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” (in late February, the title was changed to “Instructor’s Views”). Today, 75 years later, we can see what was on their minds. The ninth article appeared in the March 17, 1939 edition of the newspaper and was written by Frances M. Fraser (Social Sciences, Dean of Women 1923-1956). In the faculty photo below, from the 1927 “Tequesquite” yearbook, Fraser is seated in the front row, third from the left.

She was described in the 1938 “Tequesquite” yearbook in the following manner: “A word of encouragement along with the friendly advice offered so selflessly to those who come to her, has long typified Miss Frances Fraser, Dean of Women, and devoted teacher. It is to her that the women of the college turn for guidance, for encouragement, and for constructive criticism. An indefatigable worker in the cause of the college women, Miss Fraser possesses a keen analytical insight into the problems which confront the young woman student. Women’s organizations and self-betterment groups all receive Miss Fraser’s hearty support, while the college’s own women’s dormitory, Fraser Hall, stands as a monument honoring in integrity and practicality of this unusual woman. Fraser Hall, said to be the only cooperative dormitory in connection with a junior college in the state, has been a special project conceived and nurtured by the Dean of Women. Typical of Miss Fraser is a recent lecture room remark attributed to her: ‘Serving others is a privilege allowed to but a fortunate few. It is well to remember the words of Jesus and to follow His example, remembering that it was He who said ‘I came not to be served unto, but to serve’.”

Below are 1936 and 1937 photos of the women of Fraser Hall.

Top row, left to right—Skellienger, Smith, Glasscock, Bartman, Smyth, Strassacker, Rawson, Reese, Rush
Second row—Pink, Blackmore
Front row—Shoemaker, Ross, Taylor, Kip, Kuffer, Schaaf, Jacobsen, Dunn, Johnsen, Blazer, Nicolas, Jones, Steves
The subject of Frances Fraser's article was the 1939 New York World's Fair, which opened on April 30, 1939.
"The New York Times for Sunday, March 5, carries with it a special edition devoted to a description of the World’s Fair. It would be well for every junior college student to spend considerable time in perusing this section because such outstanding men and women as: Henry Ford, Frances Perkins, Charles F. Kettering, Thomas Parran, Virginia Goldsleek, William F. Ogburn, Robert Hutchins, and Katherine Lenrock have given us their ideas of what America has stood for in the past and wherein lies her hope in the future. The World's Fair in New York is celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as President in New York—and what is the theme? ‘A happier way for America living through a recognition of the interdependence of men, and the building of a better world tomorrow with the look of today.’ At this Fair, there are to be innumerable exalting and thrilling exhibits portraying the advancement that has been made in our material world in the last 150 years; improvement in manufacturing, in transportation, in communication, and in the development of our vast natural resources—every bit of which is important—the most amazing thing, however, about the New York Fair is not these exhibits of material progress—they have been part and parcel of every Fair that the world has seen, but the fact that today, when the world is rife with turmoil and hatred; the Jew, the Catholic, and the Protestant, are joining forces in the Temple of Religion and that they are not emphasizing their differences. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick in his article on ‘Fates for the Groping Man,’ tells what part religion has played in the life of America in the past, and what it may mean in the future—and what he says is in true keeping with the spirit of the Fair and may be summed up in the following quotation: ‘Religion of tomorrow will be different from religion of yesterday, or today. But man cannot escape the awareness of a life greater than his own.’"

The photos below of Fraser appeared in “Tequesquite” yearbooks of the time. The top two came from 1931 and 1933. The bottom pair appeared in the 1939 and 1942 yearbooks.
It is 1 year and 14 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. For copyright purposes, all images originating from Riverside City College publications and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations are the property of the Riverside Community College District.