

SUMMER/FALL 2009

VITAE

CONNECTING
VALENCIA
ALUMNI



LEARNING
TO GO
GREEN

A Message From the President of the Alumni Association, Marcy Porter

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the Valencia Alumni Association's first "green" edition of *Vitae*!

You've probably noticed that the idea of going green is everywhere these days. While it might seem overwhelming at times, most of us are doing our part to make a positive impact on our communities and our planet. You will see from the articles included in this edition of *Vitae* from our many contributors that Valencia Community College is no exception.

The green movement isn't the only thing growing at Valencia—the college is also in the business of growing students. Valencia currently ranks second in the nation among two-year schools for the number of associate degrees conferred. As president of the Valencia Alumni Association, I am honored to congratulate the more than 5,700 students that graduated from Valencia this year who now officially join me as proud Valencia alumni.

We Valencia alumni make an impact on our communities in many ways, both locally and globally. You can read updates from alumni in the Class Notes section of *Vitae*. We need your help to keep this section of *Vitae* growing by taking a few moments of your time to share what is happening in your life with alumni and others at Valencia who will remember you. It's easy. A simple online submission form is on the Valencia alumni Web site. Photos can also be submitted.

Please help *Vitae* continue to go greener. If you receive duplicate copies of the magazine, contact our Alumni Relations office at 407-582-2986 or alumni@valenciacc.edu. Also, you can recycle your copy by passing it on to others—if you can part with it!



Sincerely,

Marcy Porter '05, President
Valencia Alumni Association



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CONTRIBUTORS:

Winsome Bennett	Marcy Porter '05
Jerry Cochran '96	Julia Ribley
Christopher DeArcangelis '09	Patti Riva
Geraldine Gallagher	Sarah Sekula
Bill Gombash	Sanford Shugart
Debra Hollister '73	Patricia Smith
Helene Loiselle	Lori Sunday '89
Paul Matson	Joan Tiller
Lee H. McCain	Jill Wileden

DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION:

Mostapha Aguengou '04, '05
Chris Beck '08
Mike Malloy
Michael Montalvo '05
Dean Scott '83, '08
Steve Webb

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Don Burlinson
(unless otherwise credited)

EDITORS:

Jennifer Isabell
Barbara Shell
Melissa Tchen

Valencia Alumni Association

701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail
Orlando, FL 32825
Phone: 407-582-2946

Vitae is reviewed by an advisory committee and is published biannually by the Valencia Alumni Association for approximately 56 cents an issue. Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the official position of Valencia Community College or the Valencia Alumni Association.

The Valencia Alumni Association provides opportunities for lifelong personal, educational and professional growth for alumni and students of Valencia Community College.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have an idea for a future *Vitae* article or are interested in being a contributing writer, please contact us at alumni@valenciacc.edu. If you are an alumnus and would like to let everyone know what you've been up to, you can visit valenciacc.edu/alumni to submit your information and photo to be featured in the *Class Notes* section.



About the Cover
The Special Events Center on West Campus is LEED-certified for its environmentally friendly characteristics.

VITAE

Rooted in the Latin word for “life,” vitae (vee-tay) means: the course of one’s life or career, a short account of a person’s life, a résumé. Since the purpose of this alumni magazine is to keep you connected to Valencia, the title *Vitae* reflects the collective résumé of alumni, faculty, staff and students who have proudly walked through our doors.



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VALENCIA





A Valencia professor and student each describe the green revolution from their perspective.

Marketing Environmentalism

By Lee H. McCain

As a city kid growing up in the '60s and '70s, I was surrounded by pollution in the air, on the ground and in the waterways.

Of course, many of us kids did not realize that these were real "green" concerns in America at that time until advertising and popular music introduced us to these issues. The (now) famous 1971 "Keep America Beautiful" TV commercial, "People start pollution. People can stop it," depicting the crying Native American actor, Chief Iron Eyes Cody, seared our consciousness with the stark reality of pollution. This commercial, along with previous '60s ads featuring Suzy Spotless scolding her litterbug father and later featuring pigs rummaging through trash left behind by humans, helped to galvanize the early efforts by the Ad Council, U.S. Government and countless commercial enterprises (remember "Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute"?) to help Americans become conscious of these environmental and conservation issues and thus change our collective behavior.

These green issues were further cemented in America's consciousness by such great 1971 pop songs as Marvin Gaye's groundbreaking hit, "Mercy, Mercy Me (The Ecology)," featuring the lyrics, "Where did all the blue skies go ... fish full of mercury," and Joni Mitchell's anthem to environmentalism, "Big Yellow Taxi," featuring the lyrics, "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

As a teenager, these powerful lyrics struck a chord with many of my friends and me to do

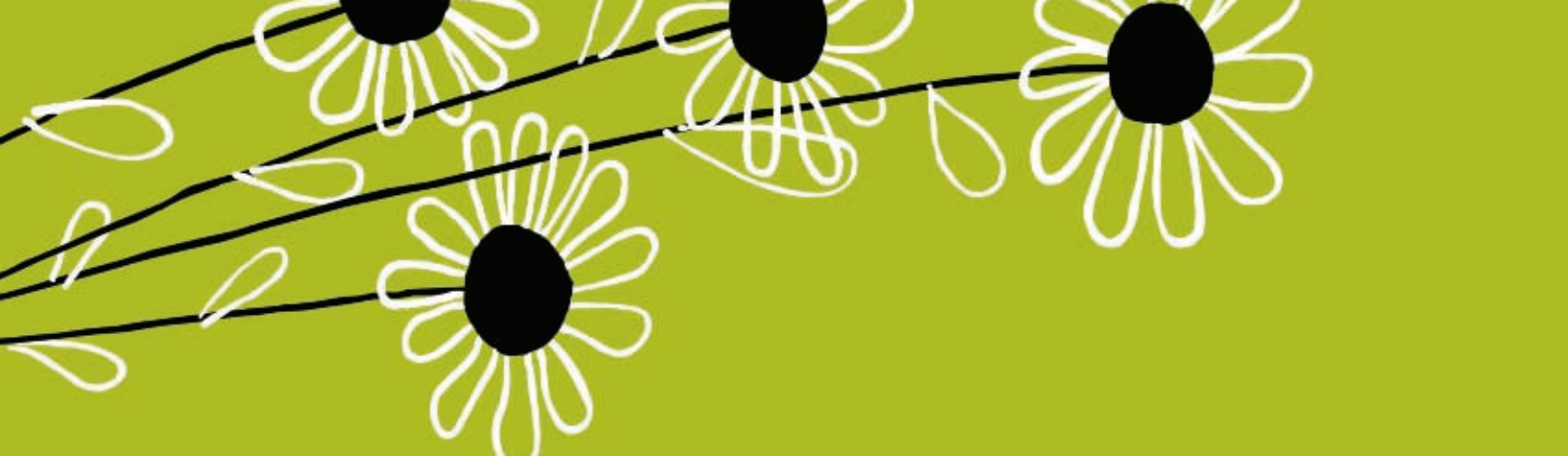
something to "Save the planet" — a more current ad slogan. Our behavior changed from throwing trash out the car window to holding it until we could dispose of it properly.

Current green promotional campaigns like Ad Council TV commercials and public relations campaigns by many enterprises including supermarkets (reusable fiber bags instead of plastic bags), cell phone manufacturers (recycle your phones!), utility companies, and even our banks (paperless statements) are making us all aware of "Save a Watt" (energy conservation), the EPA's "Water Sense" campaign (conserve water) and recycling efforts to ensure that we dispose of our paper, plastic and aluminum cans properly. Valencia Community College recycling efforts were introduced by articles in *The Bulletin*, an internal publication distributed to faculty and staff, and our Valencia Web site homepage, and then followed up with the recent campus placement of recycling containers that help us all be aware that we, too, can do something to "Save the Planet."

Yes, green has come a long way over the years and we can (partially) thank advertising and popular music for helping to make a greener America.

Professor McCain teaches business and marketing classes on East Campus.

(continued)



A New Generation Steps Up

By Christopher DeArcangeles '09

I belong to a generation that has been referred to as the “The First Digitals,” so named because of our consistent adaptation to new technologies and their increased presence in our everyday lives. My generation is the first to be born into a world where video games have always existed. We are the first to grow up expecting the computer to be a standard feature in our home. The first generation where a laptop has become as necessary for college as textbooks, and the first that can’t imagine a world without cell phones. These are all examples of amazing society-altering changes that we have come to take for granted and depend on, yet we have never done anything to contribute to their creation. That is not a slight at my generation because we haven’t had a chance yet to change the world. No great crisis or threat has been placed in front of us where we were in a position to create change ... until now.

My generation now stands at the cusp of what may or may not be a new revolution and we are the only people who can determine whether or not this change happens. We are in a position where we know that global warming is real, and the effects that it is having on our world are real, and the danger that this poses to our world and our future is real. So here we are, a generation looking down at a long road of trials wondering if we have the ability and character to take on the challenges and sacrifices that will be necessary to change the status quo and the world.

This is not the first time a challenge like this has come before a generation; the most recent examples coming to mind include

World War II, the civil rights movement and the Cold War. These tasks all looked insurmountable at their beginning.

The sensation of feeling overwhelmed partnered with the naysayers who, rather than face confrontation, chose to cower in its shadow, did not make that first step easy. Yet, when a generation of people are called by something greater than themselves to accomplish a task of that same magnitude, so many times they are able to draw internal strength they thought they never had. What is hard becomes what is right, and the overwhelming feat at hand becomes more than a choice, it becomes destiny, and that is where we are right now.

So the question right now is whether we have strength and fortitude to be the agents of change for our world. For so long we have lived off the world-changing inventions of other generations, but now it is our time to give back, and our contributions are going to have to be as comprehensive as they are focused. We must commit ourselves to preserving a world for us as well as our children. The research that comes out of the laboratory that is going to make the type of green technology we need possible is going to have to come from this generation. The ideas and theories we have now are going to require all the energy and creativity at our disposal.

The sacrifices that may be required to drive that smaller car, car pool with a friend, or take public transit are not decisions that will come easily, because changing one’s way of life never is. But they are decisions that must come sooner rather than later, and they must be the right decisions, made with the convictions of someone who realizes what

they face. In the business of green technology we must find a sense of selflessness that is not commonly seen, a desire to do what is right rather than what is profitable. This is not an endorsement of socialism, but an appeal toward altruism and the need to contribute back to something whose impact is felt beyond our reach. These changes are not just necessary, they are almost destiny, because the decision to ignore the threat of global warming and not embrace green technology will lead us down a path from which there is no way back.

Our children will one day look back to this moment in time, and ask about our commitments, and we will be able to reply back with either pride or shame, about the decisions we made about our world and their future. Our ability to accomplish the tasks, and take on the great challenges that lay before us will eventually become a point of history, and we will defend it accordingly. We are a generation that has been trying to find a way to give back; we do appreciate everything this world has given to us, and feel compelled to define our own place in history. We look at the challenge of green technology as our challenge, and we are prepared to confront it, not just because we must, but because we know it is our time. It is our time to stand up, and stand out as a generation, and we will not and we cannot let the world down. ■

Chris DeArcangeles is an Alumni Association student board member. He is studying electrical engineering at Valencia and is the president of Phi Beta Lambda (Future Business Leaders of America) on the East Campus.

