September 8, 2014

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In past decades, the opening of the fall semester at Riverside City College was usually accompanied with a greeting to the students from the College President in the student newspaper.

In the September 21, 1938 edition of “The Arroyo”, A.G. Paul (1920-1950), who was then known as the “Director” of the college, had this to say to the incoming students:

“Two statements from graduates of this institution which came in conversations with me during the summer make good material for a welcoming message for this year’s student body. Said a young man, ‘I was almost an old man before I realized the necessity of taking my college course seriously.’ This means that this person is going to be delayed several years in his preparation before he can even begin his professional training, let alone become gainfully occupied. This might be a tip to the wise. A young woman graduate was surprised to know that the money we receive from the State is based upon the total number of hours of attendance registered for each student for an entire college year. Her attendance having been more or less irregular, her regret now is that she did not contribute her full bit. Her comment was ‘Why don’t you tell the students about the importance of going to class regularly?’ That is exactly what I am doing now. This year will be a profitable one to that group of students who recognize (first) the importance of their work, and (second) who by their regular attendance not only add to their own efficiency, but lend their hours toward keeping the doors of the college open.”

A.G. Paul
In the September 8, 1961 issue of the “Tiger Times”, President O.W. Noble (1950-1963) welcomed the students with this message:

“Welcome to Riverside City College. To the best of my knowledge, all necessary preparations have been made so that on Monday, September 11th, at 8:00 a.m., the college will be in full operation. Instructors have been requested to outline their course requirements and to make assignments the first day of classes. We trust that everyone is here to learn, consequently your primary responsibility is to your academic work. In addition we hope you will take part in some extra-class activity. Best wishes to all of you for a successful year.”

O. W. NOBLE, President; Riverside City College
In the September 11, 1970 “Tiger Times” Superintendent/President Ralph Bradshaw (1963-1972) had this to say to the students:

“Riverside City College will begin classes for the 55th year on Monday. We expect more than 10,000 students about equally divided between day and evening classes. In many ways we are well equipped to handle these numbers this fall. 80 new courses have been added to the curriculum and most classes are offered both day and evening for scheduling convenience. The building program which we began five years ago has provided most of the instructional space needed. This month the Art Department and the Dental Laboratory program move into newly remodeled facilities. We hope that the Social Science wing on the west side of the Quadrangle will be complete and ready for classes within two or three weeks. This building will provide a Forum for large lectures as well as several classrooms and small seminar rooms for a number of classes which must start the semester in temporary quarters. This year will not be without its problems—no year ever is. We have much still to do in a number of areas—instruction, curriculum, student body and community support, to name a few. The potential of 1970-71 is great for all of us, and I hope we can do our best to realize it at RCC.”

R. H. Bradshaw, President; Riverside City College
In the September 27, 1974 edition of “Viewpoints” Superintendent/President Foster Davidoff (1974-1978) relayed this message to the students:

“It is my pleasure to welcome both our new and returning students to the 1974-75 academic year, and to thank all of you for your patience in dealing with a difficult parking situation during these early weeks of the semester. It is my hope that the paving and re-landscaping of the campus will sufficiently improve conditions to compensate for the inconveniences we are now suffering. We opened this semester with 6,413 day students and 5,451 extended day students for a total of 11,864 students, our highest enrollment to date and an increase of 7.6% over last year. Although there is no merit in seeking increasing enrollments purely for the sake of developing a large college, there is some satisfaction in knowing that the residents of the Riverside Community College District community think highly, enough of this college to seek attendance at times when enrollments are decreasing in most colleges and universities throughout the country. As most of you know, there are great transitions and upheavals occurring in higher education today, forcing colleges to re-examine existing programs, and to reassess their relationships to society. It is my hope, as the new President of Riverside City College, to encourage an atmosphere of high sensitivity trends as they affect community college education. In this regard, I have instructed administrative staff responsible for curriculum to study on a continuing basis the needs of our students in what is becoming an increasingly more competitive job market. I wish all of you well and hope that this will be for you an exciting and productive year.”

Foster Davidoff, Superintendent/President

In the September 12, 1988 “Viewpoints”, Superintendent/President Charles A. Kane (1978-1992) said this to the students:

“Welcome to the start of a new year of opportunity at Riverside Community College. It’s going to be an auspicious year in many ways: At Convocation, our distinguished speaker will be Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, U.C. Regent and renowned affirmative action advocate. The 1988-89 academic year will be filled with activity and involvement
ranging from a host of fine performing arts performances to the grit and gridiron of the football season. Our dynamic student government and college clubs will be master minding dozens of projects and events to benefit the college, the community and our students. Our sports teams are comprised of some of the finest athletes in the state and we look forward to nine months of exciting competition. During the spring semester we will honor Dwight Lomayesva, associate professor of Native American Studies, Math and History, as the 1988-89 Faculty Lecturer. In addition we salute our faculty for creating an environment of student centeredness and teaching excellence. All of these efforts keep us in line with our goal—to be a leader among community colleges.”

Dr. Charles A. Kane

In the August 22, 1994 issue of “Viewpoints”, Superintendent/President Salvatore G. Rotella (1992-2007) said this to the students:

“Dear Students,

Welcome to RCC’s 1994-95 academic year. This year, the college is making the transition to an early start calendar with the fall semester beginning Aug. 22. The new calendar will hold numerous advantages for students and faculty,
including the completion of the semester prior to the December holiday break. The college has made many preparations for the change in calendar, but despite this, I am sure some inconveniences will emerge here and there. I ask for your understanding and patience, and I know the result will be improved services for our students. You have joined a college that holds students as our first priority. The resources available to you include first-rate faculty that will help you build a strong academic foundation as preparation for transfer to a sister institution or to the world of work. In addition, RCC’s student service’s division and its student leadership are second to none. As you undertake your academic program here this year, you should plan to take advantage of the many opportunities for intellectual and social growth. Co-curricular activities abound, including clubs, study groups, sports and the performing arts. Members of the RCC family, the faculty and staff are available to assist you as you plan your year. Your investment in your education demonstrates a serious commitment to your academic life and future. We are partners in this undertaking. Together, we will ensure that our college will provide the environment and services to maximize your potential.”

Sincerely,

Salvatore G. Rotella, President
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.

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.