

SPRING 2008

VITAE

CONNECTING
VALENCIA
ALUMNI



Valencia Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT, LISA LOVELL

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Vitae is Valencia's new bi-annual magazine created for our extended family of alumni and friends. As this year's president, it is my privilege to be part of launching a publication which aims to update you



with articles and features that will capture your imagination and provide you with a way to stay connected to Valencia.

The Valencia Alumni Association was founded in 1979 to provide a means for a continuing relationship between the college and its alumni. Thanks to the ongoing support and volunteerism of Valencia's

alumni and friends, we are able to accomplish the association's mission of developing a sense of community among alumni and to promote the lifelong personal, educational and professional growth of alumni and students of the college.

Many opportunities are available for you to stay connected to Valencia, including participating in the popular, annual 5K Run, Walk & Roll. This event is designed to allow maximum overall community participation while also raising funds to support Valencia students through scholarships and other assistance. You can learn more about the third Annual 5K Run, Walk & Roll on the back cover of this magazine.

I invite you to stay connected with our alumni relations office and to keep your contact information current so you can continue to receive *Vitae* and learn about other opportunities available to stay connected to Valencia.

All the best,



Lisa Lovell
Alumni Association President

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The Valencia Alumni Association provides opportunities for lifelong personal, educational and professional growth for alumni and students of Valencia Community College. Copyright © 2007, Valencia Community College

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! Take advantage of benefits such as group events and trips, job search tools, travel opportunities, volunteer opportunities and shopping and entertainment discounts. For more information and to apply for membership, please visit our Web site at www.valenciacc.edu/alumni or contact us at 407-582-3124 or alumni@valenciacc.edu.

We want to hear from you. Submit alumni updates or article ideas to alumni@valenciacc.edu.



About the Cover

Valencia was established in 1967 and is celebrating its 40th anniversary this academic year. The Valencia orange (named after the Spanish city) was prominently grown in Central Florida during the time of the college's founding and serves as our namesake.

VITAE

Rooted in the Latin word for "life," vitae (vee-tahy) 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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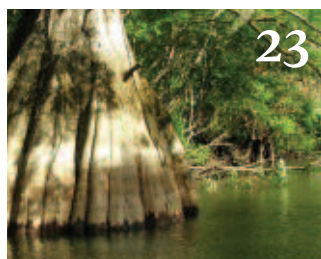
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ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION



VALENCIA



Bringing the community into THE CLASSROOM

A teacher's perspective By Penny Villegas

Valencia Community College. While the first part of our name, Valencia, brings to mind the juice orange of the world, it also conjures up a bright Florida image with a lilt of Spanish influence.

This correlation only seems appropriate since our halls resound with the chatter of so many different languages. Bravo! We salute our cosmopolitan student body, faculty, staff and administration. When we meet to talk and to listen, it could result in babel, but it doesn't because we are defined and held together by our middle name – community.

West Campus started it all in 1971, opening its doors to the community. Before Metro West and the malls, right alongside Mickey, we made our connection with the good people of southwest Orlando. Whether carried by the wind or by birds, a new

campus sprang up on the banks of the Little Econlockhatchee River a few years later. East Campus continued the open-door policy – sprouting music, dance and art as well as academic subjects. Later, because of the success of West and East, the Winter Park Campus grew with its intimate ambiance. Cowboy country called next and the Osceola Campus opened its doors wide.

So here we are, Valencia Community College, in all of our faces, voices, and locations, inextricably connected to the community. But there's more to the word "community" than physical location. In "community," we also find "communication," which is one of the stated goals of the college. It is also the first step to having an open door – not just to opening the door, but to meeting those who enter with welcomeness and respect.



Photo by: Don Burlinson

Those of us who work at the college must believe in what it means to have an open door and embrace that philosophy with open arms. We do that as we invite and teach, or try to teach, all who come. We take people as they are and attempt to reach back into their history to pick up on the fractions or the spellings that have stumped them in the past. With the help of tutors and technology, the students dig in and are able to master what they could not before.

More than half the students who enter Valencia need some special help catching up on what they missed months or years earlier. But with patience and perseverance, they do catch up. When they are ready for college courses, a dedicated teacher takes over and, bit by bit, college students progress into university graduates. The open door at Valencia reveals hundreds of programs and hundreds of helping hands to raise hopes and meet goals.

A community college has a more diverse student body than any university. We accept the bright, nonconformist kids who balked at the high school atmosphere and invite them to be adults. We welcome the high school girls in AP English and the gray-haired seniors who want to study accounting. Here at Valencia, you will see pierced and tattooed guys and girls forming an Anime club while others in chefs' hats learn to create a perfect crème brûlée. There is a common humanity, comprised of the folks who work here and all the individuals who come here, for which the dream happens.

Valencia has outstanding programs for students with disabilities. Wheelchairs, many customized by their owners with

bumper stickers or mascots, speed silently down the sidewalks, propelled by athletic arms. But it's a student in a motorized wheel chair that I remember. Debbie could not move her legs, arms or hands, but she excelled in Honors classes. She wrote papers for her classes by dictating to a scribe. She created vividly realistic oil paintings of flowers by using a paintbrush held in her teeth. She also wrote a book about her life, conscious that she had something to tell the world.

Debbie called herself "handicapable." As she met with students in the cafeteria to help them in their math courses, they would cut up her food so she could spear it with a long-handled fork. Those same students helped put on her bib and picked up the bits of food she inevitably dropped. Debbie opened our minds with her smile and courage and talents. We all learned from her.

Other students around our campuses deserve the title "handicapable." American Sign Language professionals can be found in many classes interpreting for the hearing-

impaired students whose loud laughter and energetically signed jokes enliven the cafeteria. We observe seeing-eye dogs curled up under their owners' feet in the front rows of classes.

Not only does Valencia provide help from humans and animals, but also from computers. If you visit our special labs for people with disabilities, you will marvel at both the state-of-the art technology and the students who, engrossed in the most advanced programming, use elaborate problem-solving techniques. No wonder – Bill Gates funded Valencia's Center for High Tech Training for Individuals with Disabilities with \$110,000. He came to the East Campus in 1995 to visit the lab and congratulate the staff and students who worked there.

And so, the Valencia doors that are open to the community swing both ways. We all meet here for the common goal of humanity – to make something of our lives. Sure, the students learn from the teachers but we the teachers also learn. We learn from our students, co-workers and the community of which we are part.

As our students graduate and move into positions around Orlando, Florida, and the world, we stay in touch or run into each other squeezing oranges at the grocery store, or standing in line for the movies. "Hey! I know you!" For a few minutes the connection is re-established as we smile together. "I graduated. I got married and now I have kids!" More common ground.

Tied together by the common thread that is Valencia, we all make up a community. ■

Radiography Program Turns 50

By Julie McCaughtry, BS RT(R)(CT)

Valencia's radiography program, which has had 565 graduates since it began in 1954, celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 30, 2007. Approximately 160 alumni, guests, faculty members, students and friends came for the reunion celebration in Orlando. Some alumni traveled from as far as Massachusetts. Event photos can be viewed in the photo gallery at www.valenciacc.edu/alumni. Sponsors for the reunion included the Medical Center Radiology Group (MCRG), Orlando Regional Healthcare (ORH), the Valencia Foundation, and G.E. Walker Inc..

Dr. David R. Harding of MCRG, a second-generation radiologist, was the reunion's keynote speaker. Dr. Harding is the chief of oncology imaging for Orlando Regional Healthcare and the M.D.

Anderson Cancer Center of Orlando. He served as the medical director of the ORH/Valencia Radiography program from 1986 to 2003, preceded by his father, Dr. Paul Harding, who also served as medical director. The Paul and Audrey Harding Scholarship was created by Dr. David Harding through the Valencia Foundation in January 2000 to benefit all students in the program. This scholarship pays for orientation supplies for incoming students and credentialing expenses for graduates.

"The Harding family has generously assisted Valencia students in achieving their dreams through the scholarship started by their children in honor of their parents and more recently through direct support of radiology students. The amazing legacy of Dr. Paul and Audrey Harding will continue to live on through their family philanthropy to serve generations of students in the future," said Geraldine Gallagher, CFRE and president and CEO of Valencia Foundation. For more information about Valencia Foundation, visit www.valencia.org.