EVENTS SAMPLER

Visions & Voices

VALENCIA'S DISTINGUISHED ARTIST SERIES

One of the best ways to see nationally known artists in Central Florida is through Visions & Voices, Valencia's distinguished artist series. Visions & Voices was launched in 2002 as the brainchild of Dr. Sanford C. Shugart, Valencia's president. He wanted to implement it as a way to bring world-class poets, songwriters and artists from across the country and around the world to Valencia to share their work with students, faculty, staff and the community. For more information about Visions & Voices and future visiting artists, please visit valenciacc.edu/visionsvoices

"The preeminent male singer/songwriter of the new folk movement." – Rolling Stone



John Gorka *Folk singer/songwriter*

November 18, 2009 East Campus Performing Arts Center 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

John Gorka is an honored icon of folk tradition. Energetic acoustic music that is not a trend, not a fad, but an expression of everyday life, is his trademark. His songs are multi-faceted – full of depth, beauty and emotion. John's rich baritone voice and unique songcraft weave a magical spell that can only be described as "Gorka."

His material is championed by many – to date more than a score of artists have recorded and/or performed John Gorka songs, including Mary Chapin Carpenter, Mary Black and Maura O'Connell. His music video for the single "When She Kisses Me" found a long-term rotation on VH-1's "Current Country," as well as on CMT and the Nashville Network. John has also graced the stage of Austin City Limits, appeared on CNN, and has been the subject of other national programming.

Valencia Arts Dates for 2009-2010

All events are held at Valencia's East Campus, located at 201 N. Econlockhatchee Trail in Orlando. Arts dates are subject to change, please check with the box office for confirmation before an event.

Music

For more info, contact:
407-582-2332

Contemporary Concert

Nov. 12, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Fall Symphonic/ Jazz Band Concert

Nov. 5, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Winter Choral Concert

Nov. 17, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Fall Opera Workshop

Dec. 11, 12, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Dance

For more info contact
theater box office:
407-582-2900

Choreographer's Showcase

Dec. 4, 5, 2009, 8:00 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Theater

For more info contact
theater box office:
407-582-2900

Show One—TBA

Oct. 23, 24, 30, 31, 2009
7:30 p.m.
Oct. 18, 25, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Visual Arts

For more info, contact:
407-582-2298

Graphic Arts Faculty Exhibition

Aug. 21–Sept. 19, 2009
Opening Reception
Sept. 19, 2009,
6:30–9 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten East
Campus Gallery

Famous Faces – Jack Mitchell Collection

Oct. 2, 2009–Nov. 6, 2009
Opening Reception
Oct. 2, 2009, 6:30–9 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten East
Campus Gallery

Fine Art Faculty Exhibition

Nov. 20, 2009–Jan. 8, 2010
Opening Reception
Nov. 20, 2009, 6:30–9 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten East
Campus Gallery

4th Annual 5K Run, Walk & Roll

On March 1, about 300 athletes of all ages, shapes and abilities launched out on the 5 K (3.3-mile) track at Valencia's West Campus. Some were walking and some were running; others used a combination of the two to complete the course. A few registered as "phantoms" and avoided the disappointment of not being there and missing the chance to support Valencia student scholarships by participating in the race that way. Children under 10 enjoyed creating sidewalk art masterpieces and other crafts developed by Donna Sovern and her team of volunteers.



Photo by: Keith Baumbaugh



In Memory of Justin Harvey

Justin Harvey was a dedicated Association Board member and founder of the inaugural Valencia Annual Run, Walk & Roll on Feb. 26, 2006. He was also a student at UCF at that time and worked tirelessly to coordinate his fellow UCF Student Athletic Trainers Organization members as 5K partners. Justin was well-known and admired as one to always make things happen, especially if it was something new. UCF SATO has been a valued 5K partner each year since then. The Valencia Alumni Relations office received this note earlier this year:

"Three years ago on March 6th, my son Justin Harvey passed away. At the time he was hospitalized, he tried to continue his work on the 5K Run for Valencia Alumni. I will also be grateful to VCC Alumni and PTK for continuing his memory each year through the 5K and the PTK Justin Harvey Scholarship."
– Sincerely, Sharon Skoloski (Justin's Mom)"

Justin Harvey is loved and missed by his many, many friends.

Valencia – Orlando Magic Night

Valencia alumni and friends had a blast at the Valencia-Orlando Magic Night game on April 3 against the Cleveland Cavaliers. The not-so-shy group members are shown greeting all guests from the court during half-time.



Visit the Gallery at valenciacc.edu/alumni to view and download 5K and alumni reception photos.

SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual Valencia Alumni 5K Run, Walk & Roll
Sunday, March 21, 2010

41st Respiratory Care Program Alumni Reunion
honoring Lynn Capraun

Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Health Sciences Building (HSB) Room 105

Valencia's West Campus

Details and online registration at

valenciacc.edu/alumni

Celebrating Alumni

The Association honored this year's Distinguished Graduate and other scholarship recipients and outstanding alumni and volunteers at the Alumni Achievers Reception on June 10 in the new Special Events Center on the West Campus. Family members and others significant to the success of the recipients were also invited to share in the celebration.

The Mayor Richard T. Crotty – Valencia-UCF Alumni Associations' Two-Plus-Two Graduating Scholarship is awarded each year to outstanding graduating Valencia students who are entering the University of Central Florida to pursue a bachelor's degree. The total value of this scholarship is \$4,000. Two recipients were awarded and honored at the Achievers' Reception: Franklin Cabral from Valencia's West Campus and Yariel Ramirez from the Osceola Campus.

"One of my personal goals is to raise my family's educational standards. I was the first to serve in the military, and I will be the first to graduate from a four-year university. By achieving my educational goals, hopefully, my siblings will be encouraged to follow, and my kids will have a parent that can offer them a more productive life, and afford them opportunities that passed me or that I once missed. As a son, and a brother, I want to be the person they can call on in their time for mentoring. As a friend, I hope to be a genuine, idyllic being." – Franklin Cabral '09

"Education is the one thing no one can take away from you no matter what the situation may be . . . Being a volunteer at Poinciana Elementary School has made me realize how much of an impact my presence can have among the bright future of students and the community. The community is the most essential part of a society, which everyone helps to form. Without responsible and dedicated individuals getting involved and helping the community, society would not function to its fullest potential. We as citizens would also be losing out on the resources in our community. I believe that I am a vital tool in the process of making the community a safer and more enjoyable place to live in, just like every other member of the community." – Yariel Ramirez '09

Check out scholarship opportunities at valenciacc.edu/alumni.

Valencia Alumni Association Achievers Reception

Scholarship and Award Winners 2009

**DISTINGUISHED
GRADUATE 2009**
Kimberly A. Gauthier

Distinguished Graduate Finalists
Melissa J. Alicea
Ruth Joseph
Devyn J. Kandle
Matthew S. Vanture

**MAYOR RICHARD T. CROTTY
VALENCIA-UCF
ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS' 2 +
2 SCHOLARSHIPS**

Graduating - Valencia to UCF
Franklin R. Cabral
Yariel Ramirez

Entering Valencia
Valerie A. Herrel,
Wekiva High School (Orange)
Amina Saqib,
Dr. Phillips High School (Orange)
Susannah J. Snavelly,
Circle Christian School (Orange)

**EDDIE COLEMAN
WAVATRON SCHOLARSHIP**
Betty Timothee, Jones High School

**ALUMNI ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Florence E. & Andrea L. Jasica
Scholarship**
Monika L. Jackson
Claudia Pazos

**Venessa A. Tatum
Lula Crosby Keyes Scholarship**
Natalia Rubio

Roger G. Keyes Scholarship
Idania I. Garcia
Amy Walker

Rosita N. Martinez Scholarship
Emily K. Grice

Betty House Palmer Scholarship
Alina Alvarez
Richard J. Covell

**ALUMNI SPRING
SCHOLARSHIP 2009**
Badr Arsaoui
Timika S. Coney
Whitney J. Dodson
John L. Flynn
Shajah Junco
Angela M. Simpson
Matthew S. Vanture
Whitley C. Ward

**ALUMNI FALL
SCHOLARSHIP 2009**
Hardeley C. Butler
Richard J. Covell
Emily K. Grice
Claudia Pazos

**VALENCIA VOLUNTEERS
SCHOLARSHIP WEST
CAMPUS**
Whitley C. Ward

**VALENCIA BLACK ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
AFRICAN - AMERICAN
HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP**
Casthra N. Demosthene
Natacha Francois
George A. Johnson
Rochell L. Johnson
Marc Michel
Valerie Morris

**TWO-PLUS-TWO MINORITY
SCHOLARSHIP**
Helen Belai



At left: Chef Ken Bourgoin shows off one of the culinary program's chocolate sculptures.

The Special Events Center, in addition to providing conference and meeting space for college and community needs, adds classroom space and a kitchen to the culinary program's existing space. Culinary students and faculty wowed guests with their luscious dessert creations, including a "truffle tree," served in their new kitchen space. They extended their tour by showing guests their existing kitchen and classroom space in the neighboring building.

A spacious architecture studio in the building adds new space for the architecture program. Jonathan Hernandez '08 felt strongly that it was well worth the trip from his home in Fort Lauderdale to reconnect with architecture friends. He said he was only sorry it wasn't there just last year for him to enjoy as a student! Architecture students set up models of their work and explained them to fascinated guests.

Hospitality management program students invited guests to their classrooms just next door. Guests were impressed by the cutting-edge hotel/restaurant software used by the program and the hospitality registration desk used for hands-on learning by students.



Alumni Receptions

Alumni, students, and faculty from Valencia's architecture, culinary management, and hospitality management programs came together on March 31 to celebrate their programs with other Valencia staff and administrators and community guests in the new Special Events Center of Valencia's West Campus. The evening began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the building and was followed by student-led tours through each of the program areas.

Kimberly Gauthier, Distinguished Grad 2009

The Valencia Alumni Association named Kimberly Gauthier the 2008-2009 Distinguished Graduate for her outstanding accomplishments in academics, extracurricular activities and community service. She delivered the college's commencement speech on May 9 and was awarded \$1,500 at the Alumni Achievers Reception in June.

Gauthier went from being a full-time homemaker to a full-time student after a health scare forced her to put her life in perspective. She realized that she had always regretted not going to college and she worried that if something ever happened to her husband, she would have trouble providing for her two young children. Inspired by her children's enthusiasm for learning, she decided to study education at Valencia.

At first it was difficult adjusting to college life but with hard work, determination and the support of her family, Gauthier excelled. She made The National Dean's List and Valencia's President's List, was

awarded several scholarships and was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges for 2009. She was in Valencia Future Educators and Phi Theta Kappa, on the PTA, volunteered for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society and served as an elementary school Additions Volunteer.

Gauthier graduated from Valencia in December and is currently attending the University of Central Florida, pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a minor in mathematics.

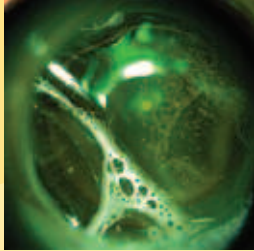
Now, much of Gauthier's quality time with her children is spent around the kitchen table, doing homework together.



Osceola Flea and Farmers Market

Lots of “green” finds including antiques, used furniture and other goods, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Kissimmee.

osceolafleaandfarmersmarket.com



Green Drinks

Held every third Thursday of the month at Dandelion Communita in Thornton Park. Eco-minded people can mingle, drink local organic beer and enjoy live music while learning about the environmental issues concerning our community.

dandelioncommunita.com

Every
Thu.

Saturdays at the Wetlands

Every Saturday the Orlando Wetlands Park provides free programs to the public, including park perimeter tram tours, nature hikes and wildlife lessons. The park is located at 25155 Wheeler Road in Christmas. cityoforlando.net/wetlands



Every
Sat.



