August 1, 2011

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Associate Professor of History, Al Parker began his Riverside City College teaching career in 1969.

In a 2009 interview, Parker spoke about his time at RCC. “I came straight out of UCLA. I applied for jobs all over the western states. I got a few interviews and got an invitation to come to RCC, was hired and told my wife that I was only going to stay one year, that we were going to get out of Southern California. At the end of one year, I went back to her and said ‘Would you mind staying in Riverside? Because I love my job, I love this institution.’ And that’s the truth. At the end of one year, I knew this was the place I wanted to be and I’ve never regretted it. This college has helped me grow as a person and as a teacher.”

When asked about his teaching method Parker said, “I still teach my History classes with a very strong social rather than a political or economic orientation. My courses are strong on getting my students to take a look at what real people’s lives are like, so the social component is important to me.”

Parker received numerous accolades for his teaching at RCC. For example, in 1987 he became RCC’s twenty-seventh “Distinguished Faculty Lecturer”. His topic was “The Machine in the Garden: American Ambivalence Toward Technology”. More recently he was awarded the 2009 “Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence”. Parker is one of only twelve RCC instructors that have taught full-time for forty years or more.

Al Parker retired at the end of the 2010-11 academic year but continues to teach as an adjunct member of the faculty.

Thanks to Al Parker for providing the photo (#1.) of himself taken during his first year at RCC. The color photo (#2.) was taken at the faculty reception prior to the 2011 Commencement Ceremony. The program (#3.) is from Parker’s 1987 “Distinguished Faculty Lecture”.

It is 4 years and 32 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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