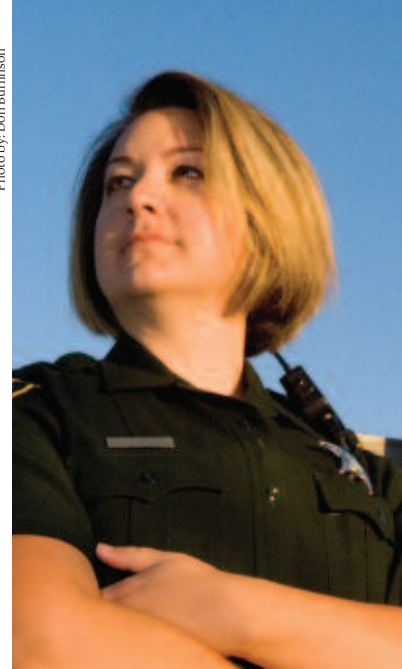
Valencia's radiography program is a continuation of the School of Radiologic Technology that was established at Orange Memorial Hospital by Dr. Robert Curry in 1954. During the mid-1980's, the hospital affiliated itself with Valencia so that its diploma graduates could obtain an A.S. degree. By 1990, radiography was a college-credit degree program. In 1998, Valencia became the program's primary sponsor and, with financial support from ORH, the program was relocated to Valencia's West Campus. Most recently, the radiography program has established its own Alumni Association chapter.



Photoquest.com

Alumni Achievers Reception 2007

More than 140 alumni and guests celebrated academic achievement and volunteerism at the Alumni Achievers Reception on June 13, 2007 where Valencia's Alumni Association awarded 29 scholarships. The scholarship recipients, as well as other outstanding alumni, students and volunteers were honored during the reception. James Matthews ('69) and Mayor Richard T. Crotty ('70) presented the Mayor Richard T. Crotty Valencia-UCF Two Plus Two Scholarship, valued at \$4,000, to two graduating Valencia students entering the University of Central Florida and three graduating high school students entering Valencia from Orange and Osceola counties. Reception photos can be viewed in the photo gallery at www.valenciacc.edu/alumni. To support these scholarships and others, visit www.valencia.org or www.valenciacc.edu/alumni.



Jennifer Fulford-Salvano

CJI Adjunct Faculty Member Receives AACC Outstanding Alumni Award 2007

Jennifer Fulford-Salvano was selected by the American Association of Community Colleges to receive its 2007 Outstanding Alumni Award. The award recognizes community college alumni who are making outstanding contributions in their chosen career fields and to their communities. Fulford-Salvano was chosen for her heroic actions during a shootout in 2004, in which she was shot ten times, including her gun hand. Despite her injuries, she and her team were able to successfully apprehend three assailants and rescue the three children who had placed the emergency call for help.

"The AACC Conference Awards Banquet was a special evening for Valencia as Jennifer Fulford-Salvano received this year's award. Jennifer received several standing ovations from the more than 1,500 attendees from across the country," said Fiona Baxter, assistant vice president of College and Community Relations at Valencia.

After earning her A.A. degree from Valencia in 1993, Fulford-Salvano went on to receive a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida. In 2001, she returned to Valencia's Criminal Justice Institute to earn the basic law enforcement academy certificate, which was required for employment by the Orange County Sheriff's Office. She is currently a corporal in the Orange County Sheriff's Department in Orlando and a part-time instructor at Valencia's Criminal Justice Institute.

Howe Collazo Starfish Swam Scholarship

The Howe-Collazo Starfish Swam Scholarship was created in June 2005 by former distinguished graduate Jennifer Howe Rogan, class of '99, in honor of Victor Collazo, student development coordinator on Valencia's West Campus. Rogan currently owns and operates the successful So Sweet Boutique children's clothing business in Oviedo, Florida.

Rogan created the Starfish Swam Scholarship to make a difference for other students. "I learned at Valencia that an education includes experiences inside and outside of the classroom. I dedicate the Starfish story to my friend and mentor, Victor Collazo, and thank him for pushing me, reminding me, encouraging me to believe in ME and making a profound difference in my life."

The Starfish Swam Scholarship recently achieved endowment status through the Valencia Foundation. The scholarship grew through many avenues of support, including donations made by community members and Valencia staff members, who donated through the payroll deduction plan. The Lockheed Martin Corporation provided an employer match more than once for donations made by its employees. Students of the Chi Epsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa on the West Campus raised money through a campus-wide lost-and-found sale and donated the proceeds to the scholarship. Finally, the Alumni Association's board of directors designated a portion

of the proceeds from Valencia's Second Annual 5K Run, Walk & Roll to endow the scholarship at \$10,000.

Scholarship funds will be available through the Alumni Association in 2008 to award to a student who believes in giving back to the community through volunteering, student service or facilitating social change. To support this scholarship and others, visit www.valencia.org or www.valenciacc.edu/alumni.

The Starfish Story by Loren Eisley

While walking along a beach, an elderly gentleman saw someone in the distance leaning down, picking something up and throwing it back into the ocean.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, picking up starfish one by one and tossing each one gently back into the water.

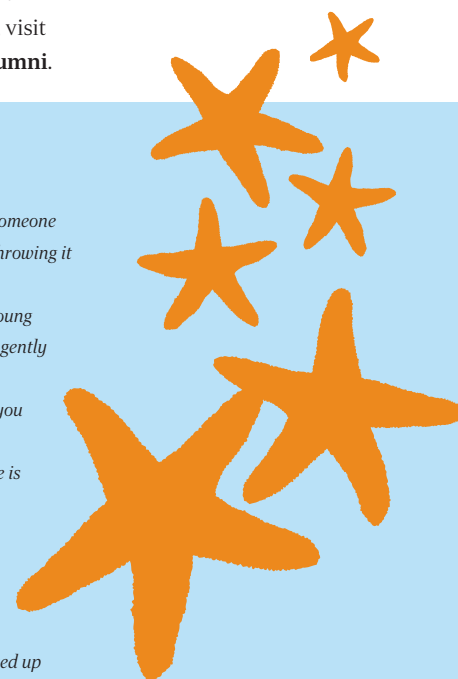
The old man smiled, and said, "I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the elderly observer commented,

"But young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely. Then he bent down, picked up another starfish, threw it into the the back into the ocean past the breaking waves and said, "It made a difference for that one."



Join us

as we raise our glasses
in support of learning



Valencia Foundation invites colleagues, alumni and friends of Valencia Community College to our annual international wine sampling and auction. This year guests can sample fine wines donated by more than 100 vintners from around the world.

The evening will include a silent auction with hundreds of selections, including spa treatments, trips to exotic locations, gift certificates to local restaurants and attractions and, of course, wine. Also, Valencia will present its prestigious 40th Anniversary Award to 40 recipients, 10 from each decade, for the distinction they have brought to the college.

Please join us in helping deserving students - 100% of sponsor, ticket and auction receipts will go directly to Valencia scholarships.

2008 Early Benefactors

- Rosen Shingle Creek
- ABC Fine Wine & Spirits
- Darden Restaurants
- SeaWorld Adventure Parks
- SunGard Higher Education
- Universal Orlando Resort
- Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association
- Progress Energy
- Walt Disney World Co.
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- Helen Von Dolteren-Fournier, Esq. of AEGIS Law Firm, P.L.
- Fry Hammond Barr
- McCree Construction
- Paul and Mary Ann Kinser
- HHCP
Helman Hurley Charvat
Peacock / Architects, INC.

\$125 per person, \$200 per couple
Call 407-582-3150 for details

VALENCIA
FOUNDATION

Saturday, April 12, 2008
7 to 10 p.m.
Rosen Shingle Creek
9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando

WWW.VALENCIA.ORG



IN THE MIX

2008 TWO FOUR SIX MONTHLY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 26 – February 3

Zora Neale Hurston Festival

This event celebrates the life and work of writer, folklorist and anthropologist, Zora Neale Hurston. It is held in Eatonville, Hurston's hometown and the nation's oldest incorporated African American municipality. www.zorafestival.com



Illustration by: El M. Aguenegou

February 2 – 3

Mount Dora Arts Festival

Held in historic downtown Mount Dora, this annual event features more than 300 artists. www.mountdoracenterforthearts.org

February 15 – March 9

Winter Park Bach Festival

The Winter Park Bach Festival is a series of live, classical music performances held at Rollins College. www.bachfestivalflorida.org

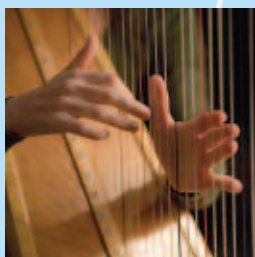


Photo by: KarenLeslie

March 14 – 16

Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival

Held in Winter Park's Central Park, the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival features artwork from national and international artists. www.wpsaf.org

March 28 – April 6

Florida Film Festival

Produced by the Enzian Theater, the Florida Film Festival showcases independent American and foreign films. www.floridafilmfestival.com

April 17 – 27

Central Florida Fair

The 96th Annual Central Florida Fair, held at the fairgrounds on highway 50, will host more than 100 rides, attractions and exhibits. www.centralfloridafair.com



Morguefile.com



Illustration by: El M. Aguenegou

May 15 – 26

Orlando Fringe Festival

Taking place in and around Loch Haven Park, the Orlando Fringe Festival is an uncensored, non-juried theatre festival that exposes patrons to performances ranging from mild to wild. www.orlandofringe.org



1969

James (Jim) E. Matthews Jr.