The Orlando Farmer's Market

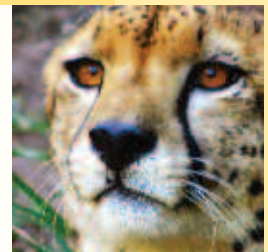
A staple of downtown Orlando, the farmer's market takes place around Lake Eola every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's a great place to find fresh produce, plants, local food products, organic products and artwork. Free. orlandofarmersmarket.com

Every
Sun.

Oct.
3

Get in the Green Spirit of the Holidays

Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. to noon at the Central Florida Zoo. Get tips on how to celebrate your favorite holidays, from Halloween to New Year's Eve, the eco-friendly way. Members: \$20 Non-members: \$25. centralfloridazoo.org



Green Veggie Fest

Saturday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Loch Haven Park, Orlando. This well-being lifestyle expo will give you a taste of the “green” life with exhibits focused on renewable energy, green jobs, eco-fashion and cosmetics, nutrition and more. greenveggiefest.com

Aug.
15

Does your business or organization have an event or activity you think Valencia alumni would be interested in? Let us know. alumni@valenciacc.edu

RICHARD INGRAM GERBER 1974

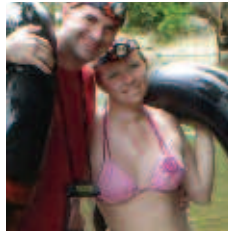
Richard graduated from Valencia with an Associate in Science degree in Nursing. Since retiring as a Captain from the U.S. Navy, he now owns a consulting group and provides services to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

CAROL BALBONI 1977

Carol earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Central Florida in 1984. She has been employed at the UCF Health Center as a registered nurse since 1980.

ELISABETH ANN (FREY) SMITH 1981

Elisabeth is currently employed at Boone High School as the certified nursing assistant program coordinator for the Healthcare Academy while completing an educational specialist degree at Liberty University in Educational Leadership.



SHARON ALTA MOORE 2006

Sharon recently graduated from UCF with a bachelor's degree in political science and plans to continue her education to pursue a career as an entertainment/corporate attorney. Sharon is recently engaged and plans to be married in Fall 2010.



JARED SILVIA 2009

Jared will graduate from Valencia this year with an associate degree in English. As a student at Valencia, he was proud to have been selected to read his fiction at Valencia's Kerouac Celebration last year where former Poet Laureate Billy Collins was also reading. In addition, Jared was awarded a scholarship by the Valencia Foundation to attend the Kerouac Writers Retreat and one of his stories written during that time was later awarded the Phi Theta Kappa Florida Region Short Story Award. Jared was nominated to and recognized on the All-Florida Academic Team as a member of the first team.



RON G. SWORD III 2007, 2009

Ron is a member of The Institute for the Advancement of the Aural Arts (IAAA), an international visiting group of seven musicians and educators who present concerts, master classes and workshops based on the most contemporary musical thinking on a worldwide basis. Ron's company, Sword Guitars, builds guitars in microtonal tunings. His second book, titled "Tricesimiprial Scales for Guitar," is available through IAAA Press.

NANCY TRENT 1982

Nancy retired in 2006 from her position with the federal government as departmental information quality officer as department manager of the Section 508 Program dealing with computer accessibility for the handicapped. In addition to traveling and gardening, she has been accepted as a member of the Fredericksburg Singers, a choral group affiliated with the University of Mary Washington. One life changing highlight Nancy remembers while at Valencia is "Studies in Mexico" with Dr. Helen Twigg.

LAURA (BAKER) DARNELL 1992

Laura is currently working on her Master of Science degree in nursing administration through the Indiana University School of Nursing while working as the clinical manager for the Emergency Department at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis, Ind. She has been happily married for 10 years and is the mother of three children ages 8, 6, and 4.

SANDRA (KIRICHENKO) CAUDILL 2002

Sandra owns an e-learning company that specializes in the Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM).

DAVID NICHOLAS TORRE 2002

David recently became a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP). He also recently graduated from the University of Florida Levin College of Law and is currently studying for the Florida Bar exam.

KRISTIN DAVID 1996

Kristin earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Miami's School of Law in 2002 and has been practicing state and federal commercial litigation in South Florida since that time. She recently had occasion to be admitted to the bar for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit and will be listed as a "Rising Star" in the 2009 edition of *Florida Super Lawyers*. Kristin is engaged to be married in October.

MARY "LIBBEY" (LEFILS) FORD 1996

Mary graduated from Valencia with an Associate in Science degree in dental hygiene. She currently works as a registered dental hygienist in the Sanford office of C.R. Edwards, Jr., DDS.

KENYATTA K. JOSEPH 1999

Kenyatta earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology in 2002. She returned to work at Valencia as a part-time academic advisor at the Osceola Campus in January after leaving in 2006 following the birth of her daughter.

NANCY (POORE) LANFERSIEK 1999

Nancy will graduate with a master's degree in reading education from the University of Central Florida in August. She holds certifications in reading, elementary education and early childhood, and hopes to teach at Valencia in the future.

DONNA CHRISTINE (MARTIN-DUDASH) MARINO 2001

Donna completed her Master of Business Administration degree from Belhaven College in 2008. She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Central Florida. Donna is currently employed by the Valencia Foundation as its donor relations manager.

THOMAS WALTER PRINGLE 2008

Thomas was accepted as a seminarian for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orlando and is currently studying at St. Joan Vianney College Seminary in Miami.



CARINE CARMACK 2006

Carine is currently working at Dayner Hall Marketing and Advertising as an art director after earning her degree in graphic design from Valencia.



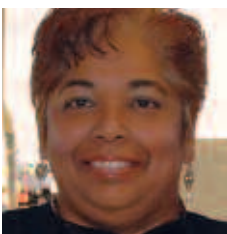
CORINA PASCAL 2006

Corina graduated cum laude from the University of South Florida in May 2009 with a degree from the College of Business Administration. She works as a financial coach in Tampa and is in the process of opening up her own family financial service business later this year.



THOMAS L. CROWE 2006

Thomas is working toward a dietary management certification while leading a busy home life in Nevada with his wife and three boys that also enjoy the process of culinary creation. Thomas graduated from Valencia with an Associate in Science degree in culinary management.



PHOOLU G. SINGH 2004

Phoolu launched her own emergency medical services company after graduating from Valencia with an Associate in Science degree in emergency medical services.



MILENA ZALECKAITE 2008

Milena is currently a student at Rollins College and is planning to earn her master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language and Interpreting.

All non-credited photos courtesy of featured alumni.

ANGELA DANIELLE GABLE 2006

Angela recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Central Florida.

JULIANA JAMIER GREER 2006

Juliana is finishing a bachelor's degree in business administration, health administration, and legal studies at the University of Central Florida.

EMMA ALEXANDRA LONGSTER 2005

Emma graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors and a double major in political science and international affairs in May. She relocated to London to begin work as a program assistant for FSU's International Programs in June.

GWENDOLYN (DUTZIK) SMITH 2002

Gwendolyn graduated from Rollins College in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in organizational communication. She was recently named president of Beautevanna.com, a natural beauty gift service for men, women, children and pets.

CHRIS ALLEN OTTUM 2006

Chris is working toward his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Central Florida.

SOEURETTE MICHEL 2003

Soeurette is finishing up her studies at Florida A&M University's College of Law in Orlando and is serving as the community service chair for the Black Law Student Association and for the Student Bar.

ANGELA DANIELLE GABLE 2006

Angela recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Central Florida.

CAROLINE STAMPS 2005, 2008

Caroline is currently attending the University of Central Florida majoring in Information Systems Technology and pursuing a certificate in Security Management while also working on an honors-in- the-major project entitled "Social Constructivism In An On-Demand 21st Century Collegiate Environment." In addition to her studies, Caroline maintains a full-time career as a Local Management Center (LMC) Technician with a local communications company.



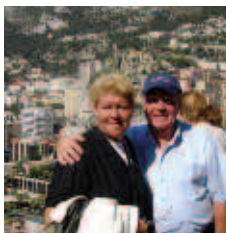
MARISSA VALLADAREZ 2007

Marissa was honored on May 8, 2009 with the Beginning Practitioner of the Year award for Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies. She won this for continuing to enhance the image of nursing at Orlando Health with her commitment to compassionate care, professionalism, and dedication to her colleagues and those they serve.



MERCEDES (LOPEZ) LEON 1995

Mercedes earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Stetson College of Law in 1998. After falling short in a recent political campaign for State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court (Orange and Osceola Counties), she reopened her law practice in Kissimmee and has reassigned part of her firm to provide legal services in the areas of family law and criminal defense to many of Central Florida's low-income residents.



CAROL ANNE (ROSEN-BURNETT) BULL 1991, 1993

Carol retired in 2002 as a food stamps employment and training manager for the state of Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation and moved to Nottingham, England where she married Kenneth Bull. The couple has traveled the world extensively since that time. Carol's passion for volunteering where she is needed most also keeps her busy.



MEG YOUNG 1982

Meg is employed as an executive recruiter with a global anti-aging company in Winter Park.

Let everyone know what you've been up to!

To be featured in Class Notes, visit valenciacc.edu/alumni/class_notes.cfm and fill in the submission form or mail to: Class Notes Editor, Valencia Alumni Association, 701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail MC: 3-12, Orlando, FL 32825.

If you wish to include a photo, please use the following guidelines:

- Candid shots of you interacting in an authentic setting are preferred. Avoid sending traditional portraits.
- If sending electronically, files should be in jpeg or tif format. Files should be 300dpi resolution at 5"x7" (this would be a file approximately 4mb to 6mb in size).

Find us on Facebook! Join the Valencia Alumni Association fan club.

KELLY ANN BOWDEN 2007

Kelly is currently employed as a legal assistant with a law firm in downtown Orlando. She graduated from Valencia with an Associate in Applied Science degree in criminal justice technology.

MELODY KYZAR 2008

Melody completed the graduation requirements for the music and sound technology Associate in Science degree program.

NETISHA MADISON 2008

Netisha is a student at the University of Central Florida majoring in health services administration.

KELLY RABE 2008

Kelly graduated with an Associate in Applied Science degree in business administration with a specialization in marketing. Kelly lives in Key West and is working as an Assistant Manager at COACH.

RYAN JOSEPH SIMONS 2009

Ryan has been accepted to the Pratt Institute's School of Architecture in Brooklyn, NY. He plans to begin in fall of this year his five-year bachelor's in Architecture degree and to then attend graduate school.

JENYSSA KHADIJA WALWYN 2008

Jenyssa is currently majoring in nursing at the Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences.

ROCKY WARD 2002

Rocky is the owner of Rocky Ward Realty Inc. in Orlando.

FELIPE PEREZ 2009

Felipe has been accepted to the University of Central Florida this fall and plans to major in public administration. In addition to his Associate in Arts degree in general studies from Valencia, Felipe earned an Associate in Arts degree from Columbia College in Missouri in 1995.

MACHELLE KOONCE 2009

Machelle will complete her Associate in Applied Science degree in criminal justice technology this fall. She believes that "you are never too old to pursue your dreams."

All non-credited photos courtesy of featured alumni.



PASSINGS

BILL CASTELLANO 1970

Bill passed away on Feb. 8, 2009. He was a loving family man, a friend to all, and an integral part of Valencia since its beginning in 1967. A tribute to Bill and his many roles appears on page 14.

ILONA F. EDWARDS 1973

Ilona passed away in her sleep on Dec. 21, 2008. Longtime Orlando police officer, Ilona was also an Alumni Association board member. The Charlie and Ilona Edwards Memorial Scholarship will continue to honor both her and her husband Charlie's devotion to support Valencia students.

