

FACULTY AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Glenn Hunt, Associate Professor

Associate Professor Glenn Hunt still remembers that day 45 years ago when he first saw Riverside Community College.

"I left an extremely cold winter in Iowa and walked into this wonderful, warm Quadrangle," Glenn says. "I never wanted to leave."

First hired to teach a split assignment in chemistry and mathematics, Glenn was one of 10 teachers hired by the unified school district in 1958 to teach at RCC. At the time, his group brought the total number of full-time faculty on campus to 70, serving between 1,300 and 1,500 students.

Those first years were spent teaching in classrooms in the A.G. Paul Quadrangle surrounded by a collection of flora that Glenn still vividly recalls.

"Our botany instructor Ruth Cooper and the college gardener used the Quad to create an outside botany laboratory," Glenn remembers. "We had a tremendous variety of foliage back then and you can still see some of the original trees like the sycamores and the redwood near the English Department office."

Considered a gifted professor by his colleagues, Glenn concentrates mostly on teaching basic and developmental math courses. This gives him the chance to work with students who have postponed enrolling in a math course—either because they did poorly in high school math or have simply put off math to the last possible point in their academic career.

"I believe that anyone can learn math," Glenn says. "Some people just need to be convinced."

He believes that one of the most important attributes a teacher brings to the classroom is patience, followed by a true desire to help students learn. He traces his desire to become a teacher back to his own student days at Texas Tech University where he earned a bachelor's and master's in Chemistry and Mathematics.

In 45 years of teaching, Glenn has honed his talents and fine-tuned his classroom goals. "The one thing I want all my students to take from my classes is the ability to organize their thought process and solve problems."

Glenn sums up his nearly five-decade teaching career with characteristic modesty: "It turned out to fit me fairly well."

