

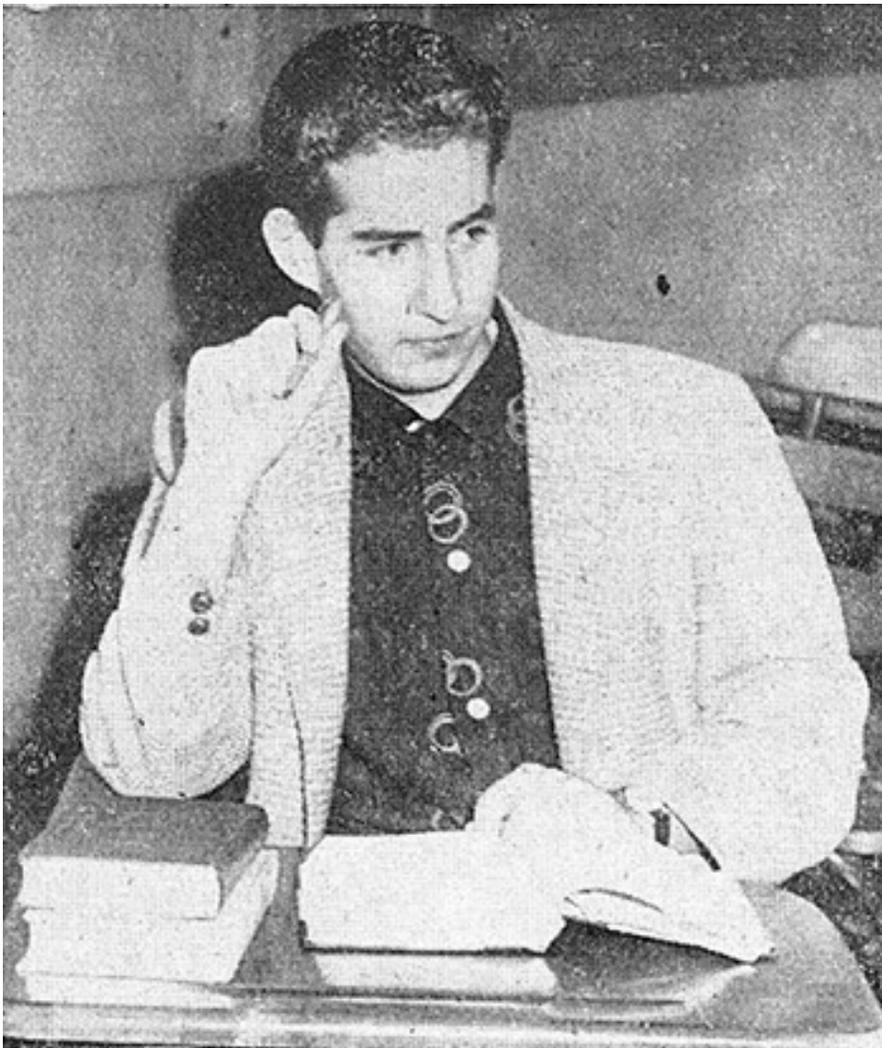


February 29, 2016

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In the late 1950s, stories of International Students attending Riverside City College continued to appear in the "Tiger Times" student newspaper. Below are some of those reports:

In the December 19, 1957 issue, Middle Eastern student Hashem Maadi was profiled.



The caption for the photo read:

Hashem looks pensive as he tries to understand texts written in English. Someday he hopes to master the language so that he will be able to translate English into Persian.