KELLY KILPATRICK 2004

Kelly passed away on Nov. 13, 2008 after a lengthy illness. She will be missed and remembered by many in part for her tireless advocacy work to provide resources and dignity for homeless individuals in Orlando, including The Ripple Effect and the Prometheus Project.

Bill Castellano, a Valencia Legend

by Julia Ribley & Joan Tiller

Collector of political memorabilia



Bill Castellano was a remarkable man. With his death on Feb. 8, 2009, Valencia lost an outstanding member of its family whose significant contributions were woven throughout the college's development — both in longevity and in breadth. For the students Bill served and the colleagues with whom he worked, Bill was synonymous with the “spirit of Valencia.” He always utilized his superior talents, his positive energy and his constant professionalism to enhance his work and to advance Valencia. Most likely, Bill held more positions in more diverse dimensions of Valencia than any other employee. He began his Valencia connection as a student during which time he served as one of the college's first Student Government Association presidents, and he began his Valencia employment as a security officer while he attended the University of Central Florida. In his early career, Bill held several positions in student services, alumni relations, and community relations; later he served as a professor of political science, as assistant to the provost on East

Campus, and as special assistant for the Learning Centered Initiative. In addition, he was a dynamic leader of many Valencia organizations, including the Collegewide Faculty Association, the Valencia Alumni Association and the Valencia Chapter of Florida Association of Community Colleges. In 2005, Bill retired from Valencia, but remained involved with the college.

His concluding role was as co-editor of the book, *Valencia Community College: a History of an Extraordinary Learning Community* — a history he both lived and wrote.



Several individuals who had the privilege of working closely with Bill and being inspired by him wanted to participate in this tribute to Bill Castellano, “Valencia Friend, Emeritus,” and have provided the following words.

“A crucial part of Bill's legacy was his advocacy for including the student voice in college affairs and for creating opportunities for students to learn and practice leadership both at the college and in the community. From his earliest days as a student leader at Valencia all the way through his advancement in various positions at the college, he influenced others to share his commitment. Bill served on the Florida Junior Community College Student Government Association both as a student and as an advisor; he also helped develop the Florida Community College Activities Association. The Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the Valencia Student LifeMap Handbook was written by Bill more than 20 years ago and it is still included in the publication because of its ongoing relevancy and meaning for today's Valencia students. Bill's fingerprints cover our current Student Development program and we will be forever grateful for the vision and commitment he demonstrated for student leadership.”

—**Joyce Romano**, *vice president for Student Affairs*

“Bill and a small group of committed alumni came together to found and launch the Valencia Alumni Association in 1979, and Bill remained an active member from that time. The Association membership has doubled in size within the past four years, thanks to the continued creativity, energy and leadership of Bill and his fellow members. Bill's memory will live on, in part,



3

through the creation of the Alumni Association's new Bill Castellano Civic Leadership Scholarship."

–**Marcy Porter**, *Valencia Alumni Association president*

"Bill was one of the most incredible people with whom I worked in all my years in education. He was intelligent, intuitive, imaginative, sincere, straightforward, creative, trustworthy, loyal, well read and ... the list goes on. Whether we were designing a new building for the East Campus, working with faculty, developing areas in Student Services, writing or supervising grants, or supporting the needs of the disabled, Bill was always prepared for the task. Valencia will forever bear the 'mark' of Bill's devotion to improving the lives of students."

–**Carolyn Allen Edwards**, *former provost of the East Campus*

"Bill's presence at Valencia was a constant — both on campus and in the classroom. While waiting for my very first class at Valencia to begin, two students were talking about a friend who had already taken U.S. Government. One of them said, 'My friend had Professor Castellano and all she does is talk about government now. She said he was a great teacher. His class was full. I hope this guy (me) is as good.' (No pressure on my first day!) Bill's support for students was continual. He would open up his immense historical political collection for students to witness, and he always attended student club events. He even stepped out of retirement to participate in the Civic Leadership Day Debate. Bill's immense knowledge never eclipsed his most humble and compassionate nature. While in a store once, a salesman asked me where I worked and I told him that I teach at Valencia. He said, 'I had this great American Government teacher at Valencia a few years ago. He really motivated me to want to learn about government and to get more politically involved.' Not surprisingly, he immediately stated that his professor was Bill Castellano. To me, Bill was a great friend, a great man, and a great professor."

–**Mark Logas**, *professor*

"There are so many faculty whose lives and work have been touched by Bill, and though his impact on the institution of Valencia was considerable, it was his influence on individuals that has become one of the best things about Valencia. I know I'm not alone in considering Bill to be a valuable mentor. The example that he gave us all of principled leadership, steadfast commitment to collaboration and mutual respect will continue in our hearts and nourish us for years to come."

–**Michael Shugg**, *professor, Faculty Council president*

"Fellow retirees will remember Bill as one who made a difference by investing in the lives of others. One of Bill's last articles was in a recent issue of this magazine in which he shared the importance of identifying meaningful opportunities to participate in as a volunteer, advocacy and civic engagement opportunities and to stay involved in Valencia. Bill leaves an indelible influence on the hearts of Valencia Retirees — reminding us, by example, that service to others is a lifelong journey."

–**Joan Tiller**, *former assistant vice president for Workforce Development*

"Bill may have retired from Valencia ... but he definitely did not leave Valencia. He continued to remain involved, especially with the Alumni Association, this magazine, and the writing of the college's history. Serving with Bill as co-editors of the Valencia history was the privilege of a lifetime. His love for Valencia and the people who make up our college community was extraordinary. I cannot tell you how many times he said to me, 'Do you want to hear the story behind the story?' and, of course, Bill always knew the story behind the story. Without Bill, the college history could not have been completed as meaningfully."

–**Susan Kelley**, *vice president for Institutional Advancement*

"A truly great institution is built up by so many hands, minds, and hearts, but there are always a precious few whose stewardship of the deep values and principles of the place is decisive. Clearly Bill Castellano was the keeper of the flame for Valencia. From my first days as president in early 2000 — when the Learning Centered Initiative was just getting real traction because of leaders like Bill — well beyond his official retirement date, I considered Bill my best advisor and a very good friend. His deep commitments were matched by immense political skill, in the best sense of the word. Bill knew how to engage others in genuine collaboration and how to find a way through our shared conversations to the better work that lay just the other side of consensus. And while his competence was great, it was his authenticity that gave his leadership moment. Bill lived what he taught. I can't think of a better way to be remembered."

–**Sandy Shugart**, *Valencia's president*

Julia Ribley is on the leadership team for the Valencia Retiree Connection and Joan Tiller is the president.

1. When he was a Valencia student.
2. Bill, as a child.
3. Always the political enthusiast.
4. Speaking at a campus rally.



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To honor Bill Castellano's service, the Valencia Alumni Association has established the Bill Castellano Civic Leadership Scholarship. Donations can be made to Valencia Foundation, 190 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801 or via the secure Web site, **VALENCIA.org**.

Valencia Retiree Connection Luncheon
 Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009
 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Valencia West Campus
 Special Events Center
 (Building 8)
 1800 South Kirkman Road
 Orlando, FL 32811

Changing Our Ways

*Contributed to by Helene Loiselle,
Winsome Bennett, Paul Matson,
and Jerry Cochran '96*



“Growing Valencia Green” and the concept of sustainability is much more than environmental protection. It is a positive concept that has as much to do with achieving well-being for people and ecosystems as it has to do with reducing stress or impacts on our students, faculty, staff and the Central Florida community. Valencia’s Plant Operations and Facilities departments, and its Sustainability Committee work together to help accomplish “Growing Valencia Green.” Read on to find out how.

Valencia is Building Green

As part of the college’s commitment to go green, Valencia has pledged that all new building construction and renovations will meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) criteria. LEED is an internationally recognized classification system created by the United States Green Building Council that determines which buildings are green and how green they are. So far, three new buildings on West Campus have been registered to be LEED-certified at silver level or higher.

MEET THE BUILDINGS

A. Allied Health & Sciences Building (AHS)

This is Valencia’s first LEED-certified green building. At three-stories and 80,000-square-feet, it houses Valencia’s dental hygiene, radiology, sonography, respiratory therapy, polysomnography and cardiovascular technology programs, as well as dedicated biology and chemistry lab classrooms. Baker Barrios & Associates was the architectural firm for the project and Welbro Building Corp. served as general contractor.

B. Special Events Center

This 17,000-square foot building provides a space for conferences, meetings and events for both Valencia and the community. It can seat up to 320 people for formal banquets or 400 people theater-style. The facility also contains a commercial-sized instructional kitchen for Valencia’s culinary program and a studio for the architecture program. Welbro Building Corp. served as general contractor for the building and Hunton Brady Architects were the designers.

C. Valencia/UCF Joint-Use Facility

This three-story, 100,000-square-foot building, which is still under construction, will be shared by both Valencia and the University of Central Florida. It will house full baccalaureate and graduate degree programs from UCF, including nursing, electrical engineering and a professional MBA program, along with Valencia’s two-year engineering program and shared student services. C.T. Hsu + Associates is the architectural firm for the project. PPI Construction Management Inc. is the builder.

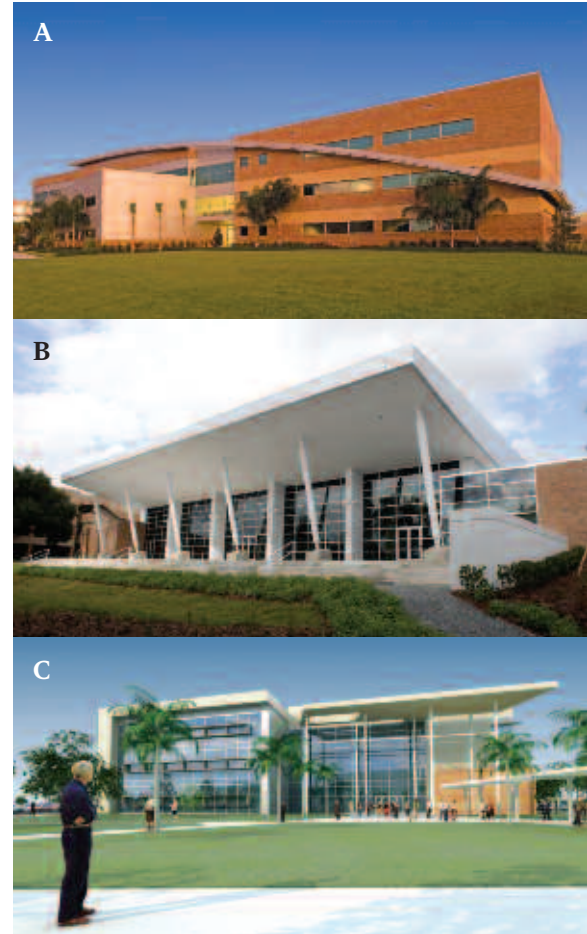
LEED CERTIFICATION RECOGNIZES BUILDING PERFORMANCE IN SIX KEY AREAS:

1. Sustainable Sites

The goals are to develop only appropriate sites, to reuse existing buildings or sites if possible, to protect natural and agricultural areas, to reduce the need for automobile use and to protect or restore sites.

Valencia’s Part:

- All three of Valencia’s LEED buildings have received points in this area for site selection and development density, reduced site disturbance, storm water management and for reducing heat island effect and light pollution.
- The AHS and Special Events Center received points for promoting alternative transportation since both buildings have nearby showers for people who choose to bicycle to work or school.
- The Special Events Center received points for parking capacity because we did not add any parking for that building.



- Natural areas have been preserved around all the buildings to provide homes for animals and to promote biodiversity.
- To prevent light pollution, which can disturb nocturnal species, all lighting outside the buildings is directed downward.
- Light-colored, reflective roofing and light-colored paving were used to reduce the potential for heat island formation.

