

VITAE

CONNECTING
VALENCIA
ALUMNI

A close-up photograph of a tall, clear glass filled with bright orange juice. Two clear plastic straws are inserted into the glass, angled towards the left and right. The background is blurred, showing a person in a blue shirt and another in a purple shirt, suggesting a social gathering. A plate with food is also visible in the lower right background.

IN IT TOGETHER
Community Partnerships

A Message From The President of The Alumni Association, Lisa Lovell

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

Every day Valencia alumni actively reach out in service to others, playing an important role in making their communities and the world a better place. Their unique contributions often inspire, causing a chain reaction as their good deeds expand exponentially. As a result, Valencia's reach has an enormous positive impact not just in Central Florida but throughout the world. As an alumna and president of the Valencia Alumni Association, nothing could make me prouder.

Valencia does more than educate students. It helps them achieve their personal and professional dreams and create the life they want for themselves and their families.

The Alumni Association continues Valencia's tradition of transforming lives by providing mentoring and networking opportunities and creating a sense of community among our alumni. Volunteerism is also highly encouraged; it rewards not only the recipients, but the volunteer and the community as well. I encourage you to visit our Web site to explore the many opportunities available to you.

I am sure you will be as uplifted and inspired by the stories included in this edition of *Vitae* as I am.



All the best,



Lisa A. Lovell, MPA, MBA, '81, '83
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.

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 www.valenciacc.edu/alumni to submit your information to be featured in the *Class Notes* section.

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.



14



18



24

6 Good Things Come in 3’s

Valencia faculty and staff make a difference in the community.

18 Valencia at 40 and Beyond

A 1970 grad and retired employee reflects on Valencia’s history within the community.

22 Driven to Succeed

Valencia student Heather Coiro shows exceptional civic leadership.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

News from the Alumni Association

2 Events, Awards and Scholarships

EVENTS SAMPLER

Upcoming Valencia events

8 Visions & Voices

9 Valencia Arts Events

IN THE MIX

What’s happening in the community

10 Cool Things to Do This Summer

11 Monthly Community Calendar

12 Class Notes

INNER CONNECTION

Showcasing artistic talent from Valencia staff, students and alumni

14 Team Art—The Making of a Play

LIFELONG LEARNING

Personal enrichment opportunities

24 International Perspective—Heng Chai Lai

25 Book Lovers

26 Where Work Ends and Learning Begins

28 Connecting Flights

29 In the Kitchen

SWEET SUCCESS

Career advice and industry spotlights

30 Popular Classes Today, Popular Jobs Tomorrow

31 Online Job Search

32 VALENCIA NEWS

ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION



VALENCIA

Valencia 5K Continues Its Roll

More than 200 athletes participated in the 3rd Annual Valencia Run, Walk & Roll on Valencia's West Campus on Feb. 3, 2008. The many members, volunteers and community partners of the Valencia Alumni Association collaborated once again to make the continued growth and success of this annual event possible. The \$10,000 raised at the event will be used to build up the Association's scholarships for students. The newly endowed Eileen B. Stana Scholarship will be available for award next year for students with special needs.

Eileen Stana has a rich history with Valencia Community College that began as a student with special needs.

She graduated as Valencia's Distinguished Graduate 2000-2001, served as a member of the Valencia Alumni Association Board of Directors, chaired the Scholarship Committee from that time until 2005, and continues to volunteer her time and expertise to support Valencia and its students in many ways. Stana graduated from the University of Central Florida this year and was recently awarded Student Social Worker of the Year for Central Florida.

SAVE THE DATE!

4th Annual Valencia 5K Walk, Run & Roll
Sunday, March 1, 2009
Valencia's West Campus

Valencia Alumni Association Annual Meeting

All members are invited to attend this meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. on Valencia's West Campus in the Health Sciences Building (HSB) Room 105.

Agenda:

- Meet the Association's Board of Directors
- Confirm officers for 2008-2009
- Presentation of Association's Annual Report 2007-2008
- Preview of future plans

Please RSVP to alumni@valenciacc.edu and include your full name and preferred email address, or call 407-582-2946.

Association Outings

Check the Alumni Association's Web site for future alumni gatherings and get-togethers.

www.valenciacc.edu/alumni



Valencia-Orlando Magic Night
Feb. 6, 2008

Providing opportunities for educational growth

Mike Ruiz



Success Story Mike Ruiz, '03 by Ilyse Kusnetz

Mike Ruiz faced a dilemma when he first applied to Valencia. Being a single, working parent, he could not afford to pay for school, yet he made too much money to qualify for financial aid.

With guidance from Patti Riva of Winter Park Campus, he found assistance through a grant-funded program for single parents and displaced homemakers at Valencia.

"If not for the program and the monies that paid for my schooling, I would not have been able to attend," Ruiz said. "Patti Riva played a tremendous part in my educational career."

While Valencia was able to provide Ruiz the financial support that he needed to attend school, it was his wife, Miriam, who provided him the encouragement and emotional support that he needed. They were married for seven years before she passed away from lung cancer.

"My wife, Miriam, the most incredible woman that I ever had the pleasure of knowing, believed that I was cheating myself of a better life for not attending college," Ruiz said. "Her believing in me was all I needed to go after that degree, even though there were times I wanted to give up."

The father of three sons, Ruiz has found himself to be a single parent once again. He says that this time though, thanks to his education, he has a job that allows him to support his family without worrying about how he'll make it through the month.

Ruiz graduated from Valencia's Information Technology A.S. degree program in 2003 and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology from The University of Phoenix. He now works for Lockheed Martin as a computer systems security analyst.

From High School to Valencia to UCF

The Mayor Richard T. Crotty - Valencia - UCF Two Plus Two Scholarship is a partnership between the Valencia and UCF Alumni Associations, and their shared alumnus Mayor Richard T. Crotty. The total value of this scholarship to recipients is \$4,000. The number of awards each year varies and is dependent on funds available for award. It is available to students from two categories at important stages in their educational journeys.

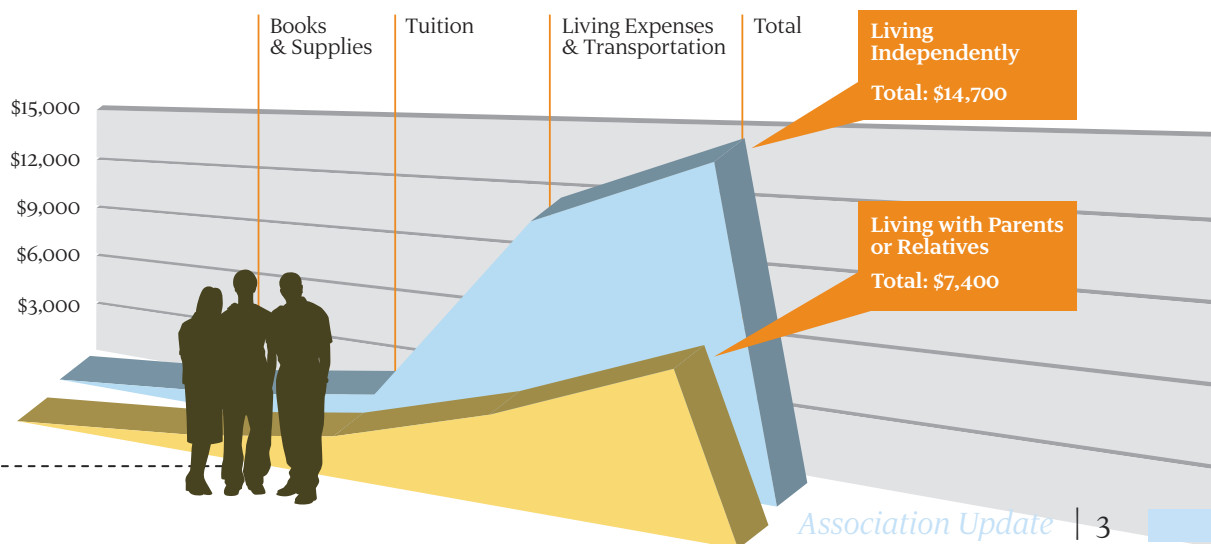
The first is offered to outstanding graduating Valencia students and provides financial assistance toward their pursuit of a bachelor's degree at the University of Central Florida. Recipients this year are **Marlaine Monroig, '08** and **John W. Spencer, '08**.

The second category is open to students graduating from high schools in Orange and Osceola counties, entering Valencia with the intent of continuing on to earn a bachelor's degree at UCF. Each high school principal in Orange and Osceola counties is invited to nominate one student each year for the Two Plus Two Scholarship. This year's recipients were not available at the time of printing this edition of *Vitae*, but will be posted on the Alumni Association's Web site.

Average* costs of attendance for a full-time, in-state student during the '07-08 school year:

* Average expenses are estimated based on local cost of living information for use in calculating financial aid eligibility. Individual expenses will vary based on choice of lifestyle and living arrangements.

Disclaimer:
The Financial Aid Services Office has taken care to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the information contained in this publication. However, contents are subject to change without notice because of changing federal, state or institutional policies. All financial aid awards are contingent upon availability of funds and the student's final eligibility determination.



Sonia Vega-Ruiz Named Distinguished Graduate

Inspirational attitude and academic excellence have earned Sonia Vega-Ruiz the honor of being named the 2007-08 Distinguished Graduate by the Valencia Alumni Association. Vega-Ruiz delivered the college's commencement speech on May 3 at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee, and will be awarded \$1,000 at the Alumni Achievers Reception on June 11.

A "non-traditional student" pursuing a career in nursing, Vega-Ruiz is married and the mother of four children. She tended to the special health care needs of her family while also attending school full time. Vega-Ruiz feels that much can be learned from adversity, and she uses life's challenges as motivation to work toward her goals.

"A first-generation college student, Vega-Ruiz is driven to succeed by her desire to provide a secure and stable life for her family and improve the world around her," said Dr. Ruth Prather, provost of East and Winter Park campuses.

At Valencia, Vega-Ruiz excelled in academics and leadership while juggling her active involvement in her children's schooling and extra curricular activities. She prides herself in teaching them that they too must make a difference in their communities.