James Matthews, a member of Valencia's first student body, has been working at the Lockheed Martin Corporation in Orlando for the past 26 years. He currently serves as the business administrator for the Operations Engineering Department of the Missiles and Fire Control Division.



1979

Robin L. Poole

Robin Poole has continued to practice in the dental hygiene profession since graduating. She returned to school a few years ago and earned a bachelor's degree in health science education at the University of Florida, followed by a master's degree from Webster University. After living in Ocala for many years, Poole has returned to Valencia as a professor in the Dental Hygiene program.



1987

Mary Allen

Mary Allen earned a master's in communication from the University of Central Florida before returning to Valencia as a speech professor on the East Campus. In 2000, she became a tenured professor and currently serves as interim director of Valencia's Student Success program.



Courtesy of: Ana Sofia Pomaes

1999

Ana Sofia Pomaes

Ana Sofia Pomaes went on to perform in a national tour of the percussive-dance show Stomp after studying dance at Valencia. She is currently teaching dance at the American Military Academy in Bayamón, Puerto Rico.



2007

Barry Bohnsack

Barry Bohnsack is currently majoring in finance at the University of Central Florida. He also serves as an educator to 2nd - 9th graders from around the world at Camp KSC at the Kennedy Space Center and volunteers as a college mentor for the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics teams in the Orlando area.

Kimberly Samocki's Travels into Diversity

By Abeer B. Abdalla '05

Quiet café chats, grand boisterous galas, one-on-one close-cuff confidences, and academic guidance for the ages – Kimberly Samocki, the consummate communicator, masters them all.

A speech communications professor on the East Campus, Samocki's commitment to the college far surpasses her densely-packed weekly class schedule. In addition to serving as an Alumni Association Diversity Committee member, the single mother of two Valencia students also travels the world serving as a guide for students, alumni and community members who choose to study abroad with Valencia.

"Because my students mean the world to me, my commitment as an educator doesn't end when they leave my classroom," Samocki said. "I want them to do well and become a part of the Valencia tapestry that we've grown to love. The Alumni Association's ongoing dedication to keeping that synergy alive is what drew me to them. That, and their board members' earnest passion, is what has cemented my place."

As a member of the Alumni Association's Diversity Committee, Samocki worked diligently to create M.A.T.A.D.O.R., a seven-prong path for ensuring that all aspects of diversity continually revitalize Valencia's mission as a learning-centered institution.

Her appreciation for college development led her to volunteer as a Title III Grant Faculty Leader in 2005-2006, mentoring a 12-member faculty team and providing guidance as they sought to create and conduct action research.

"In order to provide opportunities for our students both in and out of the classroom we must work together to pool our experiences and our knowledge," Samocki said.

In addition to collaboration, Samocki believes that technological innovation is key to understanding today's multilingual and multidisciplinary student. She spends her time outside the classroom mastering Valencia's distance learning initiatives. Realizing that being on the pulse of students' interests is paramount, Samocki takes her greatest life cues from her own two children.

"My daughter Natalie started at Valencia this fall as a dual-enrollment student," Samocki says. "I watch her interact with her peers and I'm reminded of how technologically diverse young people are and how much I need to invest in understanding media convergence."

A graduate of Purdue University, Samocki's academic and professional background in public relations contributes to a stylized, energetic classroom appeal. After ten years of commitment to Valencia, her passion for learning shows no proof of wear. "Every semester I'm more inspired by our students and further reminded of why I became a teacher; that joy never seems to wane."



Photo by: Don Burlinson



Valencia Volunteers!

Need volunteers for a community event? Why not help our students by providing an opportunity for them to experience the value of serving the community? There are volunteer coordinators to assist you on the East, Osceola and West Campuses. Contact one office or contact them all for maximum exposure to volunteers:

East: Michelle Rodriguez (407) 582-2622
Osceola: Mary McGowan (407) 582-4158
West: Jennifer Lee (407) 582-5567



Being Ernest

By Pat Lee '07

“**Y**ou can only learn so much from your classes. What you learn at Valencia outside of the classroom can really change and impact your life too.”

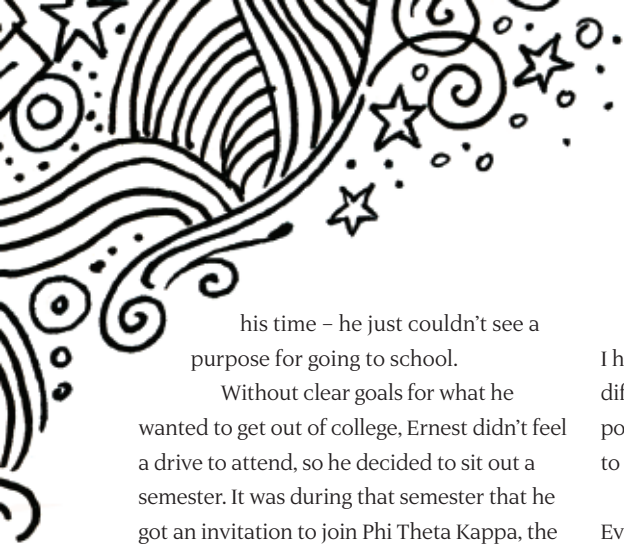
Had Ernest Bilinski made this statement during his first semester at Valencia, it would have probably just been a clever excuse for skipping class. Now it's simply a reflection upon his college experience.

Ernest came to Valencia in 2001 from a hotel management program – where he learned what he didn't want to do with the rest of his life. He was quiet and somewhat shy, and he struggled during his first three semesters at Valencia.

He got A's, but he also got W's.

Oftentimes he'd come to class and then leave. It's not that he had a job that consumed

Photo by: Don Burlinson
Illustration by: Dean Scott



his time – he just couldn't see a purpose for going to school.

Without clear goals for what he wanted to get out of college, Ernest didn't feel a drive to attend, so he decided to sit out a semester. It was during that semester that he got an invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society. Something about that invitation got him excited, and he couldn't wait to get back to school.

With newfound motivation, Ernest joined PTK, attended meetings, met officers and, by the spring of 2003, had worked his way up to senator of finance for the group.

"The first activity I got involved in was a car wash fundraiser. It was fun to talk with and get to know people. I realized that this group was really something I could become involved in."

Ernest was being pulled out of his shyness quickly. That summer, he got a job on campus giving tours, making ID cards and generally helping the student body find their way around. By spring of 2004, he was elected executive vice president of PTK, which, Earnest says, "really put a lot on my plate."

At the same time, he was trying to figure out what he wanted to do with his life. He'd taken several introductory classes and was able to rule out business, marketing and nursing. That's when he began toying with the idea of education.

To explore that avenue a little more, Earnest gave up giving campus tours and began working as a Valencia peer educator. It was after doing a presentation on drug and alcohol awareness that he realized that education was his calling.

"I knew I wanted to teach something that would be important to a person's life," Ernest said.

He began researching health education and found a program at Florida State University. Meanwhile, in the fall of 2004, Ernest accepted a position as the student assistant for Valencia Volunteers.

"I'd volunteered to work with them when I had idle time because I liked going to different volunteer projects, so when a paying position became available, I knew that I had to do it!"

After that, Ernest became even busier. Every month, he and a group of volunteers would go grocery shopping and volunteer to cook a meal for families of sick children at the Ronald McDonald House. Then, with another group of volunteers, he would serve meals at the Orlando Union Rescue Mission.

"All volunteer projects are benefiting the community, but just maybe, they're benefiting you more," said Ernest.

Volunteering gave him the chance to learn the kind of life lessons that can't be taught in a classroom. "You can see TV programs about the homeless and needy, but when you're actually out there helping, you really become aware of the problems in your community."

"All volunteer projects are benefiting the community, but just maybe, they're benefiting you more."

Ernest wasn't just hooked on educating people; he was hooked on getting involved in their lives. In the spring of 2005, he served as the captain for Valencia Volunteer's Relay for Life team.

"I had to attend all the meetings at the American Cancer Society and come up with fundraising ideas for campus. I had to motivate people. It was very stressful, but very rewarding in the end. We raised nearly \$10,000 and were the top fundraising team at the Winter Park relay."

