September 21, 2015

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Alice Smith was one of more venerated members of Riverside City College’s classified staff. Smith worked at the college from 1946 to 1979, mostly associated with Admissions and Counseling.

Below are photos of Alice Smith through the years as seen in R.C.C. “Tequesquite” yearbooks.

The two below are from 1949 and 1950.

The photo below appeared in the 1951 yearbook. Its caption read:

“OFFICE STAFF greets students always with a willing ear to their favorite excuses for absences. They are Miss Alice Smith, Mrs. Betty Breault and Mrs. Bernice Cornell.”
The photos below ran in the 1952, 1953 and 1954 yearbooks.

The photo below ran in the 1955 yearbook. Its caption read:

“ON FILE Betty Breault, secretary to President Noble, Marjorie Rosenberg, attendance clerk and Alice Smith, recorder and secretary to the registrar, are always available to help you.”

The first two photos below appeared in the 1956 and 1958 yearbooks. The third photo is from 1959 and found in the archives of the Riverside Unified School district.

The headline and photo below ran in the November 30, 1979 edition of “Viewpoints” student newspaper on the occasion of her retirement.
“My motivation is a ‘like’ for people,’ said Alice Smith, evaluator, who retired this week after 33-1/2 years of service to RCC. She has worked here longer than any other person in the history of RCC. This she says has been the most rewarding part of her career for she has made many friends over the years. A Berkeley graduate and the daughter of a prominent Riverside family, she enjoys life and has worked over the last years almost exclusively with foreign students. It is not uncommon to see the Middle Eastern students kiss her on the cheek and call her ‘mom.’ The excessive paperwork in processing a foreign student and her involvement with immigration coupled with her sincere interest, has helped her work extremely well with the foreign students. ‘They were there and I was there and no one seemed to be mothering them,’ she added. Along with her many memories of RCC, she remembers the president of the college, Chuck Kane, from his school days here. ‘Back then the campus was small enough for everyone, both staff and students alike, to know each other by name,’ said Smith. Evan Vail, dean of admissions and counseling, recalls her good sense of humor and of Smith being an avid reader. When asked if she had a dream or goal Smith was adamant. ‘No,’ she said ‘what fun would that be? After you obtained your goal what do you do then?’ she asked smiling. For this is a woman who takes each day as a challenge and believes she’s traveling on the right road. Reading, needlepoint and gardening take up her leisure time and she loves to travel. She intends to spend more time at the family homes in the desert and the mountains. She also hopes to resume her yearly trips to Colorado and New Mexico. Her retirement party was held Wednesday in the Student Center.

There are 24 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.