2. Water Efficiency

The goals are to reduce the quantity of water needed for the building and to reduce municipal water supply and treatment burden.

Valencia’s Part:

- The Special Events Center gets a perfect score in this category, including a point for innovative wastewater technologies for its rainwater recycling system that filters roof water for use in the building’s toilets.

(continued)

- All the buildings use drought-tolerant landscaping, which reduces irrigation usage.
- Water-efficient faucets are installed in all of the restrooms. Motion sensors help use about 75 percent less water than a conventional faucet, saving about a half-gallon of water.

3. Energy and Atmosphere

The goals are to establish energy efficiency and system performance, to optimize energy efficiency, to support ozone protection protocols and to encourage renewable and alternative energy sources.

Valencia's Part:

- Out of a possible 10 points for energy performance, the Special Events Center and AHS get four and the Joint-Use Facility gets six because of the addition of solar arrays on the roof.
- The Joint-Use Facility also gets up to three points for on-site renewable energy. Green power/Renewable Energy Certificates that were purchased for the building will offset about 35 percent of the electricity consumption in building common areas over the next two years.

- All buildings get points for enhanced commissioning, refrigerant management and measurement and verification.
- The buildings also use energy efficient lights, windows, roof and wall insulation and air conditioning system parts.
- The college recently completed the first phase of an energy-savings project involving the installation of new chiller plants that is guaranteed to save \$400,000 annually. Phase 2 is currently underway, which is guaranteed to save an additional \$500,000 annually. Other energy-saving projects are in the design phase.
- Valencia is now expected to save 40,723,470 kWh of electricity annually. This will not only cut greenhouse gas emissions, but also energy costs, saving Valencia an average of \$900,000 a year for the next 20 years.

4. Materials and Resources

The goals are to reduce the amount of materials needed when constructing a building, to use materials with less environmental impact and to reduce and manage waste.

Valencia's Part:

- For this category, all three buildings received points for diverting construction waste and for using recycled content and regional materials.
- The AHS gets one point for the use of wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, which recognizes responsible forest management.

- In the AHS, 99 percent of the construction waste (1,450 tons) was recycled instead of being sent to a landfill and more than 33 percent of the materials used in the construction of the building contain recycled content, including the ceiling tiles, floor tiles and carpeting.

5. Indoor Environmental Quality

The goals are to establish good indoor air quality, to eliminate, reduce and manage the sources of indoor pollutants, to ensure thermal comfort and system controllability, and to provide for occupant connection to the outdoor environment.

Valencia's Part:

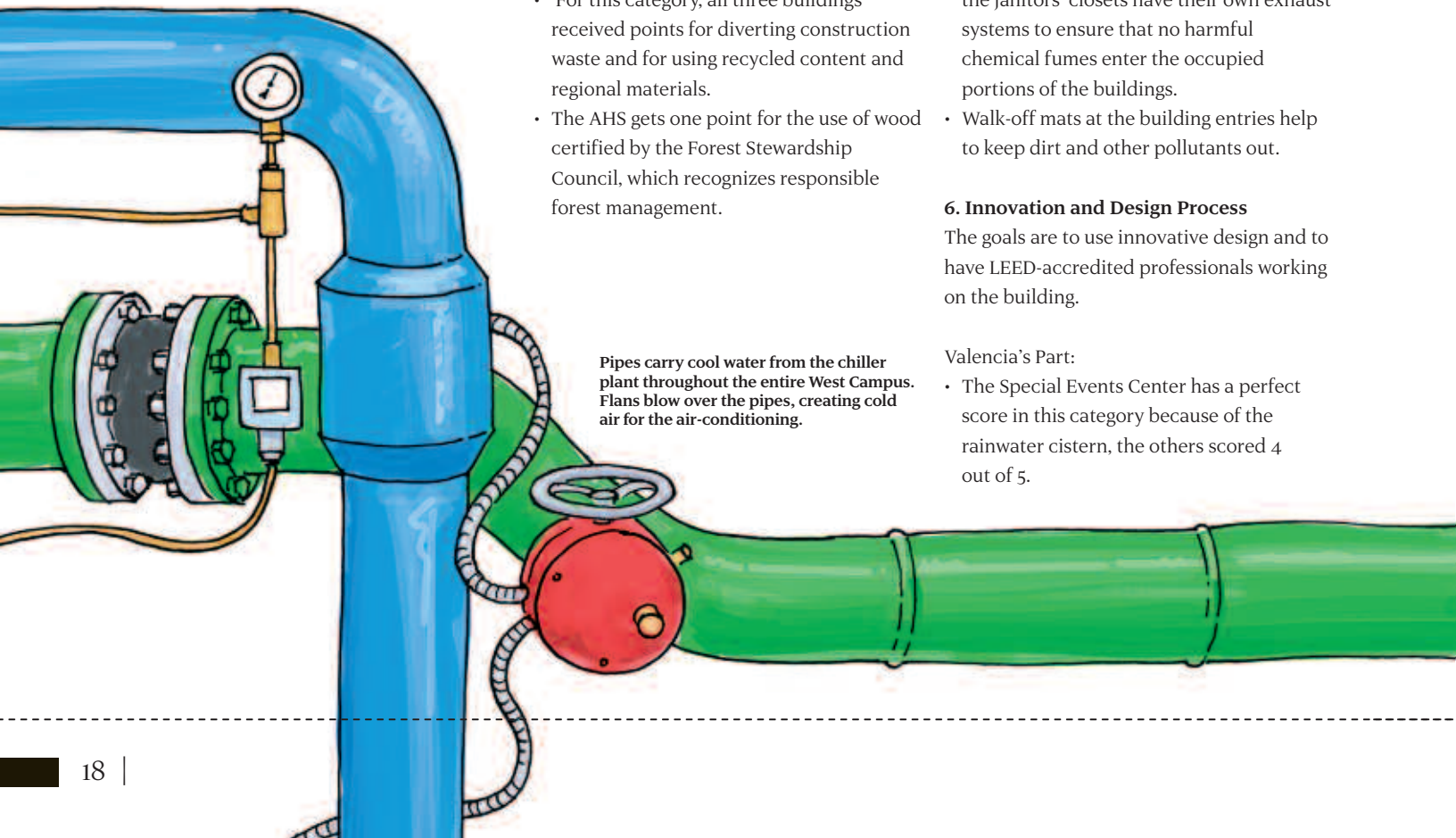
- The three buildings got points for most factors in this group. The Joint-Use Facility is the only one that got the point for daylight because the E-shape of the building permits windows in all the classrooms.
- During the construction of the buildings, air ducts were sealed and special filters were used to ensure that no contaminants entered the air conditioning system.
- All three buildings are maintained with only green housekeeping products. Also, the janitors' closets have their own exhaust systems to ensure that no harmful chemical fumes enter the occupied portions of the buildings.
- Walk-off mats at the building entries help to keep dirt and other pollutants out.

6. Innovation and Design Process

The goals are to use innovative design and to have LEED-accredited professionals working on the building.

Valencia's Part:

- The Special Events Center has a perfect score in this category because of the rainwater cistern, the others scored 4 out of 5.



Pipes carry cool water from the chiller plant throughout the entire West Campus. Flans blow over the pipes, creating cold air for the air-conditioning.

Overall, Valencia's energy conservation efforts have led to greenhouse gas emissions savings equivalent to:

- 187 acres of forest preserve from deforestation OR
- 140 railcars of coal burned OR
- 4,885 cars removed from the road for one year OR
- 62,074 barrels of oil burned.

Source: Siemens

Valencia's Green Cleaning Initiative

Beginning in 2008, the custodial department began looking into ways of creating a healthier environment for our students, staff and faculty at Valencia. Several different ways were investigated to achieve this goal: (1) The methods currently being used to clean, and (2) the cleaning chemicals being used. Questions like, "What kind or brands of green certified chemicals could help us maintain a clean environment?" or "How do we change our work methods to ensure the health of our customers?" were considered. Through hard work and numerous consultations, the custodial services supervisors, coupled with support from procurement, have upgraded to what is now Valencia's Green Cleaning Initiative. With close consideration and testing of products, the chemicals now in use are safe and environmentally responsible. So far, the custodial department has converted 80 percent of its cleaning products to those that are environmentally safe, and plans to increase that number. ■

Winsome Bennett is the facilities coordinator for Valencia. Jerry Cochran is the custodial services supervisor on East Campus. Helene Loiselle is Valencia's assistant vice president of facilities. Paul Matson is the assistant superintendent for plant operations collegewide.

Valencia Recycling Facts and Statistics

The inception of Valencia's recycling program, which began in February 2007, included only the collection of mixed paper. Since that time there has been a remarkable and steady reduction of our carbon footprint.

In October 2008, the program expanded to include mixed paper, cardboard, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Valencia receives a per-pound rebate from collected recyclables from the college's recycling company. So far, more than 43 tons of recyclables have been processed, which converts to a savings of \$3,529.50 to the college. The chart at bottom illustrates the growth of Valencia's recycling initiative.



Landfill disposal cost per ton =
 $\$81.25 \times 43.44 = \$3,529.50$ savings

Bottom Line: Each ton (2,000 pounds) of recycled paper/cardboard converts to a savings of approximately 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy, and 7,000 gallons of water.

The 17 trees saved absorbs a total of 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year. Burning that same ton of paper creates 1,500 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Valencia has reduced its carbon footprint by saving:

- 1,469 trees or
- 32,847 gallons of oil or
- 259 cubic yards landfill space or
- 345,760 kilowatts of energy or
- 605,080 gallons of water

Valencia Recycling Statistics

Month /Year	CARDBOARD	MIXED PAPER	PLASTIC BOTTLES	ALUMINUM CANS
Oct 2008	10,540 pounds	****	****	****
Nov 2008	10,960 pounds	****	****	****
Dec 2008	15,025 pounds	****	10 pounds	5 pounds
Jan 2009	20,755 pounds	7,630 pounds	42 pounds	****
Feb 2009	13,097 pounds	****	45 pounds	18 pounds
Mar 2009	16,500 pounds	520 pounds	39 pounds	26 pounds
TOTAL TONS =	43.44 tons	4.1 tons	136 pounds	49 pounds

stART Making Change A Designer's Approach to Global Issues

This year students in one of Valencia's advanced graphic design classes approached the question of "how design might solve a global problem," such as sustainability, human rights or the future of food. The project focused on designing a magazine cover for *Print Magazine's* yearly, international student

competition. In 2007, a Valencia student won this prestigious competition and in 2008, another Valencia student was given an honorable mention.

As part of the competition rules, *Print Magazine* requested that the designers include a headline, a subhead, and three proposed cover lines for possible



"Design helps bring attention to the efforts of willing organizations to make greener choices."
- Katrina Mustakas



"We can mend the environment using our creativity with the help of Eco-design, Green Design, and Sustainable Design."
- Katie Mascarello Simari

stories supporting the theme in their design. But graphics professor Kristi Pennino, known for throwing additional constraints at her advanced students, had a few more requirements. First, students had to use metaphors within their key visuals. Second, they had to somehow render that metaphor dysfunctional (to communicate a global problem). Lastly, students had to show how design could fix the problem (metaphor).

