Countdown to Riverside City College’s 100th Anniversary

When Professor of Nursing Phyllis Rowe retired in December 2010 she had the distinction of having the longest full-time tenure (42 years; 1968-2010) of any woman to teach at Riverside City College. Right behind her are Joan Pleasants (41 years; 1966-2007), Ruth Cooper (40 years; 1931-1971), Wilhemina Hathaway (40 years; 1964-2004), Kathy Farris (40 years; 1971-2011) and Jan Schall (40 years and counting; 1971-date). In 2000, the Vocational Nursing class planted a tree by the Life Science Building in Phyllis Rowe’s honor (a plaque by the tree can be seen below).

In 2004, she was presented the “Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence”. In 2009 she was awarded the position of Full Professor.

Recently Phyllis Rowe had this to say about her career in Nursing education: “I was a math major for my first two years of college, but in my second year, I attended a church presentation on nursing in underdeveloped countries and on the spot I decided to become a nurse and “save the world.” The next year I entered the University of Illinois College of Nursing and three years later, earned my Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing. About twenty years later, I earned a master’s degree as a nurse practitioner from Cal State University Long Beach. Approximately twenty years after that, I earned my doctorate degree in nursing practice from Case Western Reserve University.”

“My plans to go abroad and save the world were thwarted by a young man named Arnold and we were married within the year. I finished my nursing degree and then it was Arnold’s turn to go to school. We moved to Riverside so that he could work on his PhD at UCR. Two days after we arrived in Riverside, I was offered the teaching position at RCC, a most wonderful stroke of good fortune. I have tried to show my appreciation for this bounty by serving RCC and our students to the best of my ability. It is a blessing to have the opportunity on a daily basis to help people achieve their most cherished dreams. Lives are changed at RCC and all of us have been given a gift to be a part of this.”

Thanks to Phyllis Rowe for providing her Nursing Graduation photo. She continues to teach at RCC as an adjunct faculty.

It is 4 years and 40 weeks until RCC’s 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.
The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC’s 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college.

Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote “the book” about RCC’s history. “Riverside City College 1916-1981 - A 65 Year History” is available in the RCC Digital Library.

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