

June 17, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

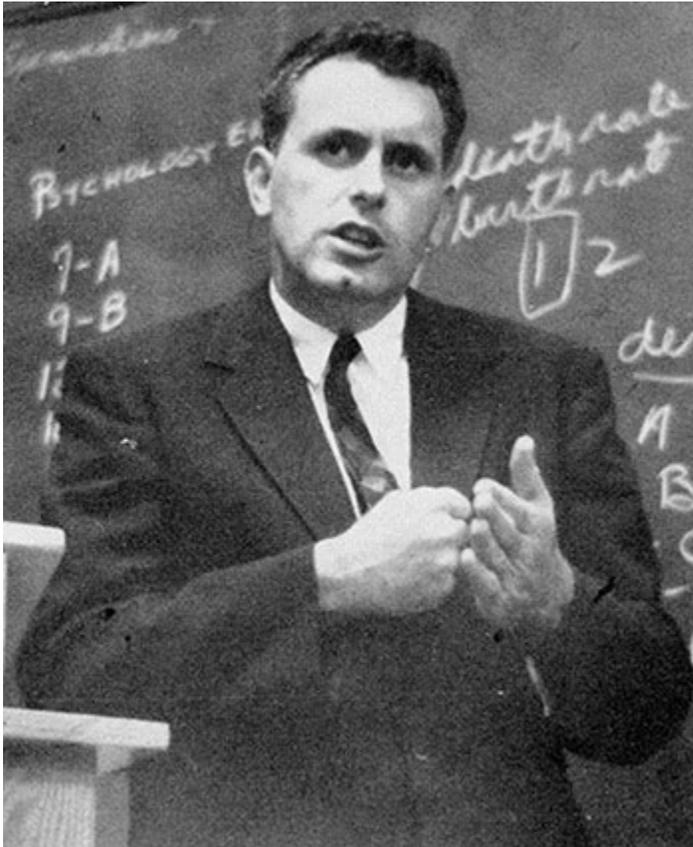
The 1986 RCCD Alumnus of the Year was Dr. Charles E. Bracker. At the time of his award, Dr. Bracker was a professor of Plant Pathology at Purdue University. He was a student at Riverside City College from 1955 to 1957. While attending RCC, Dr. Bracker was a member of the Honor Society. In the Honor Society group photo below, he is seen in the bottom row (second in from the right). This picture appeared in the 1957 *"Tequesquite"* yearbook. An enlarged image of him appears on the right.



In the top row (second in from the right) is the advisor to the Honor Society, Rosa McKusick. McKusick was an Assistant Librarian at RCC from 1951 to 1967. McKusick is seen in the photo below (on the right). Standing next to her is Library Assistant Dorothy Summers. This photo also appeared in the 1957 *"Tequesquite"* yearbook.



Cecil Johnson, Professor of Biology (1952-1990) remembered Dr. Bracker in his Zoology lab classes as *“a very hard worker...very self-disciplined...a student of high caliber in a talented class.”* A project he completed as part of his course work, a horse skeleton, required hours of labor, cleaning, piecing and wiring the bones together and (in the 1980s) still stood in the Zoology lab as an example of his self-discipline and perfectionism. Below is a photo of Cecil Johnson from the 1958 *“Tequesquite”* yearbook.



Dr. Bracker received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1960 and a Ph.D. in 1964 from the University of California at Davis. In 1964 he joined the faculty of Purdue University in Indiana and, in 1973, became a full professor of Botany and Plant Pathology. In letters of recommendation for the RCCD Alumnus of the Year recognition, Thomas K. Hodge, professor of Plant Physiology at Purdue University, said, *“Dr. Braker is one of the truly outstanding plant scientists in the world...He is respected by everyone that knows him well as being thorough, careful, innovative, and tenacious as a researcher and teacher.”* He worked for more than 40 years in cell biological research with light and electron microscopy, documenting new fungal growth mechanisms and discovering the “chitosome”, an enzyme transport body required for cell wall growth. He was instrumental in creating the Electron Microscopy Center in the School of Agriculture, and his courses on Electron Microscopy and Scientific Writing were rites of passage for many graduate students. Bracker’s leisure activity of riding off-road trail bikes led to his writing many articles for national magazines and to an award in 1983 as Cycle Conservationist of the year from the Cycle Conservation Club of Michigan. In 1993 he became a George B. Cumming Distinguished Professor. Salomon Bartnicki-Garcia, professor of Plant Pathology at the University of California at Riverside wrote a letter of recommendation on behalf of Bracker to receive the Alumnus of the Year Honor. In his letter, Bartnicki-Garcia said *“I am*

happy to see that our community, particularly Riverside City College, played a major role in shaping so outstanding an individual. Below (on the left) is a photo of Dr. Charles Bracker from the 1957 "Tequesquite" yearbook. On the right is a photo of Dr. Bracker from the year he received his R.C.C.D. Alumnus of the Year honor.



Some of the material above was adapted from an article written by RCC student Carole Smalley that appeared in the June 9, 1986 "Viewpoints" newspaper.

It is 2 years and 38 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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