Students who chose to focus their designs on environmental issues did so on their own accord but,

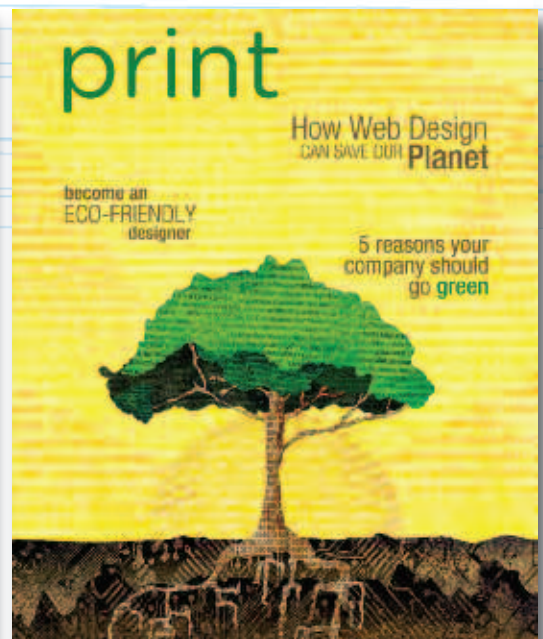
according to Pennino, it's a rather popular theme whenever students are given the opportunity to address the global problem of their choice.

To see more artwork focused on environmental issues, please visit the AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts) Web site at sustainability.aiga.org. The group has created an entire sub-organization dedicated to the cause. It even has conferences focused on the issues related to "sustainability" (this is AIGA's fancy word for "environmentally focused").



"Through design, we can bring awareness to environmental issues, such as global warming and global hunger."

- Erin McClain



"Increasing Web design and reducing ink and paper usage can make a positive impact on the environment."

- Samantha Ksel

COMMUNITY?

by Dr. Sanford Shugart
President, Valencia Community College

Many of you have been reading about community colleges in Florida adding bachelor's degrees to their programs, changing their names to "college" or "state college," and other issues swirling around the future of our system. In the last issue of *Vitae*, I promised an update on these issues with a focus on Valencia's direction.

Background

First, it is important to note that Florida is, in fact, under-built for undergraduate education. As far into the future as I can see, the metropolitan areas in central and south Florida will have significantly more demand for freshmen seats than supply. This is a

result of improving school performance over the past decade leading to more graduates and an even larger percentage of high school graduates prepared for and seeking admission to college. In addition, the burgeoning regional universities (UCF, USF, FIU) that were nearly open door a decade

ago are filled to undergraduate capacity and managing demand as they always have, by raising admissions standards. Thus at UCF, where more than 70 percent of applicants were accepted for admission just 10 years ago, only 45 percent are today. This situation has created very real access challenges in these several metropolitan areas, challenges not seen in the rural areas of North Florida, the Panhandle, or even Southeast Florida.

Meanwhile, the number of Florida community colleges offering a few bachelor's degrees in occupational areas such as teaching, nursing, and applied technologies has steadily grown since 2000. These programs were intended to meet very specific needs that were unlikely to be met by universities, not to signal a break from the traditional mission and programs of the best community college system in the country; many, however, including me, considered these programs to have been the proverbial camel's nose under the tent, a "slippery slope" on which "mission drift" would be difficult to manage, a conclusion now hard to avoid.

By last spring, some 14 colleges out of the 28 had either added one or more bachelor's degrees or signaled their intention to do so, while strange new names were appearing – Daytona State College, Northwest Florida State College, etc. Then, pretty much out of the blue and without consultation with the State Board of Education or the community colleges' Council of Presidents, a bill appeared in the legislature attempting to break up the system into two tiers comprising 20 or more community colleges and some three to nine "state colleges." The bill was full of special interest, some of which you have read in the press, and was deeply divisive within our college system. In the end, some of the worst thinking in the bill was blunted and two task forces were created to recommend further details on the new Florida College System. They met through the year and presented their findings to the legislature at just about the time the issues surrounding the now-resigned speaker of the house, the bill's sponsor, were unraveling.

At present, a bill has been introduced in both the House and the Senate to round out the details of the new system. It is my hope that it will retain the character of our system – one college system, not two; serious governance and oversight of limited bachelor's degrees by the State Board of Education; one funding formula with bachelor's degrees funded at no advantage over associate degrees; and serious limits on the percentage of one's enrollment that can come from the upper-division programming, a way of guarding the core mission of the community college. The next few weeks will tell if the state's policy leaders can get us back on track.

“The college is what the students experience, no more and no less.”

Valencia's Future Regarding Bachelor's Degrees

So what may be in Valencia's future with regard to bachelor's degrees? As I have often said to my colleagues around the state and country, "The college is what the students experience, no more and no less." So we always ask, "What do we want our students to experience?" As access to the freshman class at UCF began to be seriously constrained, especially for place-bound local students, we asked just this question. Our answer was that our first preference for our students was unfettered access to the whole range of established degrees at UCF. You see, offering degrees of our own would consume all of our discretionary resources for years to come, and even after 10 years might provide only 15 or 20 degree options. So we opted to push our relationship with UCF, signing an agreement guaranteeing all Valencia graduates with an A.A. degree admission to UCF and calling for UCF to bring dozens of new degree programs to our campuses. We call this program "Direct Connect" and will celebrate a milestone in this partnership this fall by opening a 100,000-square-foot university center on our West Campus to serve upward of 5,000

upper-division and graduate students.

Is this working? Frankly, this may be the most powerful partnership of its kind in the world. Valencia currently has more than 27,000 students in Direct Connect (compared to 2,700 statewide in community college bachelor's degrees) with rapidly expanding options for bachelor's degrees in business, accounting, education, nursing, and engineering. In Fall 2010, the upper division of the region's first architectural design degree will be added exclusively at Valencia in partnership with UCF. And for the first time, Valencia and UCF are working together to generate major philanthropic support to 2+2 scholarships.

Will Valencia ever add its own bachelor's degrees and change its name? Ever is a long time, and actually our agreement with UCF permits the offering of bachelor's degrees should a clear need arise. I hope, however, that this would be a very rare occurrence and that any such decision would be made together in the spirit of our deep partnership. Should the state's naming conventions change, I suppose we'd study the matter to determine, again, what is in the best interest of our students, but personally I'd hate to lose the word "community." It says so much about who we are – all of us, including you, our alumni. ■

LIFELONG LEARNING



Students strolling through the renovated circle area.



Growing the East Campus Parking Lot

by Patricia L. Smith

I was worried. I had been parking underneath a large live oak tree in the faculty parking lot in front of Building 1 in the shade for many years. I was informed that many of these large oak trees would be removed for construction and renovation of the East Campus parking lot. How can you cut down a beautiful live oak tree? Why couldn't they build around them?

Easy – you don't cut it down, you push it over with a back hoe, haul it away, and voila! It disappears like it was never there. Driving into the parking lot during the construction phase was depressing. These large trees were gone!!

But during my conversations with our groundskeeper manager, Mr. Clarence Canada, I found out that many of these old live oaks were diseased and were slated for removal anyway. I also found out that the proposed landscape plan for the new parking lot included planting literally thousands of plants and trees. The East Campus of Valencia has undergone a transformation.

In addition to the increase in parking spaces and change in traffic flow, the Lynx bus stop has been relocated, which improves the aesthetics of the

campus. The tree that had been planted in the lawn next to the bus stop as a special project by the Phi Theta Kappa was relocated to the south end of campus. There is a renovated circle area, where the Lynx bus stop used to be in front of Building 1, which has been transformed into a seating area and a miniature forest of cypress trees and oaks, along with native grasses and shrubs.

Now as you enter the East Campus parking lot on the north end of campus, you will notice many additional plants. The healthy large oaks along Econlockhatchee Trail were preserved and have been incorporated into a native plant habitat area. There are trees, shrubs, and grasses planted along the entrance roads and in islands in the parking lot itself.

Some of the shrubs and flowering plants included in these new landscape areas are wax myrtle, saw palmetto, yaupon holly, Florida coontie, cordgrass, yellow asters, sunshine mimosa, and blanket flowers. Trees including pines, oaks, and sabal palms have been liberally planted throughout the new parking area.



These plantings will benefit the campus and its users in many ways. These plants are drought tolerant. They need less water and can tolerate Florida's weather conditions very well. Planting this type of drought tolerant vegetation reduces the amount of water needed to maintain the landscape areas on campus.

Many trees were also included in the newly landscaped areas along Econlockhatchee Trail. These planted areas will grow and create a forested buffer, which will reduce traffic noise. They will also provide a more aesthetic view of the campus.

Most of the new plants are native species that will provide habitat and food sources for wildlife. Unfortunately more birds may use these native plant species, which may cause more droppings on cars!

The increased number of plants will also reduce the carbon footprint of the campus. Plants undergo two metabolic processes, photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Photosynthesis removes carbon dioxide from the air, while cellular respiration will put some back into circulation. Tree planting is recommended as one method of reducing the carbon dioxide levels of the atmosphere, due to the large amounts removed in photosynthesis.

The planting of the many new trees on campus also provides an opportunity for our campus to participate in the Tree Campus USA program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation. Mr. Canada

and I have researched the possibility of the East Campus being certified and recognized as a Tree Campus USA. There are five standards that must be completed. These standards include:

- Standard 1** – Create a Campus Tree Advisory Committee;
- Standard 2** – Create a Campus Tree Care Plan;
- Standard 3** – Have a Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures;
- Standard 4** – Arbor Day Observance;
- Standard 5** – Incorporate a Service Learning Project.

The Tree Campus USA program provides an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to work together to showcase and maintain the East Campus environment. It will also provide an opportunity for service learning projects and for students in the life sciences to participate in identifying and monitoring the specimen plants on campus.

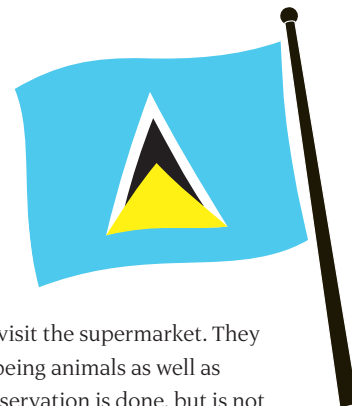
Who would have thought that a new parking lot could have provided all of these benefits to the environment and to students? Change is good, and the parking is so much better!

Patricia Smith is a professor of biology and environmental science on East Campus.

- A. Florida Coontie
- B. Cordgrass
- C. Blanket Flower
- D. Yellow Aster
- E. Sunshine Mimosa

The Island Life

Interview with Jasmine Kouly *by Lori Sunday '89*



Q: What country are you from and when did you first become aware of environmental issues?

I'm from Saint Lucia. I first became aware of environmental issues when there was an increase in advertising in the media.

Q: What environmental issues are people in Saint Lucia most concerned with?

In Saint Lucia, the citizens are encouraged to recycle and to keep the environment clean. The marine life of Saint Lucia has always been one of the main focuses being the ocean as well as rivers and waterfalls.

Q: Why do you think people in your country have this view about the environment?

Saint Lucia's main industry is the tourism industry. Before the rest of the world had posted "Go Green" everywhere, Saint Lucia had to stay green in order for the tourism industry to stay afloat. Saint Lucia is a tropical island in the Caribbean. Therefore, we had to ensure that our image was not distorted by being polluted, dirty, etc.

Q: How do you see people responding to environmental concerns on a personal level in Saint Lucia?

The people of Saint Lucia try hard to work together to maintain a clean, healthy and beautiful island. In my opinion, I see that it works. Citizens create groups and activities in which anyone can participate in to help clean up the country. In schools, learning about the environment and how to protect it is taught as early as possible.

Q: What environmental programs get the most support in your country?

