“WOW! What a roller coaster ride it has been. As you can imagine, it’s nearly impossible to summarize 44 years of teaching in Riverside County, the last 32 at RCC - except to say: even with all of the ups and downs, budget woes, constant recruiting and the blood, sweat and tears, I wouldn’t trade it for anything. It’s not something I do, it is who I am. If there’s a celebration somewhere in the world, chances are we’ve been there, done that. Getting to do it with assistant director/wife Sheila and my band director/magician son Paul…it has been priceless! Along the way, the RCC Marching Tigers changed lives, not only ours, but those of our thousands of students, our colleagues and the community. We are the visible classroom that Kane envisioned many years ago. Our busy college entertainers learn that you don’t have to have the same last name to be part of a family. The cost of all of this is easy to figure out, but the value? Now, that’s something else entirely.”

Gary Locke
Associate Professor Music, Director, Marching Tigers

DID YOU KNOW...

- Gary Locke was hired by then RCC President, Charles Kane, starting the Marching Tigers with just 16 members in the fall of 1984.
- Gary and Shelia Locke invigorated the community while making a significant impact on the lives of students at North High School and RCC.
- The Marching Tigers have made eight appearances in the Tournament of Roses parade and appeared in the Macy’s, Fiesta Bowl and Hollywood parades. They’ve appeared in international festivals in Edinburgh, London, Paris, Rome, Japan and Canada, and made an unprecedented seven appearances at the Bands of America Grand Nationals, winning five WGI Championships with Fantasia (flag team) and five with our RCC indoor percussion.
- The band appeared in dozens of commercials plus 24 movies and 28 TV shows.
- The Marching Tigers also participated in the 2000 Millennium parade in London, adding to their resume of international travel, which includes stops in Europe, Canada, Japan and Australia.

MARCHING TIGERS lead Paris’ New Year’s Day parade

While many people were enjoying the holidays locally, the RCC Marching Tigers traveled to Paris, France where they were honored to serve as the lead unit in the New Year’s Day La Grande Parade de Paris. The Marching Tigers marched down the Champs-Elysees, it was the first time officials closed down the famous boulevard.

The Marching Tigers were invited to perform in the American Cathedral as well as at the Eiffel Tower and Disneyland Paris. More than 360 people traveled to France, including 225 performers. It was the largest band to perform in Paris.

Gary and Shelia Locke had the honor of meeting with dignitaries including the Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo; the Lord Mayor of London, Councillor Duncan Sandys (great grandson of Sir Winston Churchill); and representatives of Queen Elizabeth.

Calling All Alumni!

Be part of history. Share your story about your time as a student; how Moreno Valley College, Norco College or Riverside City College helped shape your life; or why you choose to give back to your RCCD alma mater. Select stories will be featured on the 100/25 CELEBRATION website or in the Press-Enterprise.

To share your story, go to www.RCCD.edu/shareyourstory.