Henry W. Coil, Jr. Contributes $5 Million to Name the Henry W. and Alice Edna Coil School for the Arts

RCCD Foundation Past President and three-term Board member Henry W. Coil, Jr., a prominent community and business leader, has pledged the largest gift in RCCD Foundation’s history, $5 million, to support the planned school for the arts in downtown Riverside.

In making the announcement, Chancellor Gregory Gray said, “Henry is one of the longest and most committed friends of the college. His generosity will have a tremendous impact on thousands of students pursuing careers in performing arts, new media, film, and other arts-related fields in the decades to come.”

Henry has indeed been an incredible friend to the District, and to the RCCD Foundation, serving as a leader in each of the RCCD Foundation’s campaign initiatives, including the Endowed Scholarship Campaign, Passport to College, the RCCD Alumni House Campaign, and most recently as chair of Campaign RCC. In addition, Henry chaired the District’s successful Measure C Bond Campaign which provided $350 million in construction dollars for new facilities.

In choosing to make this gift, Henry was able to honor his parents, both of whom were active citizens in the community. Henry’s father was General Counsel for the California Electric Power Company from 1926 to 1955, now part of Southern California Edison. He then retired to private practice in Riverside until his death in 1974 at the age of 88. He was nationally known as a Freemason, a legal scholar and an orator.

Alice was an accountant when she met Henry, Sr. at a dinner party. They were married in 1931 and she remained a homemaker to raise Henry and his three brothers, Horace, Jim and John. She was active in several organizations, including Hospice, the Riverside Art Museum, Crippled Children’s Society, and the Lawyer’s Wives. She also volunteered at Riverside Community Hospital.

On behalf of the thousands of future students who will benefit from your generosity, thank you, Henry, for all that you do for the College and the community.
President’s Message

Supporting an organization is a very personal thing. It’s an investment. In order to open our wallets and checkbooks and make any type of donation, much less a large donation, we need to feel an emotional connection with the non-profit organization or the cause or institution it represents. That’s one of the reasons that I am proud to be associated with the RCCD Foundation and happy to be serving as its Board president this year.

The Foundation has a long and successful 35-year history of making higher education accessible and affordable for young people in our communities. Just as important, it supports a community college district and three colleges that touch nearly one in six people living in western Riverside County today. Not to mention the multiple generations of families who have attended RCC over the past 95 years or the Moreno Valley and Norco colleges over the past two decades.

RCCD is truly a community of colleges and we, the larger community, are the better for having these institutions in our cities.

Giving to RCCD through the Foundation is an easy choice to make. The impact of immediate and planned gifts is seen everywhere you look. Scholarships made it possible for many of the nurses, physician assistants, lawyers, paralegals, medical assistants, cosmetologists, accountants, firefighters, paramedics, artists, and others to graduate from college and work and live in our communities. Program support made it possible for RCCD to open a dental hygiene program, expand allied health programs, outreach to underrepresented high school students, and establish the Alumni House.

The recent legacy gift by Henry W. Coil, Jr., (see cover article) is an amazing example of generosity that honors both the past and the future. Mr. Coil’s gift will have long-term positive effects on students and the downtown Riverside area, and we are very thankful for his friendship and support. What is equally true, however, is that positive impacts arise from any gift made to the Foundation, because your investment directly benefits students and, through their successes, our communities.

In this issue of The Journal, you will find news about several scholarships and planned gifts, as well as upcoming events. I hope you take the time to read about the exciting projects underway, and about the donors and supporters who have joined the Foundation in responding to Chancellor Gray’s challenge to help move the RCCD colleges from “good to great.”

Kerry L. Pendergast
President

Remembering Roger

Osher scholarship established in memory of Roger Rickson, Professor Emeritus of Music

In October, friends, family and colleagues gathered at the RCC Department of Performing Arts Fall Concert in Landis Auditorium to honor the incredible career of the late Roger Rickson, Professor Emeritus of Music. Attendees were treated to a silent auction of Rickson memorabilia from his California license plate, “Baton 1,” to art work, music scores and much more. Proceeds from the auction coupled with a recent gift from the Roger E. Rickson Foundation established at his passing in 2003, were used to create the Roger E. Rickson Memorial Endowed Scholarship which will qualify for a matching gift from the Bernard Osher Foundation. This will ensure that a $1,000 scholarship will be available annually for deserving music students. This would be music to Roger’s ears.