In Saint Lucia, recycling has always been an important factor. The people of Saint Lucia have always encouraged one another to recycle and re-use items. Saint Lucia is a third-world country, so therefore it is not exactly the richest country of all. So recycling and re-using items helps the environment as well as people's pockets for many years. Organic farming has always been, still is and will always be something that the people of Saint Lucia perform. Farming is also used by

families that don't even visit the supermarket. They live off what they farm, being animals as well as vegetables, etc. Fuel conservation is done, but is not very big. Fuel is extremely expensive. Therefore, some people that have a vehicle, may take the bus to work or school, instead of taking their car, if it is not a very far distance. The bus system in Saint Lucia is much different than the U.S. One could catch a bus at whatever time they want, anywhere they want. In this way, they are helping the environment with this system. There was a program recently in Saint Lucia — if you trade in your normal light bulbs, you would get energy-saving light bulbs in return. This will definitely help the environment for sure.

Q: What environmental issues would you like to see get more attention?

The issue that I think should get the most attention is water. People take the privilege of water for granted. Water is used countless times a day, daily, for so many different things. It is also such a beautiful element. I would love to see people preserve and protect water a lot more. Water is life.

Q: What types of programs do you think the United States could implement to become a "greener" country?

Educating the youth about the environment from as early as possible, not only in school but also at home, can definitely help the environment. Instead of detention or suspension from school, they should be obligated to clean up certain areas in a community. These little things can help the environment. All homes and businesses should not be allowed to have normal light bulbs. All homes and organizations should only use energy-saving light bulbs. I notice that basically everyone in the United States has their own vehicle. Public transportation should be used more often. This can definitely help the environment by causing less pollution. In school, students should learn how to garden in order to grow their own organic food. Stop the deforestation to build plazas, and shopping centers. Plant trees and create gardens instead.

Lori Sunday is Valencia's manager of international student services.

Photo courtesy of Jasmine Kouly

For the Love of Herbs

by Bill Gombash

These days, we seem to be confronted with stress — inducing news everywhere we turn — on top of the "normal" challenges of family, health, and work, we worry about the collapsing economy, international conflict, and increasing crime.

Finding an outlet for our stress can be a challenge in and of itself. Advice comes from all directions — on TV, in magazines, from friends and family — and sometimes hearing advice just adds pressure to our stress. Take a vacation! (But what if I can't afford it?) Exercise every day! (But what if my job and family commitments usurp all my time?) Find a new job! (Good luck in this economy!)

Perhaps the answer is something simpler.

When I was a teenager, one of my summer chores was moving the lawn. The work seemed endless because the sun was a savage beast that progressively sapped my energy. The one respite from this drudgery occurred when I pushed the lawn mower over a patch of mint that grew wild near the edge of the woods. As the blades of the mower cut into the mint, the fragrance filled my nose and settled into my mind, raising my spirits and making the rest of the job seem easier.

I was not the first person in history to discover the magical effects of mint. Pliny the Elder, ancient naturalist and scholar, stated 2,000 years ago, "As for the garden of mint, the very smell of it alone recovers and refreshes our spirits."

I love herbs. They are beautiful to look at, can be a joy to grow, and add a wonderful flavor to food. But I am not here to offer you advice on gardening or cooking. I am not Martha Stewart in that I do not know how to create a potpourri of herbs in a decorative bowl. My knowledge is simple: when the weight of the world seems overwhelming, nothing eases the burden faster than the fragrance of fresh peppermint or some other herb.

I love the smell of herbs when I pause to pick a fresh leaf or stem and squeeze it between my fingers until the aromatic oils are liberated. The fragrances of herbs are soothing and refreshing, can relieve stress, and make everyday tasks seem less tedious. The pleasures of fragrance seem to be touted now more than ever. In addition to fragrant candles and oils, even some dishwashing detergents offer the benefits of aromatherapy. However, the organic nature



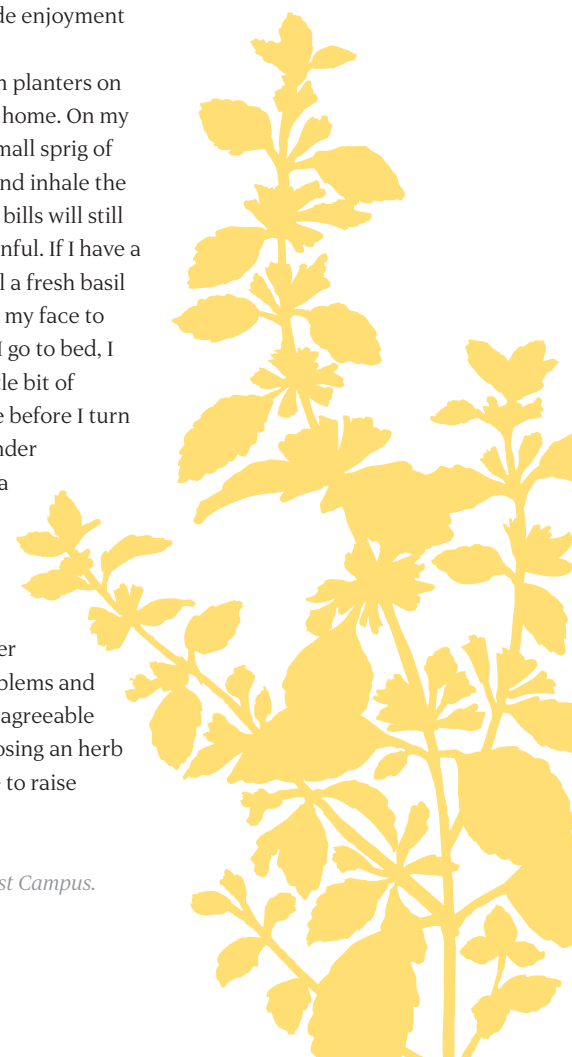
Gombash takes a whiff of dill growing in the West Campus herb garden.

of growing herbs and contributing to the betterment of the Earth can be a satisfying, less expensive aromatic alternative. Herbs can provide enjoyment for years with minimal maintenance.

I have a variety of herbs growing in planters on the porch or in the ground around my home. On my way to the mailbox I might pull off a small sprig of rosemary, rub it between my fingers, and inhale the aromas. When I get to the mailbox the bills will still be there, but they seem a little less painful. If I have a moment, I might sit outside, lightly roll a fresh basil leaf in my hand, then cup my hands to my face to breathe in the essence. Or just before I go to bed, I might step outside briefly to pick a little bit of lavender and slowly absorb its essence before I turn out the light. I do not know if the lavender helps me sleep more soundly, but it is a pleasant way to end a hectic day.

I once looked up the word "fragrant," and part of the definition included the phrase "to emit an agreeable perfume." All of us encounter times in our day or our lives when problems and stress seem to hang in the air like a disagreeable odor. When that occurs, consider choosing an herb that will release an agreeable perfume to raise your spirits.

Bill Gombash is a speech professor on East Campus.





Check out some of the great environmentally focuses courses that will be offered this summer and fall. These courses take place in the evenings and on weekends and are ideal for personal enrichment. For more of these kinds of courses, check out the Weekend College offerings at valenciacc.edu/weekend.

Central Florida Habitats

This course will teach you to recognize common habitats in Central Florida by identifying typical plants, plant species composition, and soil and topography. You'll also learn about natural fire cycles, fire-mediated succession and prescribed burning, nature of watersheds and causes and effects of flooding, invasive exotic plants and animals, and conservation land acquisition and management. Much of the course will be spent outdoors, including a three-hour canoe trip that explores the floodplain swamp.

Florida Environmental Systems

This course offers an overview of Florida's ecology, using a combination of lecture, lab, field and computer lab techniques to study variety of habitats. Topics include energy flow through food chains, environmental modeling and general ecology. Prior exposure to general biology topics is recommended but not required.

Environmental Science

This non-laboratory course provides an understanding of our interdependence with and responsibility for the environment. It will investigate different environmental aspects, including pollution, urbanization, population trends and changes in lifestyles and will explore present and projected solutions.

Recommended Reading

Explore natural Florida by reading either of these great books.

RIVER OF LAKES

A Journey on Florida's St. Johns River

By Bill Belleville

In the first contemporary book about this American Heritage River, Bill Belleville describes his journey down the length of the St. Johns, kayaking, boating, hiking its riverbanks, diving in its springs, and exploring its underwater caves. He rediscovers the natural Florida and establishes his connection with a place once loved for its untamed beauty. *—The University of Georgia Press*

TRACKING DESIRE

A Journey after Swallow-tailed Kites

By Susan Cerulean

In *Tracking Desire*, Susan Cerulean immerses the reader in the natural history and biology of the Swallow-tailed Kites. At the same time, she sifts through her past as a child, student, biologist, parent, and activist to muse on a lifelong absorption with nature. *—The University of Georgia Press*

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Red Hot Green Jobs

By Sarah Sekula

(reprinted in part with permission granted by *First Monday*)

It's safe to say that green-centric jobs have the potential to give the economy a swift kick in the pants. It's even predicted that one in four U.S. workers will have a green job by 2030, according to the American Solar Energy Society.

Central Floridians voiced in on the topic to create our list of top picks for hot green jobs of the future.

Urban Planner

Growth Forecast: Urban planners, also known as city or community planners, have the ultimate goal of accommodating greener lifestyles. They determine the best use for land when developing or rebuilding a community.

"The general consensus seems to be growth for urban planning," says Jaap Vos, associate professor and director of Florida Atlantic University's school of Urban and Regional Planning. "But I have not seen any hard evidence."

Vos says planners have been looking at creating sustainable communities for more than a decade. "Sustainability," he says, "forces people to look at the long term consequences of decision making and to take a holistic view."

Estimated Salary \$40,000-\$160,000 annually
Where to get a degree: Florida Atlantic University, University of Florida and Florida State University: accredited programs in urban and regional planning.

Green Consultant

Growth forecast: "I have a feeling of completion to be able to give back to the planet that has given so much to all of us," says Terry Meer, owner of Alternative Concepts and Technologies in Orlando. As an in-the-know green consultant, his days revolve around helping people use solar power, water catchment systems and organic gardening to reduce their eco-footprint and save money. When he's not consulting on new systems, he's researching new and old technologies.

The 35-year-old says his level of job satisfaction is off the scale. "It is very rewarding to see a new energy-saving system installed, knowing the benefit it has to all of us on the planet," he comments.

Estimated Salary \$40,000-\$100,000 annually
Where to get a degree: University of Central Florida: environmental science degrees.

Sustainable Design Architect

Growth Forecast: With policy-makers at the federal, state and local levels mandating green building practices for public projects across the country, new employment opportunities are popping up for architects. Since building design, construction and operations account for more than 30 percent of the country's total energy use, Nathan Butler, associate principal at C.T. Hsu + Associates in Orlando, says his work is addressing important issues facing this country.

"Creating energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable buildings helps to make us less dependent on fossil fuels, while helping to create healthier communities for the future," he says.

"What is most exciting about the renewed interest in sustainable architectural design is that it has achieved such a broad appeal to the public. The central role that architects play in this has certainly made for a more rewarding, challenging and exciting career."

Estimated Salary \$50,000- \$200,000 annually
Where to get a degree: University of Florida, Florida A&M, University of South Florida, Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University: degrees in architecture and planning.

Environmental Engineer

Growth Forecast: The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that by 2014, there will be 31.2 percent more jobs for environmental engineers than there were in 2004.

Just ask Jim Bassett, principal of E-Sciences, an environmental, engineering and ecological consulting firm. He says, "With global pressure to develop sustainable alternative energy and water supplies, excepting the present economy, the future for this profession looks very bright."

Many of his projects are environmentally focused, including improvement of surface and ground water as well as restoration of ecosystems and wildlife habitats across the Southeast.