As the president of the Valencia Nursing Student Association, Vega-Ruiz has led many community service initiatives including food drives, clothing drives and the distribution of flu shots. She also



Sonia Vega-Ruiz, left, tutoring another student.

donates her time as a volunteer tutor, helping other nursing students develop their clinical skills.

With a 3.85 GPA, Vega-Ruiz has been named to the National Dean's List and Valencia's President's List every year since 2003, and was also in the Honors Program. She was named to Who's Who in Community Colleges for 2005-06, was on the Florida All-State Academic Team in 2006, and is a two-time recipient of the Coca-Cola Scholarship Award. As President of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, she mentored other students who needed support.

Vega-Ruiz graduated with Honors from Valencia with an Associate in Science degree in registered nursing and plans to become a nurse practitioner. This is her second degree from Valencia, having already received her Associate in Arts general studies degree with Honors in 2006.

Alumni Association Scholarships and Awards Recipients

Alumni Spring 2008 Scholarship

Eloisa W. Centeno
Lauren E. Ferrara
Trecia A. Hunter
Paula M. Johnson
Kim Marie Johnston
Christian R. Pinto Rey
Aidybert Silva-Ortiz
Kimberly A. Vagelakos

Roger G. Keyes Scholarship

Gregory A. Prado

Rosita N. Martinez Scholarship

Amanda Velazquez
Ginette Pena

2008 Distinguished Graduate

Sonia Vega-Ruiz

2008 Distinguished Graduate Finalists

Jereme L. Ford
Corey L. Hamilton
James Andrew Hernández
John W. Spencer

Alumni 2007 Annual Scholarships:

Charlie Edwards Scholarship
Ekaterina G. Duffy

David F. Collier Memorial Scholarship

Miguel A. Ubiles

Florence E. & Andrea Jasica Scholarship

Amanda Botero
John W. Spencer
Stacey J. Wolfcale

Lula Crosby Keyes Scholarship

Sara Lubus-Centeno
Kamaria S. Rogers

Betty House Palmer Scholarship

Shanay J. Cogdell
Andre M. Daley
Bethaney L. Thomas
Amanda S. Vocks

Eddie Coleman WAVATRON Scholarship

Franklin Olistin

Alumni Fall 2007 Scholarship

Eloisa W. Centeno
Antonio J. Hori
Anrea Mujica
Mohammed Patel
John W. Spencer
Miguel A. Ubiles



Ever wonder what the folks who award the scholarships at Valencia want to see? In addition to these tips, we recommend a visit to FinAid.com and FastWeb.com for other scholarship resources.

"Open-door admission only works when students have the resources to pay for tuition, books and time away from paid employment. Many Valencia students work more than one low-wage job, often without benefits, while raising children and actively volunteering in their churches and communities. The only way they can break a family cycle of dead-end jobs is if we provide scholarships that allow them access to college. Our donors open the door to learning and new career opportunities."

– **Geraldine Gallagher**, CFRE,
President and CEO,
Valencia Foundation

1 Don't make assumptions. When looking for scholarships, also apply for federal financial aid. Even if you think you don't qualify, you may be eligible for other types of resources. To apply, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

2 Apply only if you are eligible. Read all the scholarship requirements and directions carefully, and make sure that you are eligible before you send in your application. Your application will not be considered if you are not qualified to apply.

3 Write an accomplishments résumé. Make a list of all your accomplishments. This will help you identify your strengths and prepare a better application. Don't forget to include work you have done as a volunteer in addition to jobs or internships where you were paid. Give a copy of the résumé to the people who are writing letters of recommendation for you. They will be able to work some of the pieces into their letters, helping to highlight your character.

4 Watch deadlines. Applications are often required to be received by the due date. You are responsible for making sure all parts of the application arrive on time. This includes supporting materials, such as letters of recommendation and transcripts. So make sure everyone who is contributing to your application has enough lead-time.

5 Check and check again. Use a checklist to make sure that every piece of the application packet is included. Proofread the entire application carefully. Ask someone else to proofread it as well.

THE DIRECT CONNECT TO UCF GUARANTEED ENTRY

Promise:

It's true.

Thanks to DirectConnect to UCF, all students and graduates of Valencia have exclusive access to UCF.*

More DirectConnect to UCF benefits include:

- Accelerated admissions to UCF
- Convenient classroom locations
- Enhanced academic advising
- Small class sizes
- Best faculty in the business
- More bang for your buck

For more information, please call **407.582.5500**

www.directconnecttoucf.com



Stands For Opportunity

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

VALENCIA



*Consistent with university policy. (Limited access and restricted access programs may require an additional admission process.)



Good Things Come in 3's

Valencia faculty and staff serve the community every day by helping the college to carry out its mission.

But there are many who go above and beyond their job descriptions to promote education and improve our community. Read on as *Vitae* interviews three of these people about their commitment to make a difference.

Chris Klinger

Chris Klinger is the dean of students on Valencia's Osceola Campus. While not at work, Klinger continues to be very involved in education, working to remove educational barriers. He is a chairperson on Valencia's Scholarship Committee and was a past chair for Take Stock in Children in Osceola County. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Education Foundation of Osceola County and on the Teen Leadership Committee for Community Vision.

Q: In what ways does your career in education overlap with your work in the community?

In every way. My daily work at Valencia enables me to keep up on changes and best practices in education and information regarding financial aid. My work in the community keeps me abreast of the community needs and barriers facing Osceola County residents.

Q: What is your motivation for being so active within the community?

The need for education in today's world is enormous. The more individuals that can overcome educational barriers, the more it will help to strengthen our community. I feel very strongly that an investment of time in your local community will come back to you several folds.

Q: What are the most significant issues facing our community? How do you feel they can be overcome?

The most significant issues facing our community are education and housing. In order for our community to grow and thrive, we need a strong educational system.

Q: Looking forward, what is your vision for our community?

Equal access to education for all members of our community. This will include A-rated schools, pre- and post-school programs, and access to all types of higher education.

Q: What would your advice be to anyone who was interested in getting involved in community service but was unsure of where to start?

Contact either Community Vision (www.communityvision.org) or the Education Foundation in Osceola County (www.foundationosceola.org) for

additional information. Open the phonebook and start making calls!

Susie Forehand

Susie Forehand is a nursing professor on Valencia's West Campus who has been working with the college for more than 30 years. Outside of work, she spends much of her time doing health education in local schools and in the community. She is also very involved with her church and her homeowner's association. On April 15, Forehand was honored as a distinguished community leader at the National Hook-Up for Black Women. She was first honored for her contributions to the community by Valencia in 1984.

Q: What type of health education do you provide to the community?

I host a health fair every year in the community of Winter Park, through my church. I work with high schools – I go over and provide health education and seminars. Usually I work with Colonial High School, with the teenagers who are in specialty classes. I participate in Teach In every year. I also go out to the elementary schools and teach young girls about teen pregnancy.

Q: Why do you feel compelled to serve the community?

Because I have a philosophy that if you've been blessed enough to be where I am, then those behind me deserve to be helped.

Q: Which community efforts have you been most proud to contribute to? Why?

I was on the Board for Health Care Center for the Homeless but I wanted to actually work with them, so I went out into the woods and provided health education to the people out there. Even though I was on the board for a little while, I was most proud because of my work with the homeless. I like to work with people less fortunate than myself.

Q: What do you have to say to people who feel that they are unable to make a significant difference within their community?

I would tell anyone that, yes, one person can make a difference. I always say if I can do it anyone can. We might not be able to all reach the same rung on the ladder but at least we can do something. It starts with one person and then it becomes two and it grows from there.

Nicholle Trapp

Nicholle Trapp is a student services specialist in the Answer Center on Valencia's East Campus. Outside of her job responsibilities, she is still dedicated to serving Valencia students and staff. She is active in the Career Staff Council, serves as a

Q: How do you find the balance between work, home, family, church and community?

I've learned over time to make sure that while I'm working or spending time with friends or family or having fun or serving at church, or in the community, to do what I'm doing at the moment with my whole heart. When interacting with a person, they need all of you at that moment.

Q: Which service efforts have you been most proud to contribute to? Why?

My current position at Valencia – being able to be the first person that people meet when they're considering continuing their

“You can start with one person, one project, one day a week, one day a month, or one day a year.”

diversity representative for Valencia interview committees and as a trainer for Circles of Belonging. She is also very involved in community music ministry through her church.

Q: How are you involved with Valencia outside of your job responsibilities?

I have served as a student success coach (for math and student success courses) and have presented a PLUS Seminar, Overcoming Obstacles, for students. Also, I served from 2004 to 2006 as the Florida Association of Community Colleges Student Development Commission recording secretary. As a Valencia representative, I have had the honor to present general admissions and financial aid information to the YMCA Youth Black and Hispanic Achievers and high school dual-enrollment students.

Q: What motivates you to serve others?

I believe that every person has a purpose and as long as we can unselfishly reach out to others, our purpose can be fulfilled. In work and out, my goal is to help others reach their own goals and find their own purpose.

education. It's a huge effort to be the one to encourage a person to complete the first steps for enrollment.

Q: What would your advice be to anyone who was interested in getting involved in community service but was unsure of where to start?

I would say you don't have to start with a huge, personal, one-person effort that takes over the whole world. You can start with one person, one project, one day a week, one day a month, or one day a year. ■

If you are interested in getting involved with community service, call the Valencia Alumni Association at 407-582-2946 or visit www.valenciacc.edu/alumni/volunteer.cfm for information about our volunteer opportunities.

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 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 www.valenciacc.edu/visionsvoices

Tony Hoagland, Poet

Tony Hoagland is the author of three volumes of poetry: *Sweet Ruin*, *Donkey Gospel* and *What Narcissism Means to Me*, as well as a collection of essays about poetry, *Real Sofistakashun*, all by Graywolf Press. Described as witty and ironic, his poems and critical essays have appeared widely in journals and anthologies such as *American Poetry Review*, *Harvard Review*, and *Ploughshares*. Hoagland currently teaches in the poetry program at the University of Houston. He is the winner of the 2005 O.B. Hardison Jr. Prize. Awarded by the Folger Shakespeare Library, this is the only national prize to recognize a poet's teaching as well as his art. Hoagland also received the 2005 Mark Twain Award, given by the Poetry Foundation in recognition of a poet's contribution to humor in American poetry.

