

December 19, 2011

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In December of 2011, seven Professors and Associate Professors retired from the Riverside Community College District: William Brown, Paul “Chip” Herzig, Charlene Jeter, Anita Maradiaga, Delores Middleton, Jan Schall and Karin Skiba.

Perhaps one of the most noteworthy of the above group is Jan Schall because of her more than 40-year tenure at Riverside City College. Jan began her association with RCC as a student in the late 1950's. One of her favorite Professors was Glen Hunt (RCC Math-Chemistry-Administration 1958-2007). Of her good friend she said, “I first met Glenn in 1959 as a student in his summer Chemistry class. The entire summer, this mild-mannered teacher patiently waited while I was always the last to finish examinations and experiments. On the day of the final he simply asked, ‘Miss O’Dell, you’re not going to major in Chemistry are you?’ He was pleased that I said ‘No sir.’”

Jan went on to graduate from the University of California with bachelors and masters degrees. For six years she worked with the unified school districts, taught kindergarten through fifth grade, special education, and served as a consultant. Early on, two years were spent at the University of California as a teaching assistant and later, with the California State College system, as a Professor of Sociology. She returned to her alma mater, Riverside City College, in 1971. She has been an RCC professor for more than forty years joining Glenn Hunt in the elite company of twelve that have taught more than four decades at RCC.

In 1994 she was chosen by her peers to deliver the 34th Distinguished Faculty Lecture. The title of her lecture was “In the Company of Scholars: Professors, Paradigms, and Paradoxes or Can we really be this crazy?”

Perhaps the highest accolade any educator can receive is the knowledge that they made a difference in the lives of their students. In an interview with early 2000s student Terica Ned-Pelt, upon her 2011 induction into the RCC Sports Hall of Fame, she had this to say about Jan: “She was awesome! If I didn’t understand something she helped me to understand it. I went on to become a Sociology major and I got my BA in Sociology. She was a good teacher and human being as far as understanding you and dealing with you as a person so I loved her for that.”

Jan is also known for her long association with the Study Abroad program at the college and she will continue to work there past her retirement.

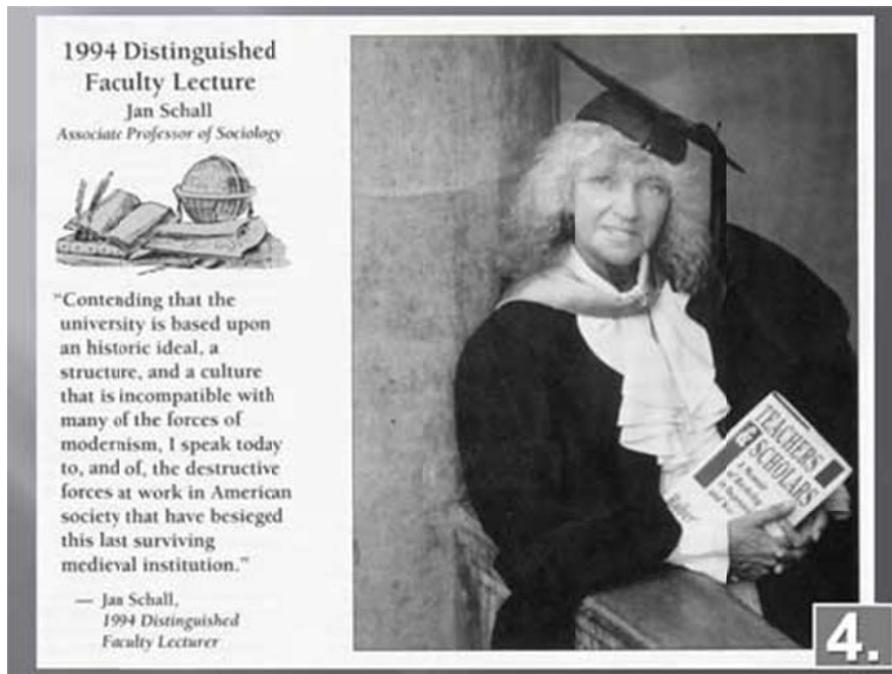
Photo one is of RCC Freshman Class Officers. Jan is in the center of the picture (from the 1959 “*Tequesquite*” yearbook). Photo two is of Jan’s Chemistry Professor, Glenn Hunt (from the 1961 “*Tequesquite*” yearbook).



Photos three and four are from a November 3, 1972 "Tiger Times" article about Jan's "Sociology 15: Women in America" class.



Photo four is from the June 1994 "RCC Reports" covering her Distinguished Faculty Lecture.



It is 4 years and 12 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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