All the while Ernest was doing these extracurricular activities, he had taken on a full course load, was serving as executive vice president of PTK, and was working 20 hours a week. All this from the guy who couldn't find

time to take six credits in 2001.

"I found that the busier I was, the more time I had to do things. If I was at school until 7 p.m., I knew when I got home it was time for homework. I didn't have time to waste."

Ernest certainly didn't waste any time taking the next step for his education. He entered Florida State University in the fall of 2005, after graduating from Valencia. Although he initially felt like a small fish in a big ocean, he seized the opportunity to pursue his newfound calling (education) and got involved on campus. He joined, and eventually became president of a peer education group.

"My experiences at Valencia helped me at FSU because I had so much background organizing things. It helped me prepare for World Aids Day up there. We got student performers to raise awareness – poetry groups, singing groups, dancing groups. We

had to get everyone scheduled, rooms set up and handle advertising. The things I did at Valencia really helped me know what to do in that situation."

After graduating from FSU summa cum laude with a 3.9 GPA, Ernest is currently working as an educator at Sea World, teaching guests at the animal exhibits, and giving one-hour park tours. As far as goals for the future, he says that he hopes to someday have his own educational television show where he can both entertain and teach.

It's not a surprising goal for Ernest. After all, as the host of a TV show, he could educate others in the very way that he was able to learn best – outside of the classroom. ■

EVENTS SAMPLER

UPCOMING ARTIST

Brian Turner



Courtesy of Brian Turner

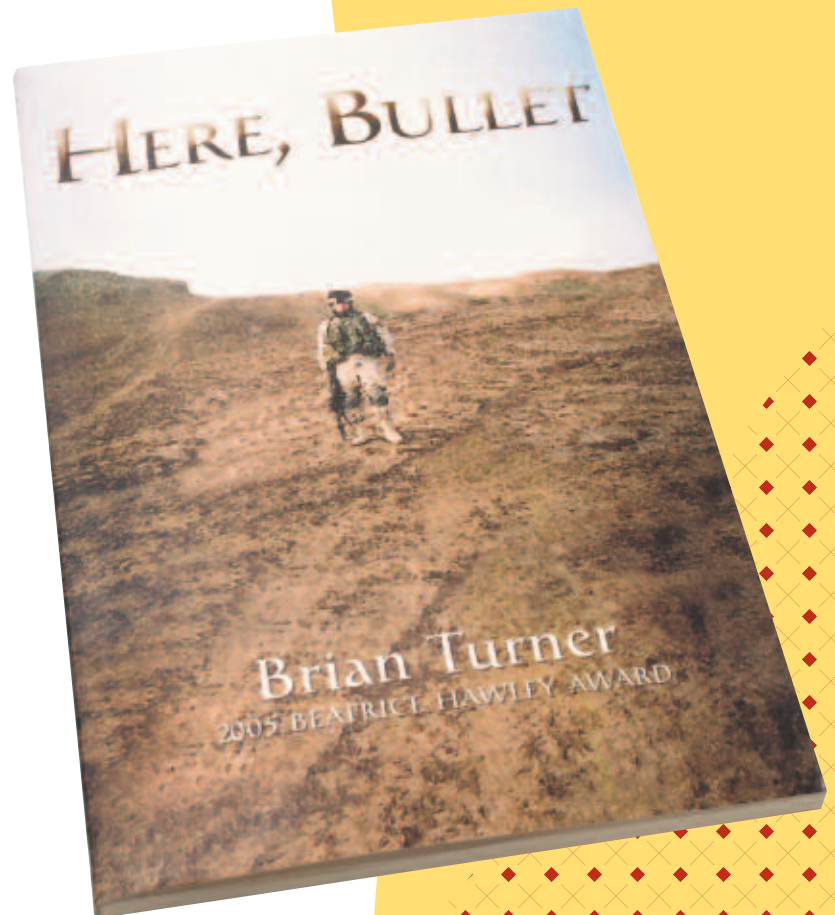
Brian Turner earned a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of Oregon and lived abroad in South Korea for a year before serving for seven years in the U.S. Army. He was an infantry team leader for a year in Iraq beginning November 2003, with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. His poetry has been published in *Poetry Daily*, *The Georgia Review* and other journals, and in the *Voices in Wartime Anthology*, published in conjunction with the feature-length documentary film of the same name.

January 28, 2008 Osceola Campus Auditorium
Event: 5:15-6:15 p.m. Q&A/Book Signing: 6:15 p.m.

Here, Bullet

If a body is what you want,
then here is bone and gristle and flesh.
Here is the clavicle-snapped wish,
the aorta's opened valves, the leap
thought makes at the synaptic gap.
Here is the adrenaline rush you crave,
that inexorable flight, that insane puncture
into heart and blood. And I dare you to finish
what you've started. Because here, Bullet,
here is where I complete the word you bring
hissing through the air, here is where I moan
the barrel's cold esophagus, triggering
my tongue's explosives for the rifling I have
inside of me, each twist of the round
spun deeper, because here, Bullet,
here is where the world ends, every time.

From *Here, Bullet*. Copyright ©2005 by Brian Turner.
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Photographed with
permission from publisher

Visions **AND** *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 Sandy Shugart, Valencia's president. He wanted to implement the program 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, alumni and the community. For more information about Visions & Voices and future visiting artists, please visit www.valenciacc.edu/visionsvoices/.

Valencia Arts Dates for 2007-08

All arts events are held at Valencia's East Campus on Econlockhatchee Trail

Music

Admission is free for all music events. For more info, contact 407-582-2332

Fall Strings Concert

December 11, 2007,
7:30pm
Performing Arts Center

Fall Opera Workshop

December 14, 2007,
7:30pm
Black Box Theater

Student Showcase

February 15, 2008,
7:30pm
Performing Arts Center

Spring Choral Concert

April 8, 2008, 7:30pm
Performing Arts Center

Contemporary Concert

April 10, 2008, 7:30pm
Performing Arts Center

Symphonic/ Jazz Concert

April 15, 2008, 7:30pm
Performing Arts Center

Spring Student Recitals

March 5, 12, April 9, 2008,
7:30pm
Performing Arts Center

Spring Opera Workshop

April 25 & 26, 2008,
7:30pm
Black Box Theater

Spring Strings Concert

April 22, 2008, 7:30pm
Performing Arts Center

Spring Arts Festival

February 16, 2008
Times TBA

Theater

Season tickets are available at \$26 for general admission and \$20 for alumni, students, seniors, and Valencia faculty/staff. For more info, contact Theater Box Office: 407-582-2900

The Misanthrope, by Moliere

February 14, 15, 16, 21, 22,
23, 2008, 7:30pm
February 17, 24, 2008,
2:00pm
Black Box Theater

Winner of Valencia's 16th Annual Florida Playwright Competition-World Premier!

March 18, 19, 20, 21, 22,
2008, 7:30pm
Black Box Theater

Free: Student-Directed One-Acts, Program A

April 9, 2008, 1-4 pm
Program B

April 16, 2008 1-4 pm
Black Box Theater

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, by Alan Ball

June 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 2008,
@7:30pm
June 8, 15, 2008, 2:00pm
Black Box Theater

Film

For more info contact the production office: 407-582-2765

13th Annual Film Celebration

TBA
Performing Arts Center
Tickets: \$8 general admission; \$6 students, faculty/staff, alumni and seniors

Dance

Tickets for all dance performances are \$6. For more info contact Theater Box Office: 407-582-2900

Choreographer's Showcase

December 6, 7, 8, 2007,
8:00pm
Black Box Theater



Photo by: Don Burlinson

Kerouac Celebration

American novelist, poet and artist, Jack Kerouac lived in this College Park home during the time in 1957 that he wrote *The Dharma Bums*. On February 23, Valencia will partner with the Kerouac House Project of Orlando, Inc., via a grant from Darden Restaurants, to host a musical and literature festival celebrating Kerouac. Performers include poet Billy Collins, who is known for writing poems that lure readers in with humor only to reveal a profound meaning. This free event will take place at the East Campus Performing Arts Center from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

Valencia Spring Dance Concert

March 28, 29, 2008,
8:00pm
Performing Arts Center

Valencia Dance Theatre Repertory Concert

July 10, 11, 12, 2008,
8:00pm
Black Box Theater

Visual Arts

Admission is free for all visual arts exhibits at the Anita S. Wooten East Campus Gallery. For more information, please contact 407-582-2298.