"Tony Hoagland's imagination ranges thrillingly across manners, morals, sexual doings, kinds of speech both lyrical and candid, intimate as well as wild. His is the poetry of an adult capable of engaging the wonder and torments of childhood. In his volumes, he reminds us that a book of poems can offer the thrills of discovery: purposeful, swift, agile, ambitious and irreverent: fresh."

—American Academy of Arts and Letters citation 2002



Photo: © Dorothy Alexander

**JUNE 3, 2008, WINTER PARK CAMPUS
ROOM 224-226, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

GRAMMAR

Maxine, back from a weekend with her boyfriend,
smiles like a big cat and says
that she's a conjugated verb.

She's been doing the direct object
with a second person pronoun named Phil,
and when she walks into the room,
everybody turns:

some kind of light is coming from her head.
Even the geraniums look curious,
and the bees, if they were here, would buzz
suspiciously around her hair, looking
for the door in her corona.
We're all attracted to the perfume
of fermenting joy,

we've all tried to start a fire,
and one day maybe it will blaze up on its own.
In the meantime, she is the one today among us
most able to bear the idea of her own beauty,
and when we see it, what we do is natural:
we take our burned hands
out of our pockets,
and clap.

FIELD GUIDE

Once, in the middle of a lake,
up to my neck in that most precious element of all
I saw a pale-grey, curled-upwards pigeon feather

floating on the tension of the water
at the very instant when a dragonfly,
like a blue-green iridescent bobby pin,
hovered over it, then lit, and rested.

I mention this in the same way
that I fold the corner of a page
in certain library books,
so that the next reader will

know where to look for the good parts.

Valencia Arts Dates for Summer/Fall 2008

All arts events are held at Valencia's East Campus,
located at 701 N. Eonlockhatchee 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

Fall Symphonic/Jazz Band Concert

Oct. 29, 2008, 1 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Contemporary Concert

Oct. 29, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Fall Student Recitals

Nov. 4, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 5, 2008, 1 p.m.
Nov. 12, 2008, 1 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Winter Choral Concert

Nov. 11, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Fall Opera Workshop

Dec. 12, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theater

Visual Arts

For more info, contact:
407-582-2298

"Manifestation" Mixed Media Works

By Jason Burrell

June 13-Aug. 15, 2008
Opening Reception
June 13, 2008, 6:30-9 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten
East Campus Gallery

Rebecca Sittler. Photographs.

Sept. 5-Oct. 24, 2008
Opening Reception
Sept. 5, 2008, 6:30-9 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten
East Campus Gallery

Selected Fine Art Faculty 2008

Nov. 7, 2008-Jan. 13, 2009
Opening Reception
Nov. 7, 2008, 6:30-9 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten
East Campus Gallery

Film

For more info contact:
407-582-2765

13th Annual Film Celebration

TBA
Performing Arts Center

Theater

For more info, contact:
407-582-2900

Alumni members

- remember to ask for
your alumni discount!

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, by Alan Ball

June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 2008,
7:30 p.m., June 8, 15, 2 p.m.
Black Box Theater

Anything Goes

Oct. 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 2008,
7:30 p.m., Oct. 19, 26, 2008,
2 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Dance

For more info contact:
407-582-2900

Valencia Dance Theatre Repertory Concert

July 10, 11, 12, 2008, 8 p.m.
Black Box Theater

Choreographer's Showcase

Nov. 20, 21, 22, 2008,
8 p.m.
Black Box Theater

Ballet South's The Nutcracker

Dec. 5, 6, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 6, 7, 2008, 2 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Summertime is great for relaxing, but the warm weather and long days also lend themselves to plenty of fun activities that don't involve a chaise longue. Here are eight ways to beat the heat around Central Florida this summer.

Cool Things to do This Summer

1. Go on a Picnic

Pack a picnic dinner and enjoy a romantic summer evening with an



outdoor movie. "Date Nights" at Leu Gardens are held at 6 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Garden admission is \$7 for adults and \$2 for children. Call 407-246-2620 for more information.

2. Go Camping

Located right in Orlando's backyard, Wekiwa Springs State Park has 60 campsites available, each with electricity, water, a picnic table, grill and fire ring. You can also enjoy the springs, hiking and horseback riding. Call 407-884-2009 for more information.

3. Get Paddling

For anyone living in or around Orlando, paddling a swan boat around Lake Eola is practically a rite of passage. If you'd rather see wildlife than cityscapes, you can canoe down the Econlockhatchee River to see alligators, fish and birds. On a really hot day, you can cool off with an inner-tube ride down the chilly springs at Kelly Park in Apopka.

4. Get Cultured

Get an up-close look at a variety of aircrafts at the Kissimmee Air Museum. Or, cool off indoors at the Orlando Museum of Art, the Orlando Science Center, the Orange County History Center, or the Wells' Built Museum of African American History.



Courtesy of Orlando Museum of Art

5. Go on a Road Trip

Take advantage of a long weekend and head up to St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city. You can stay at a quaint bed and breakfast, visit the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, take a stroll down the cobblestone streets and visit the shops of the historic district.

6. Find a Good Deal

For produce and treats, check out the Winter Park Farmers Market on Saturday mornings or the Lake Eola Farmers Market on Sundays. For collectibles, try Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora. For bargains of all kinds, you can explore the Central Florida Farmers Market, open Saturdays and Sundays at the Central Florida Fairgrounds on West Colonial Drive.

7. Go to the Theatre

Whether you're in the mood for a theatre, dance or music performance or would rather catch a movie (retro or contemporary),



Winter Garden's newly restored, historic Garden Theatre is the perfect place to take in a show. For tickets and additional information, visit

www.wgtheatre.org

Courtesy of Garden Theatre

8. Build a Sandcastle

One of the great things about living in Central Florida is that you're never more than an hour away from the beach. Take your pick from Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach or Cocoa Beach and stop off somewhere along the way to pick up plastic sand pails, some shovels and sand molds. Then, let your imagination run wild to design your dream sandcastle.

Send us photos of yourself with your copy of *Vitae* participating in these activities or on a trip, and you could end up on the Alumni Association Web site. Be creative! The best ones will be uploaded to our photo gallery. Send photo submissions to alumni@valenciacc.edu or Valencia Alumni Association, 701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando, FL 32810, Mail Code: 3-12.

SUMMER 2008 MONTHLY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May
24-25

Zellwood Sweet Corn Festival

Eat corn on the cob and enjoy rides, corn-eating contests, arts and crafts shows, and country music performances. www.zellwoodcornfestival.com



Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival

Celebrating "Fun in the Sun," the festival will feature roses, wildflowers, topiaries and herb gardens, as well as gardening tips from top horticulturists. Call 407-939-1289 for ticket information.

Now-June
1

June
21

Fiesta San Juan

A Spanish tradition, the "Night of San Juan" is held on the longest day of summer. Celebrate at Wet 'n Wild with Latin food, live music, dancing, and a midnight swim for good luck. www.wetnwildorlando.com or 407-351-1800



Fireworks at the Fountain

Start your Fourth of July off early with fireworks and entertainment at Red Hot & Boom! – held on July 3 at Crane's Roost Park in Altamonte Springs. Then, you can do it all again on Independence Day with the evening fireworks display at Lake Eola.

July
4



Central Florida Film Festival

This event will be held at the Osceola Center for the Arts in Kissimmee and will showcase narrative shorts, documentaries and feature-length films. www.centralfloridafilmfestival.com

Aug
28-31



Greater Orlando Light the Night Walk

Benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, this event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a festival at Lake Eola, followed by an illuminated balloon walk at dusk. Register now to get started in carrying the light of hope for thousands of Central Floridians. www.lightthenight.org/cfl

Sept
27

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



EDWARD LYMAN, Esq.

899 Edward Lyman completed his associate's degree at Valencia before studying broadcast journalism at the University of Miami. He then received his law degree from the University of Florida College of Law and now practices entertainment and business law in Los Angeles. He also runs a boutique media company, Sonicwave™ Media, LLC, which recently released a 21-track CD called *Save My Soul – Music To Prevent Malaria*. A compilation of songs performed by children affected by malaria, the CD's proceeds will be used to purchase insecticide-treated mosquito nets in Zambia, where malaria is a pandemic. The CD was recorded live, on location in bush camps, remote villages, orphanages, tribes, places of worship and inner cities. Visit www.savemysoulcd.com for more information.

MAURICE A. RAMIREZ, D.O.

82 Dr. Maurice A. Ramirez is the founder and president of the consulting firm High Alert, LLC. He also serves as the founding chairperson of the American Board of Disaster Medicine and as a senior physician/federal medical officer with the National Disaster Medical System. He currently serves on the Valencia Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

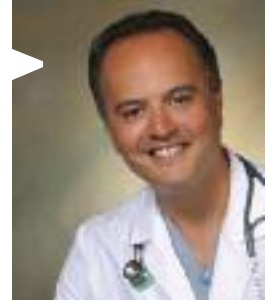


Photo by: Don Burlinson

ARTHUR JARVIS

85 Arthur Jarvis earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia College in Missouri. Retired from the U.S. Navy, he currently serves as vice president of the RAFMAN Club, Inc. (Retired Air Force, Marine, Army, Navy) and president and scholarship chairman of the RAFMAN Club Foundation. He also serves as a member of Valencia's Black Advisory Committee.

MICHELLE R. LEE

91 Michelle R. Lee graduated from Valencia and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in geography from Michigan State University in 1998, with a specialization in spatial information processing. She currently works as a geographic information systems (GIS) specialist and project manager at GeoStats LP in Atlanta, GA.



Photo by: Don Burlinson

KYLE LUBLIN

91 Kyle Lublin earned her A.A. degree from Valencia while working two part-time jobs, including running a computer consulting business with her husband. Today, she is vice president of marketing and administration at InterDyn - CFO Consulting in Orlando. She is also a former Valencia Alumni Association president.