Estimated Salary \$40,000-\$100,000 annually
Where to get a degree: Florida A&M University and University of Central Florida: environmental engineering degrees.



Nathan Butler, architect at C.T. Hsu + Associates



Holly Cervelli, Sea World intern

A Whale of an Internship

by Debra Hollister '73

How do you get a student enthused in understanding the principles of behavior modification and demonstrate the value of positive reinforcement so that they will never forget it? How do you help students understand that every animal has a place and a function in our environment and is needed to keep the environment healthy? You allow your students to watch the killer whales at SeaWorld Orlando at Shamu Stadium where these principles come to fruition in a bigger than life format.

Many of these students leave this internship experience with a real passion for marine animal observation. This program is designed as an internship program that benefits not only Sea World but allows the student to gain practical experiences in the basics of psychology, biology and research. The fundamentals of naturalistic observation skills, data recording, and record keeping are emphasized as students observe maternal behaviors, pod interactions, discipline and communication within the pod. Vocal behaviors between the whales and trainers are also studied. This internship is offered every semester — all year long.

During post-natal developmental periods, calf development is recorded and collected in areas of learning, communication and socialization within the pod. Another important aspect of animal development that is closely observed is the nursing behaviors of the newborn calf. These orca calves are closely monitored and observed to ascertain that they are developing normally and obtaining proper nourishment. This observation ensures that not only is calf development is progressing normally, but it gives researchers a quick glance at the behaviors of orcas in the wild and gives our students a firsthand opportunity to study behavior up close as they begin to put together the correlations that occur between their data and the behaviors of the orcas.

The students also are able to finally connect “the how and what” they learn in the classroom with what happens in the “real” world. Internships are a way that we can assist our students in allowing them to be a part of a bigger picture and how their participation can lead to their future careers. Internships are an important step in helping our students discover their interests and abilities and helping them find out where they belong in their future career



“Many students gain a lifelong respect for the ocean and understanding for marine animals and other wildlife.”

opportunities. Many students do not have the opportunity to learn about possible careers—internships provide them with an idea of careers that may be available.

Valencia Community College has a wonderful internship program in place for all majors and degrees. Internships provide an excellent networking tool for applying for a paid position later on after the degree is earned. There have been several students who have been hired to work at SeaWorld after having completed this internship. Many students who have participated in this internship have come to Valencia just to be a part of this exciting program. They heard it either while visiting SeaWorld or through the internet. They then register for the internship class and become a part of the Valencia population for that semester.

Since this internship began in 1997, more than 300 students have participated. We have had several students that have spent the summer here in Orlando, interning at SeaWorld and possibly taking other classes. Students have come from the University of Florida, Kent State University, University of New England, Eckerd College, Georgia State and Georgia Technological University, to name a few. During each semester, we place about 10 students at Shamu Stadium. During this internship experience, students are encouraged to ask questions and learn about marine animals. Students can also learn about good nutrition and how important it is in maintaining the health of the whales and other marine life.

We have recently been able to add Elephant Watch at Busch Gardens to the internship placement list. This is also a unique opportunity and provides students with an opportunity that is not available anywhere else. We look at socialization of the elephants and group interactions. Again, this provides students with a research experience.

Many of the students who have participated in whale watch have had a dream of becoming a marine animal trainer. They realize that this is an exciting position, but also a very hard position to find available. Through this internship, they learn that understanding the principles of learning and reinforcement are at the very core of animal training. They also discover what it is like to be in the

workforce of a very large corporation. SeaWorld is a wonderful company to work for, and there are many opportunities for employment. SeaWorld looks for trainers who are college-educated, scuba-certified, good swimmers and who have a good “stage presence” — remember you have to be able to talk to the audience after swimming with whales and performing dives!

Marcela J. Esquivel '08 is a trainer at Discovery Cove. After working as a SeaWorld Psychology intern for four semesters, a position opened up in Summer 2007, and she is happily training dolphins at this time.

Giving our students the best educational experience that we can and unique internship opportunities can make all the difference in the world to them. Many students gain a lifelong respect for the ocean and understanding for marine animals and other wildlife, while others take the research they have participated in and turn it into a career. There have been several students that have applied to veterinarian school after participating in this project because they see the need for better husbandry procedures in working with animals at national parks and zoos. This internship has led to other unique opportunities in working with animals such as working as a wildlife observer on cruise ships and training rescued dolphins and seals at a marine park in Hawaii. Discovering new exciting ways for our students to utilize their education and start their life career helps them to become better stewards of our planet and their careers!

Debra Hollister is a professor in the social sciences and physical education department on East Campus.



Marcela Esquivel, Sea World Psychology intern, Spring 2007, Discovery Cove Employee, Summer 2007.

VALENCIA NEWS



One day's worth of trash from the West Campus.

Valencia Wins National Student Success Award

On Feb. 17, Valencia was announced as the inaugural winner of the Leah Meyer Austin Institutional Student Success Leadership Award, presented by the Lumina Foundation for Education and Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count. The award recognizes outstanding institutional achievement in creating policies, practices and a culture of equity and excellence that support and nurture student success. As part of the award, Valencia received \$25,000 to put toward student success initiatives.

Jeff Cornett, a Monopoly Contender

Jeff Cornett, director of Institutional Research at Valencia, made it all the way to the Monopoly U.S. Championship in Washington D.C. in April, where he faced off against 27 other Monopoly veterans from around the country. He placed 10th after winning one of three games. Dr. Cornett competes annually at the World Boardgaming Championships where he has won 10 championships in six different board games. A true board game aficionado, he owns several hundred board games including 10 different Monopoly editions.

2009 Commencement Ceremony

Congratulations to the 5,702 Valencia graduates for 2008-2009. More than 900 students attended the commencement ceremony held at the Silver Spurs Arena in Osceola Heritage Park on May 9.

International Sashes

For the first time, international students at the 2008-2009 commencement ceremony had the option to wear special graduation sashes representative of their home countries. The sashes serve as another way of promoting cultural diversity within Valencia.

Valencia Foundation Concludes Fundraising Campaign

Valencia Foundation recently celebrated the successful culmination of its first-ever campaign to support Valencia. With a mid-2004 kick-off, the campaign drew more than \$27 million in community support, exceeding its \$20 million goal. Since 2001, the foundation's endowment has tripled, growing from \$17.2 million in 2001 to \$52.6 million in 2008.

Lake Nona Collegiate Academy

In partnership with Orange County Public Schools, Valencia will launch a Collegiate Academy this fall at the new Lake Nona High School to provide students with an opportunity to take college classes right on campus. Valencia will have its own building at the high school where it will offer 23 different degree tracks, many science-related given the proximity to Lake Nona's emerging medical city. Starting in the 2010-2011 academic year, the location will also offer classes to the public. Lake Nona High School is located on Narcoossee Road in southeast Orlando. For more information, visit valenciacc.edu/lakenona.

Earth Day 2009

On April 22, Phi Theta Kappa and the West Campus Student Government Association presented an exciting Earth Day 2009 Celebration. The event included a recycle drive, free vegan barbecue, miniature plant giveaways, carbon footprint calculations, and a plant and bake sale to benefit the Lake Pamela Beautification Project. There was also a guided ecological tour along Lake Pamela and group planting activity to install native water plants along Lake Pamela's shore.

OOPS!



Keep your eyes peeled and let us know if you see any errors in this issue of *Vitae*. We're always eager to learn from our mistakes. Send corrections to alumni@valenciacc.edu.

A Fresh Idea Proves Sustainable

by Geraldine Gallagher & Jill Wileden

Perhaps the biggest misconception about the green phenomenon is that it requires enormous sacrifice. Yet the contributions of many working together create renewable resources and sustainability, leading to a healthier planet and a brighter future.

Nowhere is that alchemy truer than in philanthropy. Donors to endowment sustain communities for generations to come.

Special event fundraising might not be considered part of the green equation; however, a very organic idea led to Valencia Foundation's three fundraising events, A Taste for Learning, which has generated more than \$1.3 million in scholarships for deserving students in need.

Vintners from around the globe bring their finest wines and spirits, local donor chefs fire up the grills to provide their best cuisine, and hundreds of supporters gather for an evening of fellowship and shopping for gifts, trips and experiences.

The formula unites partners who donate every product for the event, including the venue, media, food, wine and auction items. The result? 100 percent of every dollar spent on tickets, sponsorships and auction items goes directly to scholarships.

In 2005, board member Jess Bailes and his team at ABC Fine Wine and Spirits partnered with the foundation to unveil a Taste for Learning. Valencia Foundation's first signature fundraiser was achieved through the committed support of the founding benefactors: Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, C.T. Hsu + Associates PA, Darden Restaurants, Freeman, Fry Hammond Barr, Helman Hurley Charvat Peacock/Architects Inc., Raymer III and Dean Maguire, McCree General Contractors and Architects, SunGard Higher Education, Universal Orlando Resort, Helen Von Dolteren-Fournier, Walt Disney World Co. and Williams Company.

Each year since, the founders have renewed and upgraded their commitments, and even more followed. Royal Pacific Resort, A Loews Hotel presented Taste 2 in October 2006 and Rosen Shingle Creek donated the April 2008 Taste venue, as well as the site of the fourth event this year, which represents an enormous commitment of their corporate time, talent and treasures.

The first two Tastes garnered \$742,000 in new scholarships, and last year's alone raised more than \$623,000 for scholarships. Taste scholarships offer opportunity for Valencia students who would not otherwise be able to attend college. This sustainability gives students of limited means and extraordinary talent an opportunity to achieve their educational dreams. And it changes the face of our community in remarkable ways.

This year's Taste, Oct. 17, represents a first major step in joint philanthropy with UCF to provide 2+2 transfer scholarships for Valencia students, the first of three committed by ABC Fine Wine and Spirits. If you'd like to be a part, please consider asking your company to be a sponsor, purchasing a table or donating silent or live auction items. Each year, we have more than 100 packages, including vacation home stays, professional services, art, jewelry and other gift items donated by friends.

Four years ago, the concept of Taste was an unproven notion, still very green. Many community leaders expressed skepticism that the formula – everything donated in-kind with no event expenses – could even work and whether it was sustainable. But, as always, Valencia Foundation partners proved that in philanthropy, as in all things, the smallest seeds can yield the most fruitful harvest.

To learn more, please visit the Taste Web site at: VALENCIA.ORG/taste.

Geraldine Gallagher is the president and CEO of Valencia Foundation and Jill Wileden is the Foundation's manager of resource development.



A Taste for Learning

*An international wine sampling and auction
to benefit Valencia and UCF
2+2 DirectConnect scholarships*

Saturday, October 17, 2009 7 – 10 p.m.

Rosen Shingle Creek

Tickets: \$125 per person \$200 per couple

For details please call: 407-582-3150

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Membership is FREE

Full Member

Has successfully earned an A.A., A.S. or A.A.S. degree.

Student Member

Has started but not yet completed an A.A., A.S. or A.A.S. degree.

Honorary Member

Any individual who is not otherwise qualified to be a member, but receives approval by a majority vote of the Association's Board of Directors.

Leaders Wanted!

Help us to create exciting, new, Alumni Association programs and activities. Consider becoming a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors or leader of a special project. Information is available on the alumni Web site or by calling the Alumni Relations office.



Stay connected.

Join the Alumni Association.

It's the best way to know what's going on with Valencia, other alumni and the community – and it's free! For more information and to apply for membership, please visit our Web site at www.valenciacc.edu/alumni or contact us at 407-582-2946 or alumni@valenciacc.edu.

Benefits and Services Include:

- Copy of *Vitae* mailed to you
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- 10% discount – Valencia Enterprises continuing education classes and programs
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- Discounted Valencia 5K registration

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