Selected Fine Arts Faculty Show

November 16 2007-
January 11, 2008
Opening Reception
Friday, November 16, 2008,
6:30-9:00pm

Ricardo Manuel Diaz: A Silent Season

January 25- March 8, 2008
Opening Reception
Friday, January 25, 2008,
6:30-9:00pm

Annual Juried Student Exhibition

April 18- May 16, 2008
Opening Reception and
Awards Friday, April 18,
2008, 6:30- 9:00pm

Photo by: Don Burlinson



Andrew Downey,
Printmaking Instructor

INNER CONNECTION



"Tropical Facade"

—Jackie Otto-Miller, Faculty



"Arctic Embryo"

—Jackie Otto-Miller, Faculty

Hindsight — Alex Copeland, Student

When I was a child I ate lots of carrots
so that I could improve my night vision.
I had dreams of being invincible in flashlight tag
and untouchable in after dark hide and seek.
I would be a neighborhood legend.
I stopped eating carrots when I heard
that too much beta carotene will turn
your skin and eyes orange.
Last week I bought an infrared camera
to finally see in the dark, but there are no more
neighborhood games, I still stumble through
my bedroom at night, and I am known to very
few of my neighbors.

Only with my adult mind do I now see
that having orange eyes and skin is stuff of legends.



"Sfumato" —Rima Jabbur, Faculty

Peculiar — Carmelo Spatazza '07

Abundant oddities line the shelves at the
five-and-dime,
That survives on the corner of Main Street and Vine,
These peculiar objects – in a collection of the bizarre,
"That one used to belong to a witch," says the vendor.
He hands me a glass jar with a shrunken head inside,
Its features distorted through the formaldehyde.

As I leave the shop, I am greeted by a
long-bearded man,
His beard grasps a newspaper,
Allowing him to hold an umbrella in one hand,
And eat a ham and cheese sandwich with the other.
"Good afternoon!" he exclaims in a booming voice,
"Never've seen you around here."

"I'm just visiting," I reply.
"Do you find our town to be pe-culiar?"
"It's interesting."
He guffaws at my observation, "Only interesting?"
"Come with me."
His beard rolls up the paper and guides me to the
street curb.

I look to the left.
I look to the right.
Nothing as far as the eye can see,
Save the single traffic light.

The man checks his watch.
"Twenty seconds, now," he anticipates.
Now I think I see something.
A cloud rolls over the horizon and stops at the corner,
It opens up and we enter.
Strange it seems,
I don't even believe it.

"Unmistakably on-the-dot!" he remarks,
Concerning the arrival of our cloud transport.
We sit on the comfortable cloud seats,
Looking around, other strange folk share the ride.

A woman with three eyes,
A dog meditating in the aisle,
It must be trying to re-align its chi.

A group in the rear spread wings and dart off like flies,
However, the bearded man and I,
We will not reach our destination for a while.

Finally, the cloud bus comes to a stop,
In front of City Hall is where we are dropped.
It is full of characters from this town,
As if they all came out tonight to show me around.

From the mermaids, dodo birds, and man-tigers,
To the Elephant Boy and Zebra Girl,
Not to mention the moose in a suit with his briefcase,
And even the guy just named Earl,
This is indeed a peculiar place.

Audition — Emily Beardsley '07

A woman stalks onto the stage.
A fierce performer shifting her weight
Between pointed feet.
A body like a granite sculpture,
Carved into perfection.
A thin layer of rubber
Tense and stretched across
The faultless architecture of her stony muscles.

She steps forward predatorily.
The creaking of the piano pedal, almost silent,
Explodes in her head
Like a gunshot throwing a racer towards the asphalt.
A monotonous beat erupts between her shins,
Shooting upward through her knees
And into her anxious stomach.
One-Two-Three-Four-
Five-Six-Seven-Eight.
A graying man sits in row D, seat 12.
He watches her, a tree blowing in the wind.
She begins the routine with stiff, flexed legs
And malleable arms waving above her head.

He remembers days of bleeding, blistered feet
And stained ace bandages.
The controversy of wearing a leotard under his
school clothes.
He remembers the pulsing veins in his fists
Steadily walking, head down, in the hallway,
Ignoring shouts of "homo."
And spending afternoons crying by his window.
He remembers loving the blinding light,
A hazy ray from the spots above.
Like an ethereal angel in the balcony.
The rush of every sashay to a blasting Tchaikovsky
Before arthritis attacked
And turned his pirouettes lopsided.
Everything in him wants her to do it right.
To get the part he never could.
He recalls his last audition, retching in the bathroom,
His last chance, but he couldn't ace it.
He no longer had what it took.
He watches her with sad eyes as she finishes.
Her 16 measure masterpiece, self-choreographed.
He is grateful for the strength in her toes,
Roots burrowing into the stage.
He marks her an 8.5 and asks her to come back
tomorrow.

Rock Kills Moon — Scott Stryker, Student

The night was young and we were restless.
The moon hung full, and full of life it was.
The sky grew dark while we grew anxious.
We shall sleep no more.

Bright and round on its beautiful barren canvas
Its soul drove us through the night,
Leading us to our darkened destinations.
We've now become something new
By the killing moon.
It hung and haunted
Calling our names for fun.
Teasing us with torment
And tormenting us with treasures.
The echo followed the bunnyman while
Love and laughter lay dormant.
Rock kills moon while
The seasons of change were blowing hard upon us.

The moon shined wisdom and its wisdom shined
conviction while
Mirrors like water, were left alone and shattered.
Love knocked upon our tainted souls and
A beautiful resurrection exploded through our
precious tired hearts.
We shall sleep no more.



"Amanda at Thirteen"
—Rima Jabbur, Faculty



"Mare and Foal"
—Michael Galletta, Faculty



BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION OF OUR HISTORY

By Sandy Shugart, President

Valencia Community College is celebrating its 40th anniversary this academic year with events and recognitions planned throughout the coming months, including this inaugural edition of *Vitae* magazine.

Later this year, the Valencia Foundation will publish a thoroughly researched and beautifully written history of the college. Throughout the book's development, I've been able to discuss its content with many of the people who were present during the founding of this great institution. This process has given me a deeper appreciation for the college's history. It is a story of adversity overcome by persistent servant leadership and a deeply optimistic vision of the role Valencia can play in the lives of our students and community.

You may not know that Valencia was the last of the 28 two-year colleges chartered in Florida. There had been earlier attempts to create a public "junior" college in Orlando, but they had failed because of serious opposition among some of the leaders in town. Does that surprise you? Who would oppose the creation of a college in town? As it turns out, several important people did.

The city was already home to a private, sectarian junior college called Orlando Junior College (OJC). A number of the "key influentials" in town were concerned that a new, public two-year college would compromise the future of this private institution. Others, however, were equally concerned about OJC's discriminatory admissions policies that prohibited the enrollment of minorities.

A local industry leader, Ed Uhl, vice president of the Martin Company, the large defense contractor now known as the Lockheed-Martin Corporation, offered OJC a substantial grant to provide vocational and technical training for his company. His only stipulation was that OJC abolish its discriminatory admissions practices. Uhl's offer was declined, and as a result, he became an avid supporter of the proposal to create Valencia.

In a sense, the OJC supporters were correct to see a public two-year college as a threat. Their institution no longer exists, while Valencia has grown to be one of the largest in the country. I'll leave it to you to determine if this was "caused" by Valencia

or if the vision of an open-door institution steeped in democratic ideals and designed to serve the whole community was just a better idea.

Even stronger opposition came from Martin Anderson, publisher and owner of the *Orlando Sentinel*. His main concern was that the creation of a new community college would somehow dilute the support for and enrollment in the region's new university, Florida Technological University (FTU), now known as the University of Central Florida. He made a formidable opponent, since, as they say, it's hard to argue in print with someone who buys ink by the barrel.

But Valencia attracted some courageous and persistent champions. Raymer Maguire, Jr., a prominent Orlando attorney, took the lead as chairman of the college's first advisory committee. He received support from many others, most notably Superintendent Orville R. Davis and Chairman Jack Jennings of the Orange County School Board, the body that would have to adopt and support the charter for a new junior college. Important political pressure was provided in support of Valencia's creation by Ed Fallon of the Martin Company and Joseph Brechner of local television station Channel 9. At the state level, the involvement of Lee Henderson, who served as director of the Florida community college system, was significant in getting the college "up and running."

I'll let you read about the public battle over Valencia in the forthcoming history



Lee Henderson, director of the Florida community college system, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for Valencia's West Campus in 1971.

Valencia archive

book. It's quite a story. But there is one more champion I must mention, the young founding president of FTU, Dr. Charles Millican. He made it clear to the public that a new junior college was in no way a threat to his budding university, but rather, an important partner. Without his support, it is doubtful that Valencia would have received its charter so quickly.

