Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In January 1939, “Arroyo” student newspaper Executive Editor Marvin Hayman asked members of the Riverside Junior College faculty to write a series of opinion pieces under the title “Instructor’s Viewpoints”. Today, 75 years later, we can see what was on their minds. The fifth article appeared in the February 15, 1939 edition of the newspaper and was written by Charles Darwin Test (Chemistry 1925-1941). Test was a research scholar who did work with the federal government in Washington and especially radium research in Colorado. He was often published.

The two faculty group photos below are from the 1926 and 1928 yearbooks. In the top photo, the diminutive Test is standing in the top row, sixth from the left. In the bottom photo, he is seated in the front row, sixth from the left.
In Test’s article, entitled “In Which Class Are You?” he divided all students into three classes and asked the undergraduates of RJC, into which one they belonged.

“In Which Class Are You?”
By C. D. Test

“DURING MORE than thirty years of college teaching, I have come in contact with many students representing all possible types. Some, I have come to know very well and highly prize their friendships. Others have made little impression on me and many I have entirely forgotten. It was once said of German students, that one-third worked themselves to death, one-third drank themselves to death, and the other third ruled Europe. However true that may be, it might be applied, with modification, to students almost anywhere, and I believe Riverside Junior College is no exception. This does not imply that any Riverside students drink themselves to death, neither have I heard of any of them dying from overwork. However, it is perhaps possible to divide the students into three classes: those whose sole object seems to be to make straight A grades, and be elected to the honor society; those who are indifferent to their work, with apparently no object for attending college except that it seems to be the thing to do, or because they wish to make one of the athletic teams. They take no interest in subjects in which they are registered, but loaf in the quad when they should be attending classes. This class of students is quickly forgotten by the instructors and fellow students. The third class is the one in which belongs what might be called the average student. He need not be an A student but he is trying to get the most out of the subjects he is studying, which have been chosen, not because they are snap courses, but because of the value they may be to him through life. He applies himself to his work to the best of his ability, takes part in student activities, including athletics if he has talent in that line, and really enjoys being in college. It is this student who in his first year learns how to study and having found how to apply himself to his work finds he has time to enter into many activities outside of the classroom. It is this student who really makes good in later years rather than the one who strove to be at the head of his class, or the one who was simply a good fellow. More important than existing knowledge are the methods of thought by which this information has been gained, and those who labor for these press forward with confidence renewed by every new success.”

The photos below of Test appeared in “Tequesquite” yearbooks of the 1930s. The top two came from 1931 and 1934. The bottom pair appeared in the 1938 and 1939 yearbooks.
It is 1 year and 20 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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