



# Newsletter for Parents

Autumn 2009 issue

## Greetings :

Reed College Alumni & Parent Relations is pleased to send you this electronic newsletter for parents and grandparents of current students. We aim to keep you informed of important dates, staff changes, and other college news on a quarterly basis. Please feel free to contact us with thoughts, questions, or concerns.

If you do not wish to receive future issues, the option to unsubscribe is available at the bottom of this newsletter.



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## NEWS



### H1N1: Keeping Reedies healthy

Reed's newest class, comprised of 368 freshmen and 41 transfer students, joined more than 600 family members to participate in this year's fall Orientation. The event marked the end of what must have been for them—and certainly was for us—a busy and productive summer. Having focused on everything from personnel and procedural changes to pandemics, we have now begun the 2009–10 academic year, and I am thrilled to say that we're off to a great start. I look forward to working with the newest additions to the Reed family and with the entire community of

### Gray Fund events this semester

The Gray Fund is an endowment that was first established 18 years ago in an effort by a local community member to offer Reedies a chance to get out of the classroom and enjoy themselves. This year, the Gray Fund has already provided students, faculty, and staff with the opportunity to hear Cleve Jones, the iconic gay-rights activist, attend a production of the opera *La Bohème*, and eat Voodoo Donuts, popcorn, and candy while watching *Troy* and the Gus Van Sant film *Milk*. In the upcoming months, students will get to see Sherman Alexie speak on campus, as well as take part in a variety of off-campus excursions including a trip to see the play *Santaland Diaries* in downtown Portland. All **Gray Fund events** are free and open to the Reed community.

students, staff, and scholars throughout this academic year.

The Reed bubble has done little to protect us against either infectious media coverage or the inevitable first cases of assumed H1N1 on campus. At the time of this writing, we have had a handful of cases of what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are calling "influenza-like illness" (ILI). Following CDC guidelines, we are not routinely testing ILI cases, so we do not have confirmed H1N1 diagnoses. That said, our colleagues in college and university health services around the country tell us that, based on their experience, we can expect the number of cases to increase significantly as the season progresses. We are responding aggressively to the threat of a widespread outbreak. Reed's Emergency Response Team (ERT) meets regularly to discuss the college's preparations, which include:

- Widely publicized advice on influenza prevention
- Logistical arrangements designed to limit the spread of infection
  - An unoccupied faculty house designated as an isolation space
  - A dedicated assessment and triage area at the health and counseling center
  - Alcohol-based hand cleanser and disinfecting wipes readily available on campus
  - Expanded treatment resources
  - Dedicated communication channels
    - H1N1 hotline in the health and counseling center
    - Web-based and email updates for the entire community

It is our sincere hope that through the collaborative efforts of students, staff, and faculty that we will minimize the impact of H1N1 at Reed.

Michael Brody  
VP & Dean of Student Services

### Parent & Family Weekend reminder

Please join us for **Parent & Family Weekend** on November 6 & 7 on campus. Check in and activities begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday in Gray Lounge and conclude Saturday afternoon. Parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to attend. Whether you are coming to campus for the first time or the fifth, this is a wonderful opportunity for families to meet members of the college community and learn more about what students experience at Reed.

**Online registration** is currently available. Feel free to contact us with any questions at [parents@reed.edu](mailto:parents@reed.edu) or 503/777-7589. Please note that the most convenient parking to Gray Lounge is in the west lot off of 28th Avenue.

### Fall notes from Career Services

Welcome, and welcome back, Reed parents:

Many of the choice internships for fall and summer have deadlines coming up very quickly. An internship is more than just a way



Cleve Jones (center) with Gray Fund interns Matt Steele '11 and Nate Robnett-Conover '12

### Save the date for commencement

Reed's 96th annual commencement ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 17, 2010 on the front lawn of campus. Weekend events include optional tours on Saturday and Sunday and a commencement eve celebration Sunday evening. A complete schedule will be available in February. Please join us in celebrating the class of 2010!

### In the world of Residence Life

Theme months:

House advisors (HAs) typically plan events for their respective community whether it is for their floor or dorm, but they also have the opportunity to plan all-campus events. Each month, eight or nine HAs combine efforts to put on all-campus programs that focus on a predetermined theme. The intention of theme months is to develop awareness in topics that we believe are important to a Reedie's development and to create community shared experiences. The 2009-10 theme months are:

September-Health and Wellness  
October-Honor, Respect and Responsibility  
November-Multicultural Understanding  
February-Social Justice  
March-Beyond the Reed Bubble  
April-Transitions

September's theme of Health and Wellness featured several different program opportunities including volunteering at Zenger Farms (a Portland urban farm), a "make your own tea" table in commons, a pool relaxation party, a speed friend-dating event, and a stroll through a local neighborhood with breakfast afterward.