So what has history to say to these opponents and champions? Again, the outcome is quite clear. Both Valencia and UCF have flourished. Valencia is the largest producer in the world of associate degree graduates from a two-year college. More than 80 percent of these graduates enroll at UCF. And UCF now has the second largest undergraduate enrollment in the United States, aided by the large number of transfer students from Valencia. In short, rather than competing and harming one another, Valencia and UCF represent the most powerful and effective partnership for students in all of American higher education. How's that for history vindicating the vision of our founders?

As this year progresses, we'll be sharing more details on our history, here and

elsewhere. I encourage you to learn more. Meanwhile, I want to point out two particularly important lessons gleaned from this history.

First, the vision that energized our founders and the principles that girded that vision are as valid today as ever in that everyone has the power to learn; education is the single most important assurance of democracy; opportunity works like almost nothing else can; our students, if we set high expectations, have the power to meet and exceed them; higher education access and quality are compatible goals; the most open institution can also be among the best; and a great faculty and staff is the beginning of a great learning experience for our students.

Second, great institutions don't just happen; they are intentionally and carefully built. Personal investment and sacrifice is required. I am continually moved by the importance of the individual contributions of many, many people to founding, building, and nourishing Valencia. None of the founders I mentioned had anything to gain personally from the creation of Valencia, but they were willing to suffer public controversy and invest thousands of hours



Dr. Charles Millican, founding president of FTU, with former president Nixon.

of personal time to bring the vision to fruition. As you will see in the history book, this has been true at every level and in every era of Valencia's history.

Brilliant faculty went the extra mile to create Valencia's Interdisciplinary Studies and Honors programs. Faculty, staff and administrators have made countless sacrifices to build the great nursing and allied health programs for which we are so well known. And the hospitals and healthcare organizations in our community have invested themselves just as heavily. The same can be said about our arts programs, our engineering programs, international studies, all of our learning support programs, etc. People, willing to serve and sacrifice, make all these things happen.

As alumni of this great institution, I want to ask you, will people look back 40 years from now and be as grateful to you as we all are to our founders and builders? What investment will you make in Valencia's future, you who are in the best position to know the value of this institution? Whether it's time, talent or treasure, here is the best reason to get involved. As a graduate of Valencia, one who benefited from its history, you are the steward of its future. ■



Valencia's first Advisory Committee: (Left to right) Dean Engstrom, Ed Fallon, Albert Craig, Virginia Bryan, Reverend S. M. Peck, Raymer F. Maguire Jr.

VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ORLANDO MAGIC NIGHT



vs.



Orlando Magic vs. New Jersey Nets
Wednesday, February 6th, 2008
7:00 p.m., Amway Arena

TICKETS ONLY \$20

Terrace Reception (\$10 option)
Post-Game On-Court Event
Valencia Recognition Presentation

To register or purchase tickets contact Tara Hornsby
at: 407-916-2931 or thornsby@orlandomagic.com

The reception will be held on the suite-level terrace
overlooking beautiful downtown Orlando. Meet at 5:30
p.m. on the east side the Amway Arena where you will be
escorted through the V.I.P. entrance to the reception area.

ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION



VALENCIA



VALENCIA 40TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD

◆ CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ◆

As Valencia Community College celebrates its 40th anniversary, we want to recognize the people who have helped us get this far—and it's up to you to tell us who they are! We are currently accepting nominations for recipients of our prestigious 40th Anniversary Award. Forty nominees, ten from each decade, will be selected.

Please go to valenicacc.edu/40years

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may require an additional admission process.)



Ethiopia From Ethiopia

By Lori Sunday '88

Explore cultural differences and international perspectives as we interview Valencia students and alumni from around the world. In this issue we are talking with Ethiopia Dorena from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She enrolled at Valencia in January 2007.

Why did you choose to attend school in the U.S.?

My father's friend, who was born in Ethiopia, now lives in Orlando. He came back to Ethiopia to visit my father after 32 years and told my family I could get a better education in the U.S. It is not easy to get accepted into a university in Ethiopia. Private colleges are very expensive.

Of all the schools in the U.S., why did you choose Valencia?

"It's a better place to start." I really believe this slogan! I live with my father's friend's mother-in-law. I love her – I call her Granny. We pray together often.

What are your plans once you graduate from Valencia?

I would like to transfer to UCF – complete a bachelor's degree, master's degree and possibly a doctorate to eventually go back to Ethiopia and become a child psychologist who works with autistic children. Before I came to Valencia, I worked with autistic children in my country and really enjoyed it.

What is it like to live in Ethiopia?

The weather is very similar to Orlando, but a little colder. There is no snow. My home is in the capital of Ethiopia – Addis Ababa. I am a Christian-Baptist – Ethiopia is mostly Orthodox. Unlike the U.S., where people live independently, in Ethiopia we have extended families living together (grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren).



Ethiopia Dorena

Photo by: Don Burlinson

What kind of adjustments did you have to make when you came to the U.S.?

The food is totally different in the U.S. than Ethiopia – our food is very spicy and all of our food is organic, not processed.

One of the hardest things to get used to was the financial challenges. My family and I worked very hard to get money for me to attend. \$100 is worth 800 Birr in Ethiopia, so money goes much farther in my country.

I miss my family and friends back home but now have made a lot of friends – most of them at Valencia.

What's the difference between college in Ethiopia and the U.S.?

There are less resources in universities in Ethiopia such as reference books and computers. It's not uncommon to wait two hours at a university to use a computer. There's also a slower connection there. University life in Ethiopia is more strict and proper. It's easier to learn here in the U.S. There's more of a relaxed atmosphere in the classroom at Valencia.

**Fun Facts
About
Ethiopia**



Instructors here want you to ask questions if you don't understand. In Ethiopia, we do not feel comfortable asking instructors questions.

How are the students in the U.S. different from those in Ethiopia?

Students in the U.S. can dress and look any way they want. In my country no body piercings are allowed, or different colored hair. Only proper clothing is accepted or students are not allowed to attend school.

What challenges do you face as a foreign student?

Adjusting to the culture here. It's the same as if someone comes to Ethiopia – culture is different. Money is always a challenge – I can only work 20 hours per week here.

What do you want American students to know about Ethiopia?

Many people think Ethiopia is a poor country and that bad things happen there. A Valencia student once asked me, "Did you eat food in Ethiopia?" I said, "I didn't eat food, I ate grass!" I was just kidding him, but it was such a silly question to me. Because of the commercials on TV, people think we are starving in Ethiopia. Some regions are very poor but not my city. People in Ethiopia are very loving and respectful of others and, overall, crime is very low.

If I get the chance, I would like to share knowledge about Ethiopia with American students.

I'm very proud of my country and would like students from here to go to Ethiopia to visit and see what it's all about.

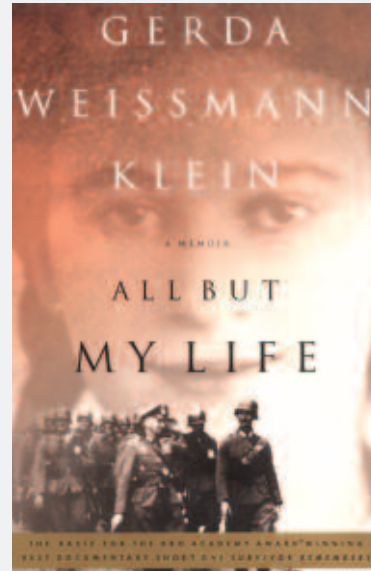
The Place

- The Ethiopian calendar, called the "Julian" calendar, is seven years behind the U.S. calendar. Ethiopia just celebrated the millennium on September 12, 2007. The Julian calendar consists of 13 months – the last month of the year only has six days.
- There are more than 99 languages in Ethiopia.
- Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee.

The Person

- Ethiopia knows three languages.
- She is the middle child between an older and younger brother.
- Her father named her Ethiopia because of his love for his country.

Jacket design by Rodrigo Corral from ALL BUT MY LIFE by Gerda Weissmann Klein. Jacket design copyright (c) 1995 by Rodrigo Corral. Reprinted by permission of Hill and Wang, a division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, LLC. www.fsgbooks.com



All But My Life by Gerda Weissman Klein

Reviewed By Professor Richard A. Gair

All But My Life is a nonfiction historical memoir set in 1939-1945, during World War II and the Nazi Holocaust. A beautiful story of a young girl coming of age and struggling to survive in a world gone mad, it will have many readers shedding some tears. For anyone interested in the Holocaust and taking a trip to see Holocaust sites such as Auschwitz, this book will leave a lasting impression on your heart.

