October 3, 2011

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

On October 6, 2011, Riverside City College will induct its tenth President, Dr. Cynthia E. Azari. At the Presidential Inauguration & Convocation, a working “Lamp of Learning” will be making one of its periodic appearances. The “Lamp of Learning” can be seen at RCC Presidential Inaugurations, Convocations, Commencements and other special occasions. The symbol of the “lamp” has been a part of RCC imagery since the 1920s. From ancient times, it has been considered a representation of intelligence, learning, wisdom and knowledge. This particular lamp made its debut twenty years ago on March 13, 1991, RCC’s 75th anniversary.

John Hopkins (RCC Associate Professor of Art, 1981-present) is the artist who created the lamp that will be seen at Thursday’s ceremony. Hopkins recently spoke about how he was commissioned to craft it.

“Dr Charles Kane (RCC Superintendent / President 1978-1992) asked me if I could do one for the (75th) anniversary celebration. I asked if he could give me an idea of what they were looking for and Ginny MacDonald (Director of the RCC Foundation and Executive Assistant to the President/Chancellor 1983-2006) gave me a pin as a starting point. I used the two dimensional image and sculpted it, then made a set of casting molds for reproduction. Making it function as a working lamp with flame was another challenge. I also made sixty smaller ones that were given out to donors for the RCC Foundation Endowment Scholarship Campaign in 1991. Dr. Kane kept me busy to say the least!”

Originally there were three “Lamps of Learning” created (one for each campus) but the ravages of time and the changing branding of Moreno Valley College and Norco College have reduced that number to one. However, Hopkins assures everyone that the casting molds still exist and more “lamps” can be made. Hopkins is also the artist behind the Faculty Emeriti tiles in the northeast corner of the Quadrangle.

Photo #1 - John Hopkins
Photo #2 - The RCC Lamp of Learning
Photo #3 - The original lamp pin on which Hopkins based his design
Photo #4 - March 13, 1991, the artist warms his hands with the lamp’s flame on its first day of service.
Photo #5 - One of sixty smaller versions of the lamp given to RCC Foundation Endowment Scholarship donors in 1991.

Thanks to John Hopkins for providing photos #3 and 5.

It is 4 years and 23 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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