

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
Professor Emerita Jan Schall
Founder of the RCCD Study Abroad Program



Former Riverside Community College District president/superintendent Dr. Charles Kane didn't have to look far to launch RCCD's Study Abroad program. He simply left his office in the O.W. Noble Administration Building, crossed Terracina to the A.G. Paul Quadrangle, and tapped Assistant/Associate Professor Jan Schall. That was in 1989. From the moment the young sociologist boarded a plane to England, she became chief designer, chief inspirer for a program that has thrived for 22 years.

Schall traveled to Europe to establish the first RCCD Study Abroad semester, which opened in spring 1990. Kingston-upon-Thames wasn't her first choice, but another California college had booked Oxford. Undeterred, Schall put the idea of Oxford in her back pocket and forged ahead - a successful summer program in Guanajuato, Mexico followed the Kingston-upon-Thames semester. In 1991, she jumped at the opportunity to lock in Oxford, and the rest really is history. In 1994, RCCD started offering fall semesters in Florence, Italy.

Since 1990, well over 2,000 students have participated in the Study Abroad program. Other cities and countries include: France, Spain, Japan, Costa Rica, Greece, Turkey, Morocco, and several summers to the cities of Prague, Budapest, and Vienna. Over the years, Schall has witnessed some memorable program outcomes: students choosing to return to Study Abroad countries to pursue graduate studies and fellowships, establishing careers, as well as engagements and marriages.

Today, RCCD remains one of the few community college districts in the nation to operate a successful Study Abroad program. Schall's legacy lives in the 19-year tenure of the Oxford program, the 18 years (and counting) record of the Florence program, introduction of the first community college-offered semester program in Beijing, China (2011), and in the hundreds of lives touched and changed by opportunities to study abroad.