Gerda's story starts in Bielitz, Poland, where she and her family grew up. She tells of her early life in Poland and how it drastically changed after the Nazis invaded. Like many other families, Gerda's was forced out of their home and into a ghetto where they were confined under the watchful eyes of the Nazis. Although the events described in this book take place during the Holocaust, Gerda's story is one of love, compassion and hope. Throughout all the horrors she faced, she was still able to focus on the positive aspects of her life and maintain an optimistic outlook.



Mysore, India

Morguefile.com

Study Abroad in 2008

By Thera Woodard and Ann Puyana

Would you like to take a relaxing gondola ride in Venice? Or study indigenous plants in the rainforests of South America? Or teach children in the Dominican Republic? Well, get your passport ready and join Valencia on one of our upcoming trips. Each year professors in humanities and other disciplines independently organize non-credit cultural tours abroad. Students, faculty, alumni and the community are welcome to join these tours as a relatively inexpensive, structured way to visit other countries.

We are also thrilled to announce the opening of our newly-established Study Abroad and Global Exchange (SAGE) center, which offers faculty-led study abroad programs and international service-learning opportunities for course credit. Here's a peek of the 2008 summer offerings.

Field Biology in India – August 2008

Professor Steve Myers is taking his biology students to India to study with renowned conservationist Rom Whitaker, who runs India's largest crocodile conservation center. "From the moment the students step off the plane, they will be immersed in a different culture, a different way of life," remarked Myers. On a trip to India last year, the students had "no problem putting down utensils and eating with their hands," and by the end of the trip "the male students were wearing a lungi, the traditional Indian garb, and the female students were sporting Mehendi tattoos on their hands." This credit-bearing study is only open to students enrolled in Biology PCB2340L.

Cultivating Creativity in the Dominican Republic – August 2008

Valencia and the Mission Office of the Catholic Diocese of Orlando are collaborating on a teaching project in La Cucarita. Participants will work with school children daily to spark and nourish their creativity through activities such as art, music and dance. There is also a great need to teach the children English. This opportunity is open to any Valencia student desiring to help fulfill dreams while learning about another culture.

Additional information about cultural tours and study abroad opportunities may be found on the SAGE Web site.

<http://www.valenciacc.edu/international/exchange/>



Oftentimes, the cost of participating in study abroad programs can pose a problem for students, especially since it means taking time off work and a loss of income while gone. If you wish to help support these life-changing experiences for students, please visit the Valencia Foundation Web site www.valencia.org and earmark your donation for study abroad scholarships.

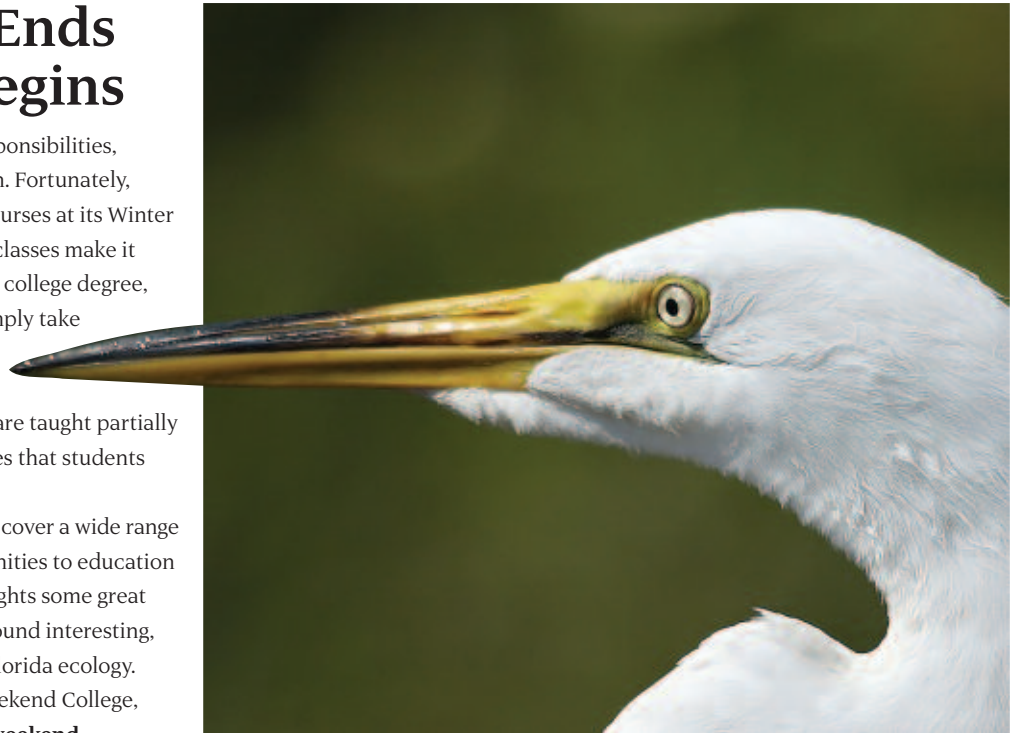
Where Work Ends & Learning Begins

Between work and personal responsibilities, finding time for school can be tough. Fortunately, Valencia offers Weekend College courses at its Winter Park Campus. Friday and Saturday classes make it convenient to earn credits toward a college degree, renew a teacher certification, or simply take a course for personal enrichment.

Valencia's Weekend College includes many hybrid courses that are taught partially online, reducing the number of times that students must meet in the classroom.

While Weekend College courses cover a wide range of subjects, from English and humanities to education and mathematics, this article highlights some great biology courses. Not only do they sound interesting, they focus on a relevant subject – Florida ecology.

For more information about Weekend College, please visit www.valenciac.edu/weekend.



Egret

Morguefile.com

Florida Birds

This is an experiential course where students spend most of their class time outdoors. It is designed to increase awareness of Florida's birds, their habitats, behavior, and current issues that affect their populations. Some of the topics included are: bird identification techniques, tips on using field guides and local checklists, binocular basics, basic birding principles, common backyard birds, shorebirds, ecology of birds, migration and an introduction to birding by ear. The class will go on field trips to Leu Gardens and the Audubon Bird of Prey Center.

Central Florida Habitat

This course will teach students to recognize common species of local plants and animals. The student will also acquire an understanding of basic characteristics of the organisms studied and will use keys and guides in the identification of local herbaceous and woody plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects. Local habitats and habitat specificity will also be emphasized. Most of the class time is spent outdoors and may require field trips to local parks and habitats.

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 a variety of habitats. Topics include energy flow through food chains, environmental modeling and general ecology. Prior experience is not required to take the course but it is recommended that students have some prior exposure to general biology topics. The class requires an additional education fee for a field trip to Sea World.



Bald Cypress

Morguefile.com



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Ingredients:

4 tilapia fish fillets
1 ounce flour
4 tablespoons butter, clarified
salt and pepper, to taste
1 red pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/4 cup eggplant, chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
2 tablespoons onion, chopped
2 tablespoons zucchini, chopped
2 tablespoons summer squash, chopped
1 cup tomato sauce
1 tablespoon green pepper, chopped
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning

Pan-Sautéed Tilapia with Ratatouille, and Roasted Red Pepper Puree By Chef Ken Bourgoin

1. To prepare the ratatouille: Heat a sauté pan on high heat and add 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Sauté the garlic and onion. Add Italian seasoning, green pepper and tomato sauce. Turn heat down and simmer for 15 minutes. Add zucchini and summer squash at the end and reserve in a warmer. Salt and pepper to taste.
2. To prepare the roast pepper puree: Cut red pepper in half. Oil the outside and place skin side up in the oven on a half sheet pan. When starting to brown, place in a bag to cool. Take out of bag and remove skin. Place in blender and puree.
3. To prepare the fish: Salt, pepper and flour fish fillets. Heat a medium-sized pan on high heat with 2 tablespoons of oil and sauté fish until golden brown.
4. To serve: Take a 2 inch ring and place in the center of the plate. Fill ring half way with ratatouille at an angle. Remove ring, place fish on top of ratatouille and make a circle of red pepper puree around the plate. Serve.



Photos by: Don Burlinson

Culinary Team Dices the Competition

You've probably heard the expression, "too many cooks in the kitchen." Well, Valencia's culinary team must have just the right number. The five-member team recently took home the bronze in the Florida State Culinary Competition in September. Judged on the categories of taste, color, texture and mis en place (everything in its place), the team raced against the clock to create a pan-sautéed tilapia and ratatouille dish (see recipe above). The teams' next competition, which is open to the public, takes place on January 26 at First Coast Technical College in St. Augustine. Don't miss your chance to attend a live battle of the chefs!



