



September 15, 2014

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 first article appeared in the January 18, 1939 edition of the newspaper and was written by Earl A. McDermont (History, Registrar and Vice President, 1921-1958). In the 1938 "Tequesquite" yearbook, it was written: *"Years after graduation from junior college, one of the highlights in the minds of many of Earl McDermont's former students, either in History or Sociology, are the witty, intriguing class lectures delivered from time to time by that intrepid gentleman."* In the 1939 yearbook it was said that McDermont's *"keen sense of humor and sympathetic understanding have made him ever popular."*

The two faculty group photos below are from the 1926 and 1928 yearbooks. In the top photo, McDermont is seated in the middle row, fourth from the left. In the bottom photo, he is seated in the front row, second from the left.



Below is the text of McDermont's article "The Modern Young Man":

Instructor's Viewpoints

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles written by instructors here at Riverside Junior College. The articles are being written at the request of the editor, who believes the student body would appreciate and benefit by them.

THE MODERN YOUNG MAN
By E. A. McDermont

"A young man has a body. He may run the hundred yard dash in 9.6 seconds and the two hundred twenty yard dash in 20.6 seconds. In a few months he is in Buffalo, New York City, and Berlin in competition. He is considered one of the hopes of America. 1940 may find him in Helsingfors running against the champions of all nations and perhaps being crowned champion of the world. A young man has an automobile. At the wheel of his car, guiding his own destiny, he backs out of his garage in the morning. Where is the end of the road he follows? It may be Prince Rupert, Quebec, New York, Mexico City, or shortly, Buenos Aires. A young man has a vote. In his own precinct he casts a ballot sending a representative 3,000 miles away to Washington to form a policy that will control the destiny of America and regulate the future of Chinese 10,000 miles distant. A young man has eyes. On the breakfast table before him lies the morning paper. On its pages is the news dated only yesterday, dispatched from all the major cities on earth, and covering everything of importance that is happening to mankind. A young man has ears. Sitting by his radio he listens to the music and drama of all the world and informs himself through the discussion of its business and politics. A young man has intelligence. There lies in his library awaiting his investigation the experience and wisdom of a hundred generations of his ancestors. A young man has imagination and faith. He can project for a thousand years into the future a blue print of the social order that is worthy of the greatness that is in him and his descendants. Such is the size of your opportunity and obligation in a society, young man! Such is the goal of your education! How big—how free—how intelligent are you?"

Below are photos of Earl A. McDermont from "Tequesquite" yearbooks of the 1930s. The top two photos were from 1931 and 1933. The bottom two were from 1938 and 1939.



It is 1 year and 26 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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