INGRID P. DUNN, M.D.

97 Ingrid P. Dunn earned an associate's degree in biology from Valencia and a bachelor's in micro-molecular biology from the University of Central Florida. In 2005, she completed a medical doctorate degree from the George Washington University School of Medicine. She is currently a third-year OB/GYN resident at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass.



All non-credited photos courtesy of featured alumni



Photo by: Don Burlinson

SANTOS MALDONADO

807

Santos Maldonado is studying information technology with a minor in

education at UCF. He works for Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida and also holds a position at the Wayne Densch Center, a place he once called home, helping homeless individuals transition into permanent housing. As a survivor of four years of homelessness, he was recently asked to share his experiences with the Central Florida Regional Commission on Homelessness, led by Mayors Dyer and Crotty. Maldonado credits Valencia with restoring his dignity and empowering his quest toward the attainment of his dream to someday teach at the college level.

JONATHAN COX

801

Jonathan Cox earned his A.A. degree in business administration from Valencia while holding a full-time job. He is now in the People's Republic of China employed as the Product Marketing Director for Tupperware China.



KELLY (CARUSO) KILPATRICK

804

Kelly (Caruso) Kilpatrick earned a master's in mental health counseling in 2002 from Rollins College, before attending Valencia. She is currently working with children ages 5-17 as a licensed professional counselor at The Camelot Schools Residential Treatment Center in Kingston, Tenn. Kilpatrick plans to complete the dissertation requirement for a Ph.D. in public affairs at UCF by next year.

KERRY ANDERSON

807

Kerry Anderson, Valencia's 2007 Distinguished Graduate, is currently at Harvard University majoring in political science and government. She plans to graduate in 2010 and attend the Kennedy School of Government for her master's. Upon graduating, she plans to join the political arena where she hopes to become a campaign manager or political adviser.



HOC QUANG TRIEU

807

Hoc Quang Trieu came to the United States from Vietnam in 2003. In 2007, he was awarded a \$5,000 Hites Family Community College Scholarship Foundation Award as a result of his outstanding performance at Valencia. He is currently attending the University of Florida, where he is pursuing a degree in pharmacy.

Update your contact information and submit Class Notes at www.valenciacc.edu/alumni/class_notes.cfm

TEAMART

The Making of a Play By Michael Shugg

The audience filters in gradually filling the theater seat-by-seat and row-by-row. Engaged in their conversations, they are barely aware of the soft music playing. Then a moment of silence followed by the flicker of dimming lights signaling that the play is about to start. The audience hushes in anticipation of the event to follow. The theater darkens. The curtain rises and lights reveal an actor. After a momentary silence, a second actor rushes onto the stage – her posture and manner suggesting that something important is about to happen.

Not a word has been spoken, but the work of many artists, craftspersons, technicians and managers contributed to this moment. Together these talented individuals have created a work of art that they hope will entertain, challenge or enlighten every person seated in that darkened theater.

In the popular imagination the artist is often seen as a lonely individual working in isolation on a painting, novel or poem. Theater artists are anything but lonely. They function as a focused team, collectively mingling mind, spirit, hands and eyes – many individuals in artistic creation.

This team is led by a director – someone often imagined to be a larger-than-life character who storms onto the set imposing a powerful personal vision. While it is true that sometimes an artistic concept is the result of a director's sole vision, it is more often something inspired, nurtured and coaxed from the contributions of the designers, actors and technicians. This collective concept is often richer and far more interesting than any single artist could produce.

The director also coaches the actors as they develop characters and clarify action and intent. Interesting drama requires believable people striving to accomplish great things and overcome obstacles. The actors spend weeks, sometimes months, asking and answering basic questions. Who am I? What do I want? What am I willing to do to get it? The answers to these deceptively simple questions guide the choices that shape every nuance of character and action. One of the questions often asked of actors is, how do you

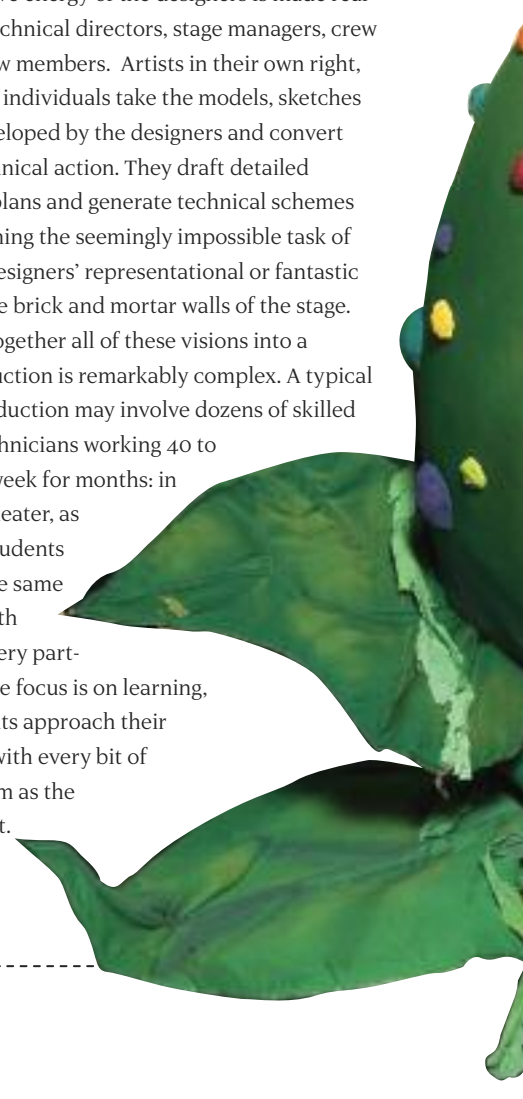
learn all those lines? In truth, once the lines are learned the real work begins.

The 17th century Spanish playwright Lope de Vega wrote that for theater all one needs is “four boards, two actors and one passion.” The essence of theater may be the actors and passion that deVega describes, but contemporary audiences, accustomed to a variety of visual stimulation, expect a great deal from those boards.

The scenery, lighting and costume designers work to deliver on this visual expectation. These artists often combine the skills of a painter or sculptor with an understanding of dramatic structure. They use metaphor and paint, ideas and fabric, images and light to express the mood and spirit of the play in visual terms.

The creative energy of the designers is made real by a crew of technical directors, stage managers, crew heads and crew members. Artists in their own right, these talented individuals take the models, sketches and plans developed by the designers and convert them into technical action. They draft detailed construction plans and generate technical schemes for accomplishing the seemingly impossible task of bringing the designers' representational or fantastic visions into the brick and mortar walls of the stage.

Bringing together all of these visions into a finished production is remarkably complex. A typical Broadway production may involve dozens of skilled artists and technicians working 40 to 60 hours per week for months: in educational theater, as many as 100 students accomplish the same work in a month and a half of very part-time effort. The focus is on learning, but the students approach their commitment with every bit of professionalism as the seasoned artist.



Scenery, lighting and costumes are designed, built, painted and wired until they are ready for the audience. Parallel with this work, the director and cast work on translating that vision into compelling people doing interesting things. The parallel tracks are brought together at technical and dress rehearsals until all is ready for that first audience.

The setting is often the first thing the audience sees. It sets the visual tone of the entire production. Scenery can evoke distant places or times, or it can seem as real as a neighbor's kitchen. The set designer is often the first person the director engages and the work they do together becomes a unifying visual theme for the entire production. Together they talk of imagery and action, mood and theme, spirit and clay.

Gradually the ephemeral gives way to the actual, and the set

designer begins to work out their shared vision with pencil and paint. Thumbnail sketches are eventually replaced by renderings, models, ground plans and elevations, which are then translated into technical drawings by the technical director. Materials are selected and strategies are developed to fulfill the design requirements.

Even if the set appears to be burnished metal or massive stone, it is often constructed of wood, paper and fabric. Sometimes metal or plastics may be incorporated, but these are often used for specific structural and decorative applications. Scenery must be light and strong. It must be cost effective, and it must be possible to construct it with available time and personnel.

This is often a huge challenge to designer, technical director and crew alike. In the medieval theater these individuals were often known as "masters of secrets" because of their ability to present a convincing illusion to the audience. The contemporary theater is equally demanding in its expectations of designers and technicians, whether they are seasoned professionals or students.

Also, a contemporary theater production could use hundreds of lights. On Broadway this number could swell to well over a thousand. A relatively modest college production may use 300 or more. The lighting designer selects color, angle, texture and intensity for each of these units. The lights must be assigned to dimmers and control channels. The lights themselves are carefully selected with an eye toward the moment-by-moment needs of the play.

Computerized moving lights add more than 20 different parameters that must be controlled for each unit.

The lighting designer makes all of these technical choices and drafts them together into a light plot. The light plot is a schematic type drawing that looks nothing like the pretty pictures and models that the other designers produce. It communicates to a crew all the information needed to hang circuits and focus every light in the production. In order to aim the lights in accordance with the designer's plan, the lighting



Kristin Bornman

Kristin Bornman ('07) led the crew that constructed the Audrey II puppets for Valencia's recent production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. She is currently a costumer and co-costume designer for Gramercy Theater in Orlando.



Sonia Pasqual and George Jackson

Sonia Pasqual ('99) and George Jackson ('01) often worked together as students. After taking their careers to New York City and Boston, respectively, they returned to Florida to start their own lighting company. Now they team up on designs and installations for a range of Central Florida entertainment productions.

crew must suspend themselves from ladders as much as 30 feet in the air.

The final step is to program light cues. These moment-to-moment looks merge the technical with the artistic. Sitting in the darkened theater, speaking to the light board operator through a headset, the designer calls for lights by channel unit-by-unit and color-by-color. This process is much like painting the stage with light in order to create the mood and reveal form. These lighting looks will be refined through technical and dress rehearsals.

Costumes follow a similar path to completion, but unlike the other visual production elements, they are intimately connected with the characters that wear them. They reveal subtleties of personality. They highlight or foreshadow relationships. They help focus audience attention on important characters or moments. They reveal nuances of psychology.