“We so often hear that it takes a village to educate a child, and for many of Roger’s students he was the village,” says RCC Associate Professor of Music Charlie Richard. During Roger’s 30 year tenure at Riverside City College, he was an instructor, conductor, mentor, author, and donor. “His life was centered in every sense around the students,” continued Professor Richard. “He would be immensely proud of the scholarship in his name.” Roger is also remembered as a nationally recognized band director at Corona High School, an author, director of numerous county and state-wide honor music groups, and the conductor of the Riverside Civic Light Opera Orchestra.

Associate Professor of Music Kevin Mayse notes that “a great deal of the success that we share today is based on Roger’s dedication to teaching, his dedication to RCC, and his reputation for excellence.” The scholarship will be a legacy to Roger and will provide continuing support for future RCC music students. Many thanks to all who remembered Roger in this way.

You, too, can take advantage of the Osher Challenge by establishing an endowed scholarship but only through June 30, 2011. Call (951) 222-8626 or email nancy.melendez@rcc.edu for more information.

Norco College’s Center for Student Success

RCCD Trustees (left to right) Mary Figueroa, Virginia Blumenthal, and Janet Green (second from right), join Norco College President, Dr. Brenda Davis, ASNC President Edson Van Vlimmeren, and Chancellor Gregory Gray for the ribbon cutting ceremony September 7, 2010.
Scholarship Support Strengthens Family Bonds

Fran Bushman and Bart Brown were two prominent citizens who shared many attributes: a love of family and athletics, and a strong commitment to education and community. It was especially fitting that when Fran and Bart passed away, their families chose to continue the men’s legacies by establishing endowed scholarships in their names through the RCCD Foundation. Both scholarships annually support a student who is of good character and a member of a RCC athletic team. Thanks to the careful estate planning of Fran’s and Bart’s daughters, both scholarships will grow considerably in the future.

Fran Bushman was a long-time counselor and tennis coach at Riverside City College who retired in 1991 but continued to counsel students until shortly before his passing in 2008. When his daughter, RCC Alumna Barbara Langford, recently revised her estate plan, she designated her father’s scholarship as a beneficiary of a retirement account. “Retirement accounts are generally good assets to pass along to charity, as they are usually exempt from income or estate taxes that heirs often have to pay,” said RCCD Foundation Director Amy Cardullo. “Barbara has made an excellent choice; one that will benefit her heirs (who will receive other assets) and students who will receive future scholarship support in Fran’s name.”

RCC also holds special meaning for the Brown family. Bart and his wife, Sue, had 15 children, nine of whom have attended or work at RCCD, including Norco College Vice President of Student Services Debbie DiThomas. Debbie and her husband, Tony, have included a simple bequest to the Bart A. Brown Memorial Endowed Scholarship as part of their estate plan. “Tony and I know what a tremendous difference a scholarship can make to a student, both financially and for their self esteem,” said Debbie. “This scholarship is so important for our family, and this is a way that Tony and I can provide additional support and continue to honor this truly great man.”

Fathers and daughters often have a special bond. For Barbara and Debbie, that bond has been further strengthened through personal philanthropy.

For information on how you can establish an endowed scholarship, call (951) 222-8626.

SAVE THE DATE for these upcoming events . . .

- Emeriti Faculty Luncheon, December 3, 2010
- Tommy Tune Performance, December 12, 2010
- Riverside Aquatics Complex Grand Opening, January 22, 2011
- Friends of RCC Forensics Art Auction, February 26, 2011

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RAISE THE ROAR!

Thank you to our Tailgate Sponsors for making the 2010 season a memorable one!

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Congratulations RCC Tigers on an outstanding season record of 8-1 (to date)! Be a part of the action – plan to join us for the 2011 season.