Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In the early 1990s Nikki Bonzoumet nee Carpenter (Educational Advisor; Associate Professor, Physical Education 2000-date) was a student/athlete at Riverside City College. She was recruited out of La Sierra High School by then RCC Women's Tennis Coach Ingrid Wicken (Associate Professor, Physical Education 1989-date). Wicken herself was an RCC student/athlete in the 1970s. While at RCC, Bonzoumet changed her major several times eventually graduating with an A.S. degree in Natural Sciences. After leaving RCC she attended Northern Arizona University on a full athletic scholarship. After earning a Master's degree, she was just beginning a career in the aerospace industry when her former Tennis Coach Ingrid Wicken asked her if she would be interested in working part-time as the RCC Tennis Coach. Bonzoumet returned to her Alma Mater to coach and also taught part-time in the Physical Education Department. Later she was hired as an Educational Advisor in the Assessment Center. After two years, a full-time teaching opportunity came up in the Physical Education Department for which she applied and was hired.

Bonzoumet had this to say about her RCC Tennis Coach Ingrid Wicken:

“She helped as a student and a player by leading by example. She gave us a value system that extended far beyond the tennis court. We knew that we could come to her if we were having trouble in a class or having personal issues and she would help us find a solution.

Of being a member of the RCC Tennis team she reminisced:

“I have so many great memories of being a member of the RCC Tennis Team it is difficult to pick just one. The teammates I made have become lifelong friends; one of them even introduced me to my husband. One day that stands out in my head as a very fond memory was when Coach (Wicken) set us all up to play a set or two against this counselor here at RCC. She told us his name was Fran Bushman (Associate Professor, Counseling 1966-91). I had heard of him, knew he was good but also knew he was quite a bit older than me so I, along with my other teammates, thought we could give him a run for his money. He just wiped the court with every last one of us… and we had a championship team that year. This almost 70 year old man was amazing. He could hit the ball to anywhere in the court that he wanted and he didn’t even hit the ball that hard. It was like he was ‘toying’ with us the entire time. I learned a lot that day about the game of tennis.”

On her teaching career at RCC she states:

“I love my job… ask anybody who knows me! I love all the different people I’m able to meet and work with, I love that I get to play outside and be inside too on occasion teaching students in the classroom. I like figuring how my student/athletes tick – what are their goals? What stopping them from getting to them? And then what can I do to help them be successful?”
The photo below (on the left) also appeared in the May, 8, 1991 “Viewpoints” newspaper. On the right is a recent photo of Coach Bonzoumet.

It is 4 years and 2 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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