination clinics to students, staff, faculty and the community. The first dose of the vaccine was given January 10 and 12, with the second dose available February 7 and 11. Students receive free Tiger Café and bookstore vouchers after they get the vaccine, and staff and community members get free meals from the Tiger Café as well. Drive-up COVID-19 testing is now available as well on campus for all employees who are symptomatic. The Shield T3 testing service is in conjunction with COVID-19 testing taking place under the tent next to the cafeteria. Days and hours of the drive-up tests are the same (Monday-Thursday, 9am-6pm). Location is behind the cafeteria next to the testing tent.



## HONORING DR. KING

College Hour was dedicated to remembering the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. January 20th. Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Karen Crozier brought a dynamic, energetic voice to her research of Dr. King’s everlasting messages of equality and hope. Dr. Crozier has ten years of service in grassroots activism and advocacy. She is the founder and President of *Jewel of Justice*, a consulting, coaching, and training small business which focuses on women’s personal and professional development. Dr. Crozier has also worked as an associate professor of practical theology, diversity and faculty development administrator, assessment coordinator, and television producer/host. Special thanks to our Black Faculty and Staff Association and Student Services for organizing and hosting this event.

## STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Mya Chao of our women’s golf team for accepting a scholarship to Simpson University in Redding. Mya will major in Nursing, and Simpson has one of the top Nursing programs in the country. Mya has two years of eligibility left on the course, and she has been a tremendous student-athlete during her time with us. On the men’s side, RC has five golfers playing golf at 4-year universities from the 2021 team: Sean Collins (Chicago State), Matt Frith (Lindenwood), Jarred Hernandez (Chicago State), Noah Kozack (CSU Monterey Bay) and Beau Willett (Academy of Art).



Mya Chao was an All NorCal selection in 2019 & 2021.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ARIANA RUIZ

Ariana Ruiz is a young woman with a ton of drive and determination. Not only does she carry a full course schedule at Reedley College, Ariana is her grandmother's primary caretaker and is also an advocate for animal rescue and adoption. Her story is one we can all gain inspiration from.

YEAR IN COLLEGE: 2nd

MAJOR: Business and Pre-Veterinary Medicine

TRANSFERRING TO: UC Davis or Texas A&M

WHAT OBSTACLES HAVE YOU OVERCOME TO FINISH THIS SEMESTER? "This semester has challenged me both in and out of the classroom. I am currently enrolled in the honors program through the business pathway. Additionally, my end goal would be to attend veterinary school, so I am completing pre-requisite courses that are needed for such a transition. I have a rigorous course load that I must juggle with other factors in my personal life. My grandma was diagnosed with Alzheimer's years ago. Her condition continues to worsen and when the pandemic hit, her caretakers quit. I was faced with the challenge of being her only full-time caretaker. Her condition often leaves me struggling to find a quiet space to do my schoolwork. Despite my situation, my perseverance to achieve my ambitious goals pushes me forward in my fight to complete my education."

HOW HAS COVID-19 CHANGED YOUR NORMAL SCHEDULE? "Once COVID-19 was announced, a lockdown was set in place. My grandma used to have three rotating caretakers that aided with her care, but they soon quit due to the mandate. Being diagnosed with Alzheimer's, my grandma could not be left alone. She requires 24 hour care and I volunteered to provide it. I spent more time with her than I did in my own home. There were many long days and even longer nights. While caring for her, I continued my schooling. At times it felt impossible to remain successful in my courses while providing care for her. I pushed through and found passions outside of caretaking and schoolwork. These passions helped ground me and lead me to the success of remaining on the Dean's List throughout my entire stay at Reedley College."

HAS OVERCOMING SO MUCH ADVERSITY MADE YOU A STRONGER PERSON? "During COVID, I have faced many adversities. After each uphill battle, came great success. These successes have helped shape me into the person I am today. Another passion of mine has been rescuing animals in need. The Central Valley has a huge stray and neglect problem, and, there isn't a veterinarian in my hometown of Sanger. I wake up every morning ready to save more lives. Rehabbing the dogs in need is no easy task. It takes a lot of strength and determination, but



with my ambition I know I will continue to be successful. Every time a dog is rescued or adopted, I consider it a win. These wins have shaped me. My passion grows stronger every day. I want to help save as many animals as I can while educating my community in order to make a lasting change."

WHAT ADVICE HAVE YOU BEEN GIVEN ABOUT STAYING FOCUSED AND WORKING HARD DURING COVID, AND WHO GAVE YOU THAT ADVICE? "One of the best conversations I have had with one of my college advisors included her encouraging me to continue reaching for the stars. I know my goals are very ambitious, but I am also prepared to put in the work to achieve them. She reminded me that I am not a 'girl with a dream'. I am a girl who is changing the reality I live in, every day. I want to make a difference in my community now. Once I have the education, I can move forward at an even faster rate, but in the meantime, I am doing all I can with the resources I have now. I created a platform, Ari's Rescue Resources, where I educate my peers and advocate for better pet care. This conversation fueled my passion further and reminded me that even during the tough times, I started for a reason and need to keep pushing forward."

WHAT LETTER GRADE WOULD YOU GIVE REEDLEY COLLEGE AS TO HOW WE HELPED YOU GET THROUGH THE SEMESTER AND WHY? "I would give Reedley College an 'A'. My mentors and the president have been very helpful in my educational journey. I can always count on each of them to communicate timely and guide me through any hardships I may be facing. I am very pleased with my Reedley College experience and feel it was the best way to continue my education after high school."