*Important residence life dates:*

Saturday, October 17-Sunday, October 25: fall break (residence halls open with limited food service)

Thursday, November 26-Sunday, November 29: Thanksgiving break (residence halls open with limited food service)

Friday, December 18, 2009: residence halls close at noon

for your Reedie to earn some cash: a meaningful internship experience complements academic studies and enriches the life of the mind; prepares students for the opportunities and challenges of professional, civic, and private life; and deepens one's understanding of personal strengths and interests. One of the key messages that we deliver every day to students is this: early planning will strengthen your experience, round out your resume, and help ease your way into your future so that you will face graduation and life after Reed feeling well prepared.

If your Reedie is a new student, we want to support her/his entry into Reed life. Your new student can meet with a counselor who will guide her/him through the steps for incorporating career-development activities into her/his activities at Reed. Taking our online assessment tests can help her/him understand future options. Our programming holds myriad opportunities or your student to build skills and to meet Reedies whose stories and connections may be useful.

If your Reedie is graduating, we want to support his/her transition to graduate school, entry-level work, or an interim of service and/or travel. Students who start planning early are in the best position to seize competitive opportunities.

If you know of any good opportunities for Reed students, please let Career Services know so we can get the word out. For more information on how you can join our efforts, contact Ron Albertson, director of career services, at [career.services@reed.edu](mailto:career.services@reed.edu) or 503/517-7421, or visit us [online](#).

### Important financial aid information

Financial aid applications for the 2010–11 academic year will be available in early December. If your Reedie does not bring home an application packet over winter break, or if you want your own set of application instructions, give us a call at 503/777-7223 or send an email to [financial.aid@reed.edu](mailto:financial.aid@reed.edu), and we will send one to you. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CSS Profile should be filed with the processors by April 1, 2010. Submit the verification worksheet and copies of parent and student 2009 IRS tax returns, 1099, and W-2 statements to the Reed financial aid office by May 1, 2010. And don't hesitate to call or [email](#) us if you wish to check the status of your Reedie's financial aid application or if you have any questions.

### Note from the Parent Council Chair

Dear Reedie parents/fellow caretakers:

As chair of Reed's parent council, I am thrilled to welcome you all to fall semester 2009!

You may ask why I opened my letter by using the words *fellow caretakers*. It's because, while our offspring are in Portland, we share the caretaking with a most wonderful partner—Reed College.

Friday, January 15, 2010: residence halls open at noon (limited food service)

Saturday, March 13–Sunday, March 21: spring break (residence halls open with limited food service)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010: residence halls close for summer

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us [res.life@reed.edu](mailto:res.life@reed.edu) or 503/777-7536.

### Admission's parent-to-parent program

As you may remember, each year the admission office mails a list of current parent contacts to the parents of our admitted students. Our parent-to-parent program has been a huge success. Current parents and prospective parents have burned up the internet exchanging information, answering questions, calming fears, and discovering that those qualities that have for years made your child unique are, indeed, inherent in other future Reedies. We are seeking new and returning volunteers to be a part of this very important program for 2010.

If you sign on to help, your responsibilities will be quite simple and, we hope, not particularly burdensome. We ask that you be willing to accept a few phone calls or emails from parents of admitted students. To sign up (or re-up), we ask only that you visit our [website](#) and indicate your interest—then we'll be sure to send you the form for our information gathering and will include you in the spring printing of our parent-to-parent brochure. Thanks for your willingness to be a contact for prospective Reed parents! If you have any questions about the program, please contact Amanda Miller, assistant to the dean, at [millera@reed.edu](mailto:millera@reed.edu) or 503/777-7509.

### Peer Mentor Program

This past August, the peer mentor program welcomed 30 incoming freshmen to the group. The mentees and mentors had a chance to mingle at our all-day pre-orientation retreat at the McMenamin's Kennedy School in northeast Portland. Participants spent the day learning about Reed culture from students, faculty, and staff, and building relationships with one another.

The fun did not stop after orientation week! In addition to social activities to help mentors and mentees establish connections, a full calendar of events for the fall exists, including: Hum paper-editing sessions, a trip to the Portland Saturday Market, workshops on healthy living at Reed and managing finances, a day of volunteering at a domestic violence shelter in Portland, a trip to Seattle, and more. We are excited to have so many students participating in the program and look forward to a great year! [Learn more](#) about the program.