Imagine a Richard III who begins the play costumed in regal splendor. Then, with each of his evil acts, his costume drains of color. These, at first, imperceptible changes, reflect the dynamics of his character. As he strides the battlefield of the stage, Richard's decline becomes more tangible to the audience because of his lost splendor.

Typically, the costume designer produces painted watercolor renderings of each costume worn by each actor. The costume designer then selects fabric before turning the designs over to a costumer and crew for pattern drafting, cutting and construction of costumes. Even a contemporary show costumed off the rack of a local department store requires similar

thought and planning.

Other artists working in a variety of areas contribute to a production including props, special effects, projections and sound. Each of these artists are a part of the overall production and like the designers and crewmembers already discussed, all of them engage in a team process where individual artists and teams support the success of the production. Valencia students fill these roles, learning valuable skills and focusing their creative energies to achieve success.

The success does not stop after the Valencia curtains have closed. Graduates of the theater programs (Theater, Drama/Dramatic Arts A.A. pre-major; Entertainment Design and Technology A.S. degree; Film Production Technology A.S. degree; and several related certificate programs) have gone on to work in all aspects of the entertainment industry – from local theater to Hollywood productions. Wherever their careers take them, they will be prepared to lend their individual expertise in an effort to, once again, create team art. ■



Christian Gueverra

Christian Gueverra ('95) spent weeks carving each bone of this 16-foot Tyrannosaurus skeleton from a combination of wood and polystyrene foam for the production of "Nicky Silver's Pterodactyls." Since leaving Valencia, he has helped sculpt "The Mummy" replica at Universal Studios and the walk-through human body exhibit at the Orlando Science Center. He has also worked in production design and art direction on projects for DreamWorks, Universal, Disney and Nickelodeon, and in the art department for TV shows including "My Name is Earl" and "The L Word." He is currently editing his first feature film, "Tom and Marlo," which he also wrote and directed. The project was filmed using a crew of Valencia Film Technology students.



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VALENCIA *at* 40 & BEYOND

My first experiences at Valencia were those of an incoming freshman as the College began its second year of operation. Student enrollment was growing dramatically; however, the drab portable classrooms, muddy clay parking lot, and cramped temporary quarters at Mid-Florida Technical Institute on Oak Ridge Road were my first impressions. Those impressions quickly changed as I came to know the people and programs of Valencia Community College.

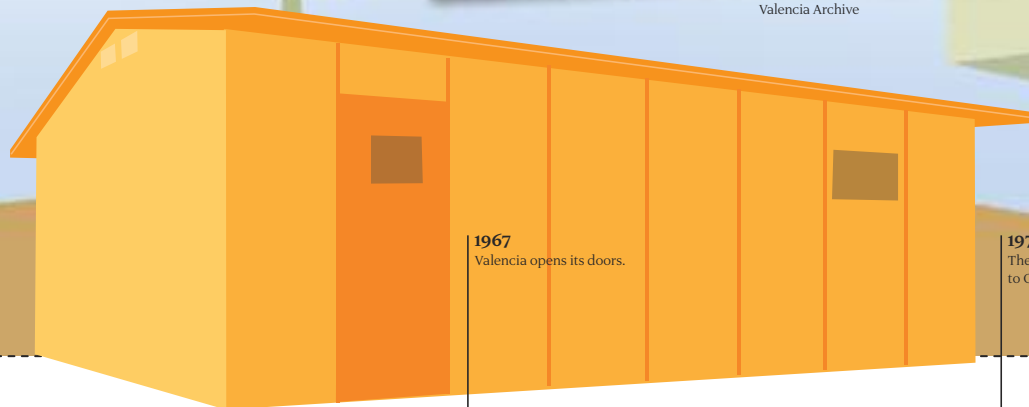
It has been 40 years since Valencia opened its doors to the Central Florida community. The first history of Valencia Community College, covering the 1967-2006 time period, will be published in the next few months as part of the College's 40th anniversary celebration. Historian Peter

a remarkable history of
community, college partnerships

by Bill Castellano



Valencia Archive



1967
Valencia opens its doors.

1971
The college changes its name to Community College.

Klingman conducted interviews and extensive archival research as the manuscript's author; Susan Kelley and I have served as co-editors. We believe that those who read the book will find, as we did, that what shines through in the Valencia story are the people who have made the College what it is and who constitute the Valencia family: the students, the faculty, the staff, the alumni, and the College's many supporters in the community at large. What follows are some of my recollections of Valencia's first 40 years with some excerpts from the soon to be published Valencia Community College history book and a few thoughts about the future.

When Valencia's name changed from junior to community college in 1971, many viewed it as a mere cosmetic alteration. Two years later, the College's bold initiative to create an Open Campus confirmed that community truly was Valencia's appropriate middle name. It was the beginning of remarkable partnerships between the College and its community; partnerships that have been both real and permanent as they have evolved and expanded through the years.

Excerpt from the Valencia history book ...

Valencia was among the first American community colleges to implement an Open Campus. To President Gollattscheck, the Open Campus meshed perfectly with Valencia's original mission and objectives, and in December 1973, he announced plans to begin such a campus. ... There was a need to provide credit and noncredit learning opportunities throughout Orange and Osceola counties beyond the reach of the traditional campuses. Also, targeted segments of Central Florida needed community-based educational programs such as programs addressing parenting skills, challenges of displaced homemakers, and adult literacy.

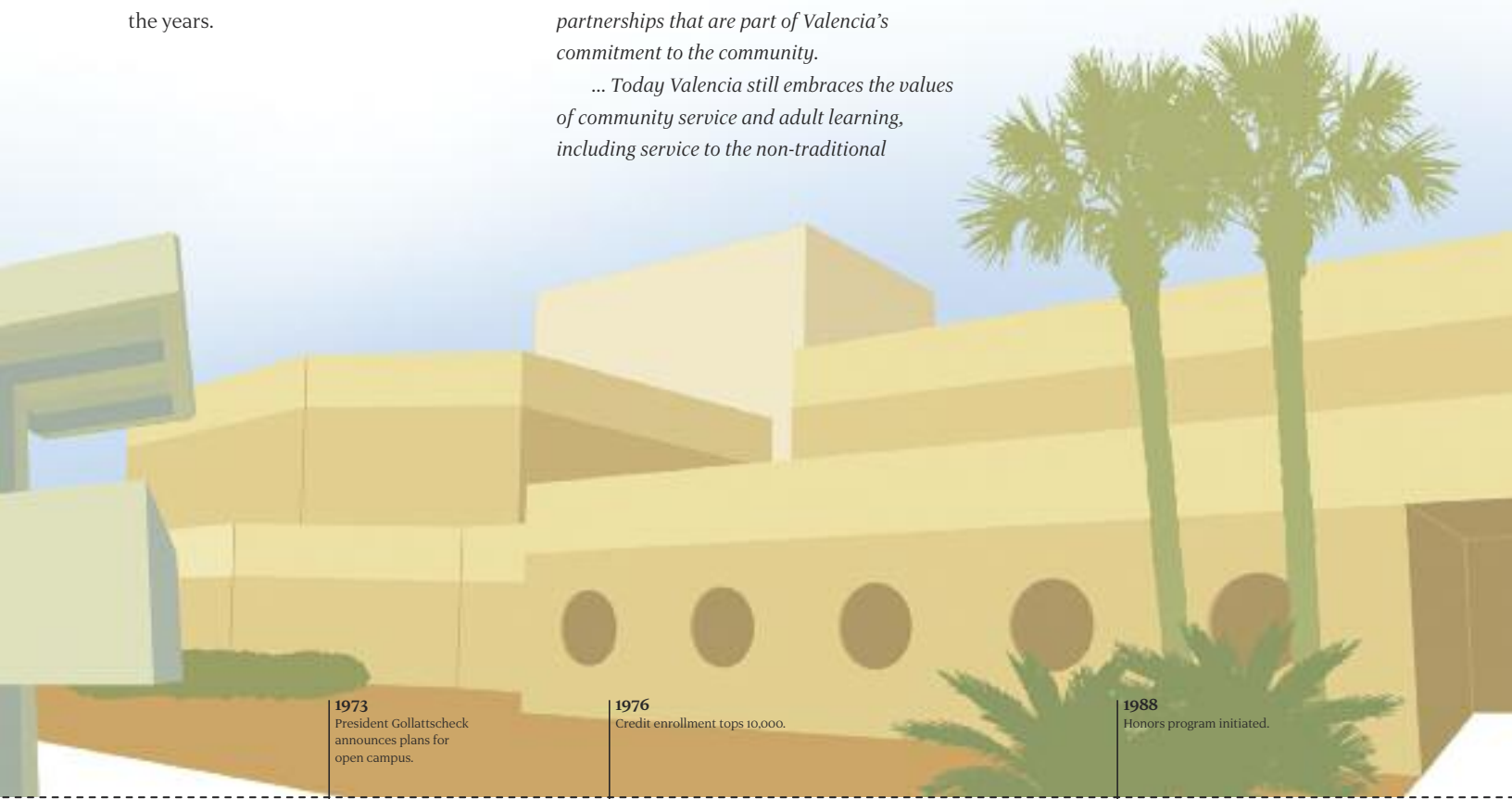
... However, in establishing an Open Campus, Gollattscheck also unintentionally unleashed an educational revolution in adult learning at Valencia that would not be turned back. Begun as a non-traditional open delivery system, decades later it would encompass distance learning via technology. But its legacy has been etched into Central Florida even more deeply, since it was the predecessor to today's forms of community-based education – the business and corporate partnerships that are part of Valencia's commitment to the community.

... Today Valencia still embraces the values of community service and adult learning, including service to the non-traditional

student, the working adult, and the first-generation college student. The College still cultivates its business and industry partnerships and is actively involved in distance education. Valencia continues to plan for expansion of credit program offerings closer to all segments of the College service district. All these have their roots in the Open Campus.