Team Valencia: (From left to right) Brittany Hatch, Nick Walker, Diana Saulibio, Sandra Bobalik, Brian Butler (not pictured), Alan Dodes (not pictured)

Internship and Placement Office Offers 24/7 Job Resource Service

By Barbara Frazier

Yes, it really is possible to find, change or redefine your life's work. If you find yourself wishing you had the time to explore new job and career opportunities, JobCatch (College Central Network), managed by Valencia's Internship Placement Office may be for you. (It provides a free, electronic way for alumni and students to search for jobs 24/7.) By registering and submitting a résumé online, participants have the ability to obtain a confidential, user-friendly, direct connection to full-time, part-time, internship, and volunteer positions nationwide. JobCatch is also a great resource for employers. Approved employers are able to post job openings and search for qualified applicants with specific skills.

Visit www.collegecentral.com/valencia to explore your career possibilities.

For Employers

- Post job openings targeted to Valencia Community College students and alumni
- Search posted résumés

For Jobseekers

- Search for jobs nationwide
- Post and update approved résumés so they can be submitted online in response to posted jobs, as well as be seen by potential employers
- Review your job search history
- Receive E-mails about career services and job-related topics

The Do's & Don'ts of Résumé Development

The West Campus Career Center offers the following tips to create an effective résumé and increase your chances of landing that perfect job.

Be concise

Your résumé should be an outline of your work experiences (including internships and volunteering), qualifications and education. Use short phrases or bullets to highlight key points and save the details for your cover letter and/or interview. Limit your résumé to one or two pages.

Target résumé to career field

If you plan to apply for positions in different career fields, tailor your résumé for each one. Use an appropriate objective and only list skills pertinent to that specific field. It's not unusual to have two or three résumés on hand, each targeted to a different career field.

Use action verbs

Use present-tense action and skill verbs such as: managing, coordinating, creating, selling, etc. This helps emphasize your accomplishments rather than passively listing your job duties.

Don'ts

Don't use high school information

High school information is ancient history to recruiters. Stick to career-related and education-related accomplishments during college.

Don't overlook extracurricular and volunteer experiences

Experience gained during volunteer work and participation in campus or community organizations is valid. Valuable transferable skills can be learned and practiced through volunteer and extracurricular experiences.

Don't list references on résumé

References should only be provided on request. Inform your references each time you submit their contact information to an employer. Make sure those you list as references have current copies of your résumé so that they can speak knowledgeably on your behalf.



Workforce Development

By Falecia Williams and Lesena Jones

Valencia has more than 100 different Workforce Development programs that provide the most direct path to a career through the Associate in Science Degree and Certificate programs. These programs are all geared toward exciting career opportunities and are designed to prepare students for the fastest-growing jobs in our region.

To address the rising needs of the health services industry in Florida, Valencia was selected by the State of Florida & Workforce Florida, Inc. in February 2007 to provide a unified solution for the shortage of health care providers. As a result, Valencia launched the "Employ Florida Banner Center for Health Sciences."

The Banner Center has partnered with business/industry leaders, community colleges, universities, and workforce development boards. Together they will provide statewide direction for continued development and the communication of education and training programs/courses to address the evolving needs of Florida's health care industry.

Major accomplishments since February 2007 include: curriculum development, boot camp training for nursing faculty and simulation nursing training for incumbent workers. In May a statewide



Students of Valencia's Cardiovascular Technology Program

Photo by: Don Burlinson

Nursing Summit was held where more than 150 educators and industry leaders came together to explore best practices in education, simulation, technology and community partnerships.

Future plans include hosting the Florida Summit on Health Sciences Education on April 10 and 11, 2008 at the Caribe Royal Orlando. The summit will serve as a forum for discussing issues shaping the educational goals, clinical objectives and the career landscape of allied health professionals.

Did you know?

Most new jobs in Central Florida are expected to be in professional and business services, leisure and hospitality services, education and health services.

93% of Valencia's A.S./A.A.S. degree graduates are placed in jobs after graduation, earning average starting salaries of approximately \$37,000, twice as much as high school graduates.

Continuing Education for Health Professions By Carol Millenson

Valencia's Continuing Education for Health Professionals has been carrying on the college's long-standing reputation for providing continuing education and licensure renewal for many health professions.

In July 2007, the program was moved under Valencia's Division of Health Sciences. This transition has allowed for a synergy between courses offered for Associate in Science degree programs and courses offered for professionals. This also means that the college can offer more opportunities for health professionals.

By early 2008, Valencia anticipates becoming an American Heart Association Center. This will enable

the college to serve students, faculty and local health providers who require Basic Life Support certification. In January 2008, the college will launch the next offering of online nurse refresher/remediation courses to meet the needs of those re-entering the field or preparing for the NCLEX-RN exam.

It is due to such developments that health professionals have come to rely on Valencia to incorporate the most up-to-date regulatory requirements, health research and industry trends into the development and delivery of its continuing education programs.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS



VALENCIA

VALENCIA NEWS



Professor Charles Killinger

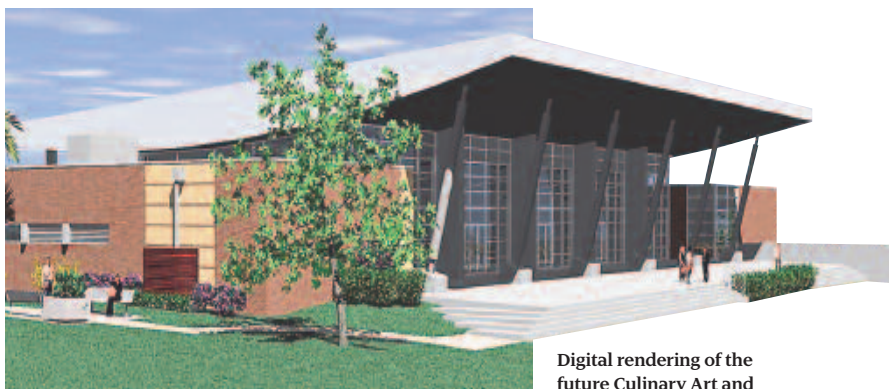
Photo by: Don Burlinson

Charles Killinger, a history professor from Valencia's West Campus, was a guest speaker of the Istituto Gaetano Salvemini in Torino, Italy in October 2007, where he presented his paper entitled "Salvemini, gli intellettuali Americani, la politica Americana" (Salvemini, American Intellectuals, and American Politics). The meeting was the first in a year-long series celebrating the lives and careers of Italian victims of Fascist repression. The same month, Killinger presented a paper at Amherst College as part of a symposium on the career and politics of Renato Poggioli, a political activist, renowned expert in comparative literature and father of Sylvia Poggioli (senior European correspondent for National Public Radio). Following the fall 2007 semester, Killinger retired from Valencia after 37 years with the college.

Valencia experienced record enrollment rates for the fall of 2007. Full-time enrollment grew almost 11 percent, resulting in nearly 33,000 students during the fall semester. Despite such drastic growth, the college was able to retain an average class size below 24 students.

Valencia Foundation has purchased \$100,000 in expired Take Stock in Children contracts. Take Stock in Children is a program that helps low-income children in Florida succeed by providing college and vocational scholarships, volunteer mentors, student advocates/case managers, tutoring, early intervention and long-term support. For more information, please visit www.takestockinchildren.com.

Valencia is currently accepting nominations for recipients of its prestigious 40th Anniversary Award. Forty nominees, ten from each decade, will be presented with this award at the Valencia Foundation's Taste for Learning event at the Rosen Shingle Creek on April 12, 2008. To make a nomination, please visit www.valenciacc.edu/40years.



Digital rendering of the future Culinary Art and Conference Center

In January 2008, Valencia will begin construction on its new Culinary Art and Conference Center on the West Campus. The building area is approximately 17,000 square feet and the design includes a commercial kitchen for the Culinary Program, a 40-seat executive dining room, a 320-seat assembly area, and conference registration area.

Valencia's Board of Trustees voted to approve the submission by Susan Kelley, co-chair of the College Planning Council, of the college's new statements of vision, values and mission, strategic issues, "Big Hairy Audacious Goals," and strategic goals for 2008-2013.





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TURNS OUT THE PACK MENTALITY CAN BE A GOOD THING.

Great things happen when a group of people decide to make a difference. Join the pack as those of all ages and physical abilities come together for the Alumni Association's major fundraising event—the 3rd Annual Valencia 5K Run, Walk & Roll! Participants and guests can enjoy refreshments, children's arts and crafts activities, and post-race health screenings and massages. All proceeds go toward scholarships and other assistance for Valencia students.



**RUN, WALK & ROLL
FEBRUARY 3, 2008**

Valencia's West Campus

1800 S. Kirkman Rd., Orlando, Florida

6:45 a.m. Registration opens

7:30 a.m. Race begins

Kids Fun Run following the race (free)

To register visit

valenciacc.edu/alumni



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