**Student spotlight on  
JinYoung Park '11**

We begin to share from the very first summer that they enter as freshmen. We are invited to participate in learning the way that they soon would learn. We were able to take part in active study and debate by reading and discussing *The Odyssey*, a seminal component of their Hum 110 syllabus. Reed makes it easy to share.

In June, this year Reed made headlines by allowing unprecedented access to its finances, leading to breakthrough knowledge in the (usually) closed doors of academia. Reed, again, was sharing. The financial-aid dilemma, outlined in the article, resulted in an outpouring of support.

Reed will soon be celebrating its centennial and will be inviting us to share in the festivities in events both on campus and around the globe. I urge you to take every opportunity to share in this milestone. How about starting by joining us for the upcoming **Parent & Family Weekend** on November 6-7? It is a lovely chance to meet again with President Colin Diver, faculty, fellow parents, and visit with our children! It is a date to which I look forward each year, and, even though I live in England, it continues to be paramount.

You can **register** for Parent & Family Weekend and view the entire weekend's **schedule of events** online. I look forward to having the chance to chat with you about the parent council and our mission. If you would like to share your time and think you might be interested in joining the parent council, please **read more** about us or contact **Susan Walcutt**, major gift officer.

All the very best (just as our students are receiving),

Katie Schmidt  
Mother of Winnie '11

### Reed care boxes

Do you have someone you care about at Reed College? Are you looking for a way to let them know you're thinking of them? The Reed care boxes may be just what you want. They are designed with the Reddie in mind, and students love receiving them. Whether there is a birthday to celebrate, a milestone reached in that pesky thesis, or just a note to say, "Take a break, we're thinking of you," gift boxes are a unique way to give your Reddie a message from home. To view our full selection of care boxes and to place an order, just go to **the bookstore homepage** and click on the "Care Box" link. The care boxes are attractively packaged and available for pick up during bookstore hours. We will contact your special person by email and with a notice in their Reed mailbox. A note card with your personal message will be included with each box. For further information, please contact Jules Wright at [wrightj@reed.edu](mailto:wrightj@reed.edu) or 503/777-7757.



We asked one of our fabulous student workers, JinYoung Park '11, who is majoring in linguistics, to comment on returning to Reed after studying abroad in France:

Instead of going out for *apéros* at cafés and commuting to a campus that is 45 minutes away by the métro, I am living in Old Dorm Block, in the middle of everything on campus and constantly running back and forth between my room, classes, commons, work, and the library. I am back at Reed for my junior year after a semester abroad in Paris, and I could not be happier to be thrown back into this community where things revolve around learning and following your passion(s).

This semester, I am taking first-year Russian and trying not to mix up the different suffixes, learning to analyze types of word and sentence structures in Morphosyntactic Typology, reading about and listening to various kinds of music in History & Memory in African American Music, and learning all about intervals, scales, and more in music theory. There is always a lot of work to be done, and you'll find me at the library most nights, but I would choose this over having easy classes and not learning, any day.

It's pretty crazy to think that it's already my junior year. I can still remember the first day I set my feet on this campus. I can still remember having to use the campus map to figure out where things were. But now I am an upperclassman who gives advice on which Hum lectures never to miss, I am the only junior in a first-year language class, I am a peer mentor to a new student, I know the spots in the library where you can get cell phone reception . . . .

But the thing that hasn't changed since day one at Reed is the amazing group of people that this place attracts. We're all busy with our studies, but a bunch of us do other things that we're passionate about. Some of us play sports, some fix bikes for free, some start student organizations to give out free food, some sit on committees to discuss important things, some start a fantasy-themed dorm . . . .

Professors from my freshman year classes still remember me, and I have valuable relationships with a bunch of the staff members. People care about each other here.

I missed this place. I'm glad to be home.

JinYoung Park '11



#### EXTRA LINKS

Contact information for **Reed staff**

The **Reed academic calendar**

Schedule of **parent events** on campus

#### KEEP IN TOUCH

Thank you for allowing us to reach you via email, our most immediate means to share news and information. Your email address will be used only for communications to you from Reed. To continue to receive parent communication, keep us up to date on your current contact information or let us know of any additional person who should receive parent mailings. Send name, mailing address, telephone, and email to us at **parents@reed.edu** or the address below.



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