The institutional decision in the mid-1990s to undertake a change initiative on collaboration to become more learning-centered was a monumental moment in the life of the College. Faculty, staff, administrators, students and members of the community came together at numerous roundtables, task forces, and forums to collaborate and focus their energy on a common vision—student learning. The remainder of the decade was a consistent series of small steps forward to becoming a more learning-centered institution.

The early work on collaboration in the 1990s was the foundation for impressive learning-centered results in this decade.



1973
President Gollattscheck announces plans for open campus.

1976
Credit enrollment tops 10,000.

1988
Honors program initiated.

Strong pro-active presidential leadership, systematically updated strategic learning goals, learning-centered budget processes, proliferation deep into the organization of the two learning-centered questions before budget and policy decisions are made, and a new collaborative college governance structure are but a few examples of the point of convergence of the preceding work.

Excerpt from the Valencia history book ...

In August 2000, only months after assuming the presidency, Sandy Shugart spoke at the College's Academic Assembly, his inaugural speech to the faculty and staff, welcoming them to fall semester. Shugart encouraged everyone to become motivated and participate "by putting an oar in the water" of moving forward with the Learning-Centered Initiative. The new President immediately challenged the College to move to the next level of its learning-centered journey. In addition to significant structural changes to make governance more collaborative, Shugart insisted that major decisions and budget allocations be based on learning-centered design principles. Shugart told the faculty and staff about a friend who is fond of saying, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." He went on to say, "For Valencia, the main thing is LEARNING. For half a decade, the College has been in the early stages of an important transformation – from an excellent teaching to a great learning College ... Now the time has come to move this 'Learning-Centered Initiative' from the pilot stages and think tank to a central place in the College's strategy for the future."

As Valencia looks beyond its first 40 years, many exciting vistas lie ahead. I am particularly impressed with the learning-centered philosophy that under the right conditions every student is capable of learning is being directly addressed through the College's Achieving the Dream (AtD) initiative, funded in part by a grant from the Lumina Foundation. Through a series of community conversations about student success and ongoing collaborative dialogues among the academic community, significant efforts are being made to address disparities in the success rates of students entering and completing college-level courses and programs. That simple collection of words speaks volumes about a major challenge facing Valencia and the Central Florida community. That the community and its College are tackling that challenge together is both exciting and encouraging.

Excerpt from the Valencia history book ...

These have been just the first few chapters of a remarkable unfolding story. In the years to come there will be more "Places" constructed and "Programs and Partnerships" forged between the people of Valencia and the communities they serve. The transformational learning-centered change process will continue ... after more than a decade, it has become an integral part of the institutional culture. Valencia Community College is well positioned by its academic culture and philosophy to continue its evolution as an extraordinary learning community. The Valencia Story chronicled here tells of a College populated by people of commitment, talent, energy, and hope. These, and many other strengths, have made and continue to make Valencia a remarkable place to learn and to work.

As "Valencia Turns 40" I feel privileged to have been part of its remarkable history of community, college partnerships... one student, one business partner and one industry at a time. If 40 years of history has taught us anything, it is that Valencia Community College's commitment to serving this community has only just begun. ■

Bill Castellano is a professor emeritus of political science from Valencia Community College. He was a 1970 Valencia graduate and retired as a College employee in 2005 after 35 years of service. Castellano serves as co-editor of the soon-to-be published History of Valencia Community College book and is a freelance non-fiction writer and consultant on leadership, shared governance, and learning-centered strategic planning. He and his wife, Robin, live at Solivita in Poinciana, FL.



1995

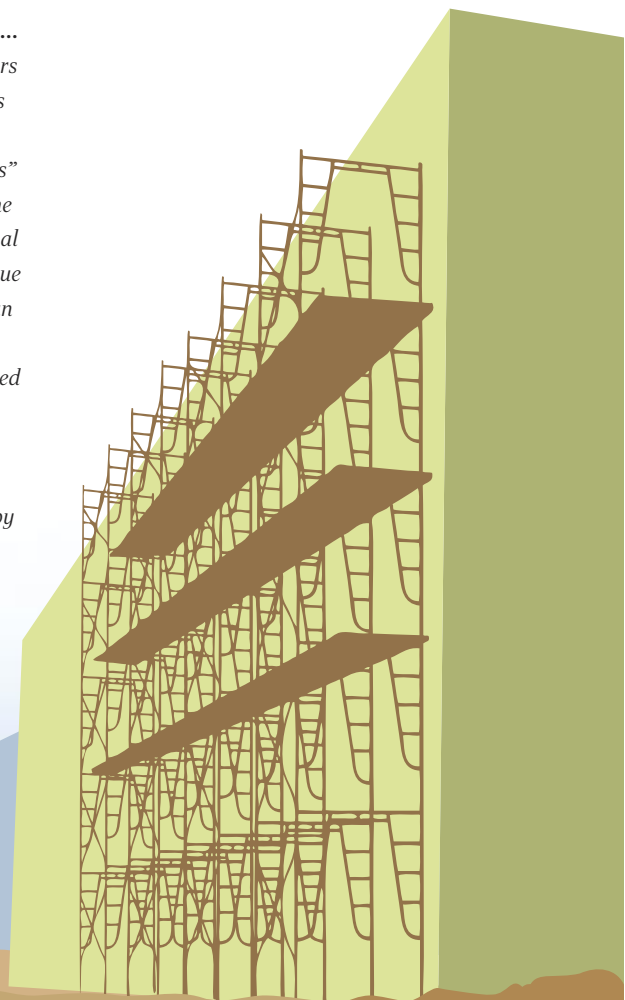
Pew higher education roundtable propels college to adopt change initiative to become more learning-centered.

2000

President Shugart initiates structural changes that bring college more in line with learning-centered mission.

2007–2008

College celebrates 40th anniversary and continues to look forward to the future.



A HISTORY of an
EXTRAORDINARY LEARNING *Community*



Order your copy at: www.valenciacc.edu/historybook

(Available after June 1st)

VALENCIA **40TH** ANNIVERSARY
AWARD
RECIPIENTS

*40 years is more than just a measure of time –
it is the result of many people's time.
Thank you to those who have given theirs.
We honor our 40 "Valencians."*

DECADE ONE: (1967-77)

Bill Castellano
Albert T. Craig
James F. Gollattscheck
Charles L. Killinger
Patricia Henderson
Jack Jennings
Raymer Maguire, Jr.
Rosita N. Martinez
Julia Ribley
Andrew Serros

DECADE TWO: (1978-87)

Evelyn Byrd
Beverly Chapman
Peg Edmonds
Beatrice Ettinger
W. Michael Hooks
Bill McCord
Betty Palmer
Donald J. Tighe
Qurentia Poole Throm
Ruth Webb

DECADE THREE: (1988-97)

Ivan Applebaum
Paul C. Gianini
Chuck Drosin
Judith Jones
Paul Kinser
Sloan Reece
Geraldine F. Thompson
Joan Tiller
Marcia Tompkins
Roberta Vandermast

DECADE FOUR: (1998-2007)

Jess Bailes
Mary Collier
Mayor Richard T. Crotty
Helen Von Dolteren-Fournier
Rhonda Glover
C. T. Hsu
Jan Lackey
Marcos Marchena
Reginald McGill
Richard Rietveld

EST.

1967

DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

By Mark Logas



Heather Coiro sat attentively in her Valencia State and Local Government class, eager to learn more about how she could influence elected officials to change a policy that she believed would save innocent lives. At that same moment, Valencia graduate Kim Miller was preparing to conduct another traffic safety seminar; hoping that her efforts would save innocent lives. The two women had never met; however, that was about to change.

Coiro, a graduate of Mount Dora High School, had lost two close friends and a family member in separate traffic accidents and wondered if a driver's education course would have prevented the precious loss of life she continued to grieve. None of the accidents were the result of drug use, alcohol or speeding. Coiro was convinced that had these young people had an opportunity to take a driver's education class, they might have known how to handle the split-second decision that cost them their lives on Central Florida roads.

In previous years, Kim Miller had tried unsuccessfully to convince the Lake County School Board to include driver's education as part of the curriculum. She had no idea that a young student living in Lake County and

commuting to Valencia had already completed valuable research for her government class, research that would enhance the Florida Highway Patrol's data and change the minds of school board members who had previously rejected the call for change.

Dr. Sanford C. Shugart knew that there was a growing need for the creation of a program to team people like Coiro and Miller together to advance the common good for our community. Shortly after the turn of the century, he shared his vision for a Civic Leadership Program, an opportunity for students to earn credit in a signature internship with an elected or appointed official. I was asked to coordinate the new program and use my 25 years of broadcast news contacts while covering government to place Valencia students with the appropriate civic leadership sponsor.

Coiro wanted to learn two important things during her Civic Leadership internship. First, she wanted to understand how the Lake County School System worked. She had appeared before the board to ask them to consider a change in the curriculum. The board would not commit, but did create a committee appointing Coiro as a member. She created learning outcomes with her faculty sponsor, Dr. Paul Labedz. By the end

of her internship, she understood the politics involved in local government. The next step was to gather information so she could build a case that would convince the school board members to reinstate driver's education. I called Miller and explained Coiro's commitment to bring positive change to her community. The first non-traditional civic leadership internship was born.

Under Miller's direction and guidance, Coiro did a tremendous amount of research.

caught the attention of two lawmakers in Tallahassee. Prior to the start of last year's legislative session, Coiro was asked to go to our state capital and share her expertise with a group of lawmakers who were eager to see the successes in Lake County become a statewide initiative. The bill died in committee; however, Coiro's knowledge impressed many people.

Coiro was presented with "The Community Service Award" from the

including a well-known Mothers Against Drunk Drivers chapter president and a 22-year-old student from Florida who succeeded in changing the curriculum in Lake County, something that so many before her had failed to do. In the end, Coiro had earned the award. She gave a very moving testimonial at the awards banquet in January.

Miller continues to mentor Coiro. The Orlando Police Department had been looking for someone to help in their community

The next step was to gather information so she could build a case that would convince the school board members to reinstate driver's education.

