February 19, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Room 201 in the Ralph H. Bradshaw Student Center on the campus of Riverside City College houses the RCC Hall of Fame. The room is home to athletic and academic trophies awarded to RCC students. It's also a place to honor awardees of the RCCD Annual Recognition Awards. These include Alumnus of the Year, Young Alumnus of the Year, Distinguished Public Service Awardees, Outstanding Corporate Partner Awardees and the Chancellor’s Awardees. Among the others recognized in the room are Distinguished Faculty Lecturers and those presented with the Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence.

Bradshaw Student Center Room 201 first served as a student lounge when the building opened in the late 1960s. By the late 1970s the room was partitioned and became office space. In the early 1980s the decision was made to designate this room as the RCC Hall of Fame. Below is a photo of perhaps the largest gathering of RCC Alumni of the Year. This 1982 get-together took place in the Hall of Fame. In the top row left to right are: Harold Butterfield (1969-retired Superintendent of the Fred C. Nellis School for Boys in Whittier); John Neblett (1975-retired Superior Court judge); John Gabbert (1971-retired State Court of Appeals associate justice); Anita Johnson Mackey (1976-retired Veterans Administration social worker); George Moody (1973-president of Security Pacific National Bank); Albert “Ab” Brown (1978-Riverside Mayor 1978-90); Fred Oldendorf (1963-retired vice president of Southern California Edison); Edna Bailey Lockhart (1979-retired child welfare and attendance director of Riverside Unified School district); and Bart Singletary (1982-vice president of William Austin Company of Riverside). Seated in the center of the front row is Dr Charles A. Kane (the sixth President of Riverside City College). To Kane’s right are RCC Board of Trustee members Alan Pauw and Leroy Gren. To Kane’s left are RCC Board of Trustee member Francis Nelson and RCC Board of Trustee President Dr. Wilfred Airey.

When the RCC Hall of Fame first opened there was a distinctive RCC seal woven into the carpet. The seal was cordoned off with velvet ropes to discourage people from walking on it. When the
college name was changed to Riverside Community College in 1986, the seal was changed to reflect this. At a later date, when the room was reconfigured, the seal was removed. The two seals migrated to different locations on campus. The Riverside City College seal can be seen suspended above the stage in the Bradshaw Student Center Cafeteria. The Riverside Community College seal is located in Administration room 122 (the Board Room) where it hangs on the wall above and behind the table where the RCCD Board of Trustees are seated during their meetings.

An addendum to last week’s “Countdown” on Lovekin Field, we have been informed that two great-great granddaughters of Arthur Charles and Helen Stevens Lovekin (who donated the property to Riverside Junior College in 1932) are currently students at Riverside City College.

It is 3 years and 3 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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