The headline below ran over the article:

Persian Student Is Novelist, Travels Far to Attend RCC

The article, written by "Tiger Times" reporter James E. Stokes, read:

Hashem Maadi is only 20 years old and yet he has already had two books, written in his native language of Persian, published and is now working on a third. He came to the U.S. this summer with the purpose of mastering the English language so that he will be able to translate literary works written in English into Persian. Hashem came by air all the way from Shiraz, which is about 1,000 miles from the capitol city Teheran, where he once lived. Enroute to Riverside, he stopped in Lebanon, Italy and Germany before reaching New York, U.S.A. Hashem heard about RCC while attending high school in Shiraz, Persia, the place of his birth. He said the climate there is similar to Riverside, but in Shiraz there are deserts which serve as both thoroughfares for camel caravans and "drag strips" for teenagers on fast Persian horses. Student Maadi hopes to obtain his A.A. degree at RCC and then go on to qualify for a B.A. degree in English elsewhere. An interesting trait of Hashem is that he has a great respect for all religions. He is a follower of Mohammed the prophet and has his Koran, the sacred scripture of Islam, with him in Riverside.

The October 29, 1959 issue of the "Tiger Times" profiled two international students attending RCC. First was the story of German student Ute Shinke.



Ute Shinke

The headline below ran along with the article:

German Student Graces City College Campus

The article read:

Traveling by boat and plane, Ute Shinke, green-eyed and auburn haired RCC student, arrived from Germany on June 20 of this year. After graduating from High School in Germany, Ute came to America to join her Mother who has lived in Palm Springs for three years. Through the help of Mr. Leroy Bucknell (RCC Professor of Business 1951-1970), she found an apartment in Riverside and a roommate, Miss Bright, also a student of RCC. She was born in Germany and has lived in all parts of the country but lived near Hanover most recently. After graduation from RCC she plans to continue her major as Lab Technician at UCR. The clothes are more colorful here, she said, and she was surprised that RCC students are able to wear bermudas to school here. In Germany they are not allowed to wear bermudas, although trousers are worn all winter because of the cold weather. She likes RCC and thinks "Most of the people here are real sweet." She thinks our football games are interesting and enjoys them here more than the games in Germany. The maps are different here than in East Germany where "the children always learn things from the wrong side." There is more freedom in the American classrooms, and the teachers are different because "they don't get mad when you ask them things." Ute says girls were "very seldom (she consulted her language dictionary for seldom) in classes with boys." She thinks the American language is the hardest thing to learn, but she has a lot of ambition, and she is learning fast.

The second International Student profiled In the October 29, 1959 "Tiger Times" was Luciana Mirella Figgian who was a native of Italy.



The headline below appeared with the article:

Italian Coed Seen As Miss Personality

The article was authored by “Tiger Times” reporter Don Watson:

RCC, Oct. 5—One girl on the campus who could easily win the title of Miss Personality is Luciana Mirella Figgian from Venice, Italy. Miss Figgian, a sophomore, has been in the United States about a year and a half. Majoring in foreign languages, she plans to return to Italy upon completion of her studies to teach English and Spanish. A rather shy, modest girl, it was difficult to get her to talk about herself. “I’m very homesick,” she said softly, speaking English tinged with a delicate accent. “I plan a trip back home next summer, but I’m going to return to this country to finish my studies.” Asked if she found the work here difficult she replied that it is for her because she is still not at home with the English language. “Actually,” she pointed out. “The colleges in Italy are much—how do you say—tougher? They put all their emphasis on serious studying. They have no campus activities at all.” Miss Figgian is the youngest member of her family. Her father is a retired violinist and was once associated with the very distinguished La Fenice theatre in Venice. After attending San Mateo College for a year she decided to come to RCC when some of her relatives moved to Palm Springs. “I enjoy Southern California,” she said. “But I think I’m going to return to San Francisco to complete my studies.” Asked how she compared Italy and the United States generally she replied rather hesitantly that there is a good deal of difference, especially in the outlook on life and the tempo of living. “Americans are wonderful people, but they are in such a hurry! Everyone is rushing around; where do they all go?” When asked what her interests were, she was at first reluctant to say. But further prodding revealed a good many interests. “I like to play the piano and attend concerts—I’m very fond of music. Also I like to dance and swim and play tennis and read good books too.” When Miss Figgian let it slip out that she also loved to fence this writer expressed his desire to cross swords with her. Luciana broke into that graceful Latin smile that is winning her so many friends and we concluded the interview.

There are only 2 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.