January 20, 2015

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” (in late February, the title was changed to “Instructor’s Views”). Today, 76 years later, we can see what was on their minds. The eleventh article appeared in the April 12, 1939 edition of the newspaper and was written by Archie J. Twogood (Physical Sciences, 1922-1956). In the faculty photo below, from the 1927 “Tequesquite” yearbook, Twogood is standing, fifth from the left.

Archie Twogood earned a BS at the University of California, Berkeley in 1913, and had five years of business experience with General Electric, Pacific Gas and Electric, and Southern Pacific Company. From 1918 to 1921, he worked at the Oregon Institute of Technology. Twogood is perhaps best known for his contribution to the “Cooperative Program” which was started by fellow RJC faculty member H.H. Bliss. “Coop” (as it was popularly known) was an innovative work-study program that existed at the college from the early 1920s until the late 1930s.

Below is the article that Twogood wrote. It was entitled “Stickers Or Quitters?”
“The world has always admired a ‘sticker’ and scorned a ‘quitter.’ We respect a game cock that sticks to the bitter end of defeat, a mile runner who trails to the last half lap and spurs to a finish to win or to lose, a tennis player who finishes his game in spite of injury. The merit is not in a win but in a try. Too often this sporting quality is obscured in our more serious activities. A growing tendency in R.J.C. is the frantic search for ‘snap’ courses to substitute for those in which a low grade was received. A certain student approached an instructor and inquired in a distinctly belligerent tone the cause of his D. He had worked harder than in most other courses where C’s had prevailed. If D was all his efforts deserved he would try something else. This swapping practice seems to be the result of an intense desire to increase one’s grade point average with the least effort. The records of a few honor graduates in the past show a decided tendency toward so-called ‘easy’ courses and occasional dropping of uncompleted courses in which relatively lower grades were received for one quarter. Isn’t too much credit attributed to grade points with insufficient regard to the method of attainment? Of course there are excellent reasons at times for changing courses. Occasionally the instructor endorses it. Sometimes the only way to determine your fitness for a subject is to give it a trial. A real honest effort should be made, however, to master the subject before giving up. It has been proposed that a grade point standing be recognized only when the grade points are well distributed over a range of fields considered the more difficult, such as language, natural science, mathematics, as well as the easier subjects. Or should we say when they are well proportioned between the student’s major field where his task is easier, and representative courses in several other fields where his task is admittedly harder? I would go still farther and reward the student for sticking and improving and penalize him for ‘swapping.’ He must face this in life. Why not in college? It seems that this swapping practice has caused a lowering of the standing of our transfers to the universities. On the average, our transfer students have been unable to maintain the same grade point average at the university as they did at R.J.C. Here it has been too easy to attain a high average by quitting when the task seems a bit difficult. If you think seriously of these things you may welcome a tightening of the requirements at R.J.C.”

The photos below of Twogood appeared in “Tequesquite” yearbooks of the 1930s. The top two came from 1932 and 1933. The bottom pair appeared in the 1938 and 1939 yearbooks.
It is 1 year and 6 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.