She found that Central Florida counties were among the highest in the state when it came to young drivers not surviving automobile accidents. One of the biggest finds was a relatively unknown law that allowed \$3 from each traffic ticket to be given to each of Florida's 67 counties for driver's education training. Armed with that information, Heather made her case to the Lake County School Board and then asked how the money from this Slosberg Fund was being spent to advance student driver safety in Lake County. The answer came in January 2006 when they approved a pilot program for Leesburg High School.

While most people would have basked in the news coverage that was generated, Heather continued to be humble. Some groups jumped on board to help her cause, suggesting changes that would have taken her simple request in another direction, but Heather never changed course. Her efforts

Valencia Civic Leadership Program at the 2nd Annual Civic Leadership Day celebration on East Campus. What Coiro did not know was that Miller was also there to present her with the FHP's highest award. The best was yet to come. Coiro was the keynote speaker. She delivered a very positive message to the nearly 500 people in attendance that day. When she was finished, several students immediately went up to her and told her how she had inspired them to pursue their goals. Some took immediate action by registering to vote at the table that was being attended to with representatives from the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Coiro's local and state recognition was about to enter a new phase. Each year, the United Safety Council gives a distinguished award named after its founder. This nationwide search garnered several qualified individuals from around the country. The field was narrowed down to five finalists,

safety outreach program. One of the directors from OPD was in attendance at the awards banquet. As everyone began to leave when it was over, Coiro was approached and asked if she would be interested in applying for this important position. Standing between the two women was Miller, not only introducing two people with a shared vision, but also creating a new mentor for upcoming Valencia students.

Valencia Community College stresses the importance of LifeMap. Students are encouraged to keep a journal of what they learn in each of their classes so that they may assess their level of learning. A key component of this initiative is for students to set future goals and to apply what they have learned at Valencia to help achieve them. Heather Coiro and Kim Miller are perfect examples of how important this element of a student's education is. ■

Heather Coiro, left, receives award from Officer Kim Miller.





Originally from Malaysia, Heng Chai Lai came to the United States as an international student to earn his Associate of Arts degree from Valencia.

International Perspective: Heng Chai Lai

By Lori Sunday

Heng Chai Lai came to the United States as an international student to earn his Associate of Arts degree from Valencia.

As a foreign student, Lai was self-conscious about his English skills and nervous to talk to new people at first. Valencia played a big role in helping him get involved in extra curricular activities and making friends. During his second semester he joined the International Student's Association and got to know other students who were in the same situation as him.

Lai also found comfort in the fact that Valencia conducts its classes in small sizes, which gave him the opportunity to learn more effectively and also feel connected to the college. His shyness began to disappear as he found himself sitting in the front of the class, where he could easily ask questions and make sure that he was following the material.

He found the instructors at Valencia to be passionate about what they taught and about helping their students. The opportunity to visit instructors during office hours is a rare commodity compared to other colleges or universities throughout the world. Some instructors even went beyond their office hours to make sure Lai understood their lectures. Without them, he felt he would never have received such a good foundation and education.

Lai graduated from Valencia in 2004 and went on to the University of Central Florida to complete his Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2006. Over the past two years, he has worked as a nurse in the Neuroscience Unit at Orlando Regional Medical Center, and has also become a permanent resident of the United States.

He says that his international advisers and courses at Valencia, especially SLS 1122 Student Success, helped him build a strong foundation not only for his education, but for his professional career as well.

“Valencia played a big role in helping me find friends.”

“This class changed the way I think, and empowered critical thinking skills that are crucial in a nursing career,” Lai said. “I learned to be patient and professional with my patients, as the instructors and my international advisor did for me at Valencia. My international adviser inspired me to make a difference in other people’s lives, especially those who are in need.”

For many Americans, we do not think about the bountiful freedoms that are part of this great country. Heng Chai loves the freedom in the U.S. because, like many international students, his homeland does not have all the same liberties.

"Malaysia," he commented, "is a conservative Muslim country. We do not have the right of speech, right to bear arms, and right of choice."

Heng Chai believes that if he were still in Malaysia, he would be working in a low-paid career without much advancement opportunity. Nursing would not have been an option because it is considered a female career in his country. Though Heng Chai misses his family and friends, he is tremendously grateful for the opportunity he had to study in the United States and pursue his life-long dream of becoming a nurse.



Interesting Facts About Malaysia

- The country is separated into two regions by the South China Sea – Peninsular Malaysia (south of Thailand) and Malaysian Borneo (on an island shared with Indonesia).
- Malaysia is the world's leading producer of natural rubber and palm oil.
- The world's tallest twin towers, the Petronas Twin Towers, are located in Malaysia.

BOOK L♥VERS

By Paulette Smith

"Less than half of the adult American population now reads literature." To someone who loves to read this is a shocking statement. The National Endowment for the Arts report, *To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence*, follows up with more challenges: not only are Americans reading less, they are also reading less well. These declines in reading have civic, social and economic implications for all of us.

So what can be done? A group of West Campus faculty and staff had an idea to create opportunities for hundreds of students and faculty to read and discuss the same book at the same time. Through the new "Get Into Reading" program, students set the stage by selecting the first-ever, campus-wide read: *The Kite Runner*. Winter Park Campus also joined the effort to reach as many students as possible.

As I started to read *The Kite Runner*, my first impression was that I had nothing in common with the main character: Amir is a kid, a Middle Easterner and not really very sympathetic. I don't know on what page and in what paragraph, but this young boy reached out and caught my heart. It was at that point that he and I were not defined by our differences but by what we shared: the desire to be loved for who you are, to have a safe place in the world, to have a second chance to be your best self. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini is a satisfying, thoughtful story that I recommend to you.

Building on *The Kite Runner*'s popularity and mirroring the Orange County Regional Library's "Big Read" selection, the next selected title for the Spring 2008 term was *To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. Fourteen professors assigned it to more than 1,000

West Campus students. An online discussion blog and book club discussions were added to allow local Valencia alumni and those from across the United States and other countries to participate.

As one of the best-loved classic stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is about conscience and how it is instilled into the two main characters, Scout and Jem Finch, as well as into a small southern town. As the narrator, Scout shows us how family, race, and religion can be barriers to tolerance and sympathy; through her eyes we learn how to look closely at people and to withhold our judgment until we understand them.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon was chosen for the Fall 2008 term from titles recommended by Valencia's professors. Valencia alumni and friends are invited to join us on West Campus in building 6, room 202 for discussion groups on:

- Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008; 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008; 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008; 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Please check the Alumni Association Web site for more information about blog discussions and alumni book club discounts at Barnes & Noble.

"Get Into Reading" is Valencia's first-ever community read.

Modeled on a national initiative called *The Big Read*, the program seeks to engage our campus and alumni community in dialogue and bring us together by promoting tolerance and understanding about different perspectives and cultural views.



Where **WORK** Ends & **LEARNING** Begins

By Patti Riva

If you are looking for a weekend course to earn credits toward a college degree, renew a teacher certification, or simply take a course for personal enrichment, feast your eyes on a few of the upcoming Winter Park Campus Weekend College course offerings. For more information about Weekend College, please visit valenciacc.edu/weekend.

History of Rock and Roll

Just give me some of that rock n' roll music! You've listened to the music – now hear its story. This course relives the exciting, noisy, sweaty history of the music that revolutionized the 20th century. Learn about the historical origins of rock and how music and history have often influenced each other. Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, The Beatles, Bruce Springsteen and Madonna are some of the artists featured as you take a journey through the multiple evolutions within rock. What could be better than listening your way to college credit?

FAMOUS GUITARS

How much do you rock?



A



B



C



D



E

Try to match each guitar to its famous owner.

- PETE TOWNSHEND
- JIMMY PAGE

- JIMI HENDRIX
- GEORGE HARRISON
- PRINCE

Answers on next page.



Visual Arts Today

Interested in exploring different types of art? Curious about how different pieces are made, but afraid to try it yourself? Need some good cocktail party conversation? Come and participate in Visual Arts Today. In this class, you will examine and experiment with various artistic media such as painting, drawing, sculpture, collage and photography. In addition, you will have the opportunity to speak with local artists and explore area museums and galleries. Whether you are an artist, teacher, lover of art, or just looking for an outlet for your creativity, this class can offer you a variety of new experiences and afford you a newfound appreciation for art.



Introduction to Film

Have you ever wondered how films are made, and how even things like the director's choice of lighting and camera angles can contribute to the meaning of a film? The Introduction to Film course will take you on a journey that explores both the technical aspects of film-making and the deeper, cultural and social meanings behind a given film. From *Citizen Kane* to *Fight Club*, this class has something all students will enjoy, while deepening their appreciation for the art of film.

Acting I

Have you ever wondered, while watching your favorite television show, how someone becomes a TV actor? Or how someone gets cast for a part in the movies, or a traveling Broadway show, or even a community theater production? In this class you will learn the craft and skill of acting and will be able to explore some of the fascinating worlds that it opens up. Taking this class won't guarantee that you will become a star, but you will leave with a basic understanding of what acting is all about. Acting I is perfect for people of all ages and all skill levels. No previous experience is necessary!



Photo by: Matthew Stroshane

Famous guitarists' Answer (from Page 26)
A. Jimi Hendrix
B. Pete Townshend
C. Prince
D. Jimmy Page
E. George Harrison

Taking off to *tokyo* Interview by Thera Woodard

Erika Trnka is the recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman \$5,000 Scholarship, which will allow her to study Japanese in Tokyo, Japan for 10 weeks this summer.

Erika Trnka, a sophomore at the Osceola Campus, is majoring in American Languages and Literature, with a minor in Area Studies-Southeast Asia. She is the first Valencia student to study overseas since the inauguration of the college's study abroad program. For more information about the program, visit the Study Abroad and Global Exchange (SAGE) Web site at valenciacc.edu/international/exchange. Read on to find out more about Trnka's upcoming trip.

Q: Why did you choose to study abroad in Japan?

Japanese culture has been a fascination of mine for a many years. I admire the way they value tradition while still remaining at the cutting-edge of technology. Their customs are vastly different from our own, and I find great beauty in the Japanese language.

Q: Have you ever traveled abroad before? If so, how do you think this experience will differ?

I've been to Mexico before, but I've never crossed an entire ocean! The cultural differences in Mexico weren't as vast as they could have been since I come from a Hispanic household, and I felt very comfortable. In Japan I will be almost halfway across the world, won't know anyone, and will be completely out of my element. The culture shock should be interesting. I look forward to learning about the ordinary things that would be extraordinary here.

Q: What do you expect your typical day in Japan to entail?

After waking and getting ready, I'll hustle my way down the crowded streets to the nearest subway station and head to class. The average commute in Tokyo is an hour and a half, but I'm hoping for

a dormitory closer to the school. Japanese classes are held for four hours, five days a week, and after that I'll spend three to five hours studying in groups. During my spare time I'll walk around and explore the city, most of the time looking like a tourist with a camera glued to my face. On Saturdays they hold a Japanese culture class, during which our hosts take us to areas of interest such as Asakusa Temple, the Imperial Palace, a Sumo beya, or a Kabuki theater.

Q: What do you think will be the hardest part about studying abroad?

The hardest part, yet the most rewarding, will be interacting with the locals. I have heard that they place a high value on manners. While I consider myself to be very polite, it's easy to offend someone just by using the wrong Japanese suffix form of Mr. or Mrs. For example, it's also impolite to not bow at the proper time, eat while walking, or pull your lower eyelid. As long as I remain aware of myself and my surroundings, I should be fine.

Q: What new things do you hope to try while in Japan?

I look forward to wearing a kimono, walking in wooden sandals, and trying those famous strawberry and cream-filled fish hot dogs I've heard so much about!

Q: What would you want Japanese students to know about America?

I would want them to know that we are not all the rude, noisy, hot-tempered, gun-toting stereotype so prominent in their media.

Q: What are your plans once you graduate from Valencia?

I'm going to pursue my English degree, with a minor in Asian studies. I have strongly considered getting certified to teach English as a foreign language and teach in Japan for a while. My experience there will be the deciding factor.

Erika Trnka



CHECK OUT TRNKA'S TRAVEL BLOG

Get a feel for Japan and the study abroad experience through Trnka's blog, which she will be updating with photos and videos throughout her travels. It can be found at Valencia's Study Abroad and Global Exchange (SAGE) Web site: valenciacc.edu/international/exchange.



Rob Young

Tomato Mozzarella Napoleon

In the Kitchen



Chef Rob Young, '01 Best of the Brunch

Rob Young has a lot on his plate these days! A 2001 graduate from Valencia's culinary management A.S. degree program, the 29 year old is the executive chef at Orlando Marriott in Lake Mary. He is responsible for the daily operations of the hotel's 120-seat bistro, 40-seat bar and 1,100 square-foot banquet space.

Overseeing a staff of about 30, Young says that the three most important things that he looks for in the people he hires are attitude, attitude and attitude. He also expects them to have discipline – a trait that he learned from his former teacher at Valencia, Chef Pierre Pilloud. "Every time I have to make a quick decision, it's Chef Pierre's voice I hear with one of his little sayings, like 'don't work hard, work smart,'" Young said.

Inspired to become a chef because someone said he could never do it, Young now creates his own menus and oversees banquets seating hundreds of people. He is also responsible for creating and preparing the hotel's Sunday brunch, which has been voted number one in Seminole County by *Seminole Magazine* for two years in a row.

It's not all glamorous work though; there are plenty of long hours that come with his job, making it necessary for this husband and father of three to find the balance between his home life and work life. "I've got to take off the Clark Kent outfit and put on the Superman outfit and figure out which one to put on at what time," Young said.

Luckily, he and his crew are like one big, happy family. Young says that he loves the culture at Marriott and plans on sticking with the company for a long time to come, possibly also becoming a culinary teacher one day.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 red tomato slices, approx. ½" thick
- 1 yellow tomato slice, approx. ½" thick
- 2 ounce fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced in two
- ½ ounce balsamic reduction
To make: boil balsamic vinegar rapidly until it reaches a thick consistency
- ½ ounce extra virgin olive oil
- 2 ounce basil pesto
- 1 sprig of fresh basil
- kosher salt and cracked pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

Spread the pesto on the tomato slices and season with salt and pepper.

Place one slice of fresh mozzarella on top of one red tomato slice and top with yellow tomato slice.

Place the second mozzarella slice on top of the yellow tomato slice and top with the second slice of the red tomato.

Cut the arrangement in half and place in the middle of a plate; open to reveal the inner layers.

Garnish with balsamic reduction, extra virgin olive oil, and sprig of basil.

Popular classes today, Popular jobs tomorrow

In our early childhood, we all believed that we would one day be a professional ballplayer or a dancer, a fireman or an Olympic medalist, a rock star or perhaps even the President of the United States. America is the land of opportunity, but it is also the land of reality, and sooner or later we must choose a career.

Excerpts from the March 2008 issue of FirstMonday magazine were reprinted with their permission.

So, besides becoming a major star, a standout or a hero, what is in store for today's youth? U.S. News and World Report recently released its list of hot careers of 2008, and the list includes many choices — 31 to be exact. And there's good news for those still chasing childhood dreams: Firefighter is on the list.

The magazine also lists cutting-edge careers, which not only are already viable choices now but also offer growth for tomorrow. Among the top careers the magazine listed are biomedical equipment technician, health informatics specialist, simulation developer and computational biologist, along with a host of green careers, all of which spell promise for Central Florida. Orlando's future medical city, its simulation and training stronghold, and its emerging green industry are thriving, representing bright prospects for jobs.

Not coincidentally, according to a survey by the Segmentation Co., a division of the marketing consultant Yankelovich, Orlando is one of only 14 urban areas nationwide that saw more workers move in than move out in the last decade. Local recruitment is strong, too.

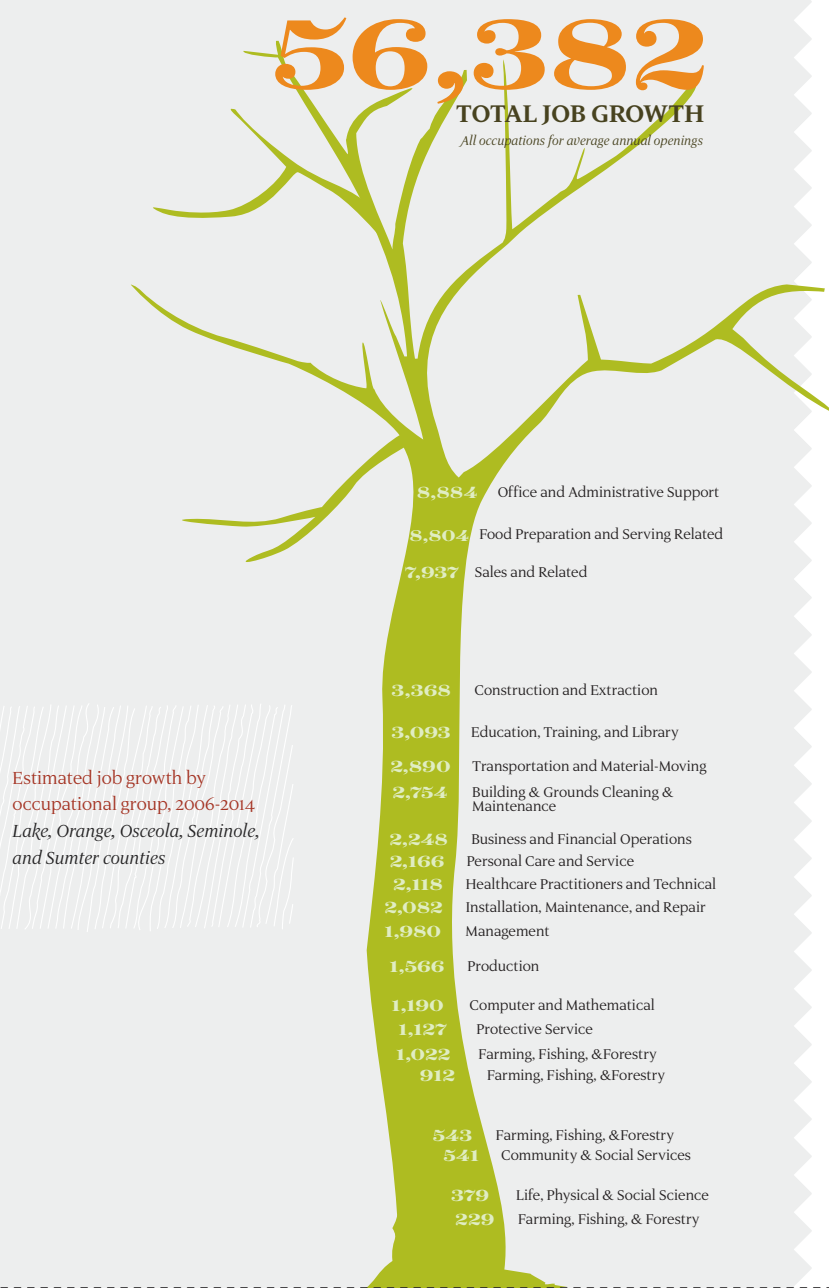
"We still see really strong recruitment on campus," says Amy Kleeman, associate director for employee relations in the career services department at the University of Central Florida. "And we are expecting a 16 percent increase in hiring."

Yet, what do the students have on their minds? Where are they going? Judging from area college enrollments, local students appear to be heading for careers in health care, computer programming, engineering, business administration, applied sciences, criminal justice, music production, hospitality management, liberal arts, and arts and entertainment.

Healthy Options

Without question, at the top of the list for hot careers, based on student enrollment in Central Florida, is health care.

Even though schools have been graduating nursing students in high numbers over the last several years, there still aren't enough nurses to meet the demand in the working world. As a result, hospitals and other health care providers have been offering nursing graduates higher starting salaries, more incentives and even signing bonuses.



Aside from nursing, the entire health care industry needs workers and students have been flocking to fill allied health-related classes. Careers in respiratory and occupational therapy, pharmacy and working with the elderly have been attracting waves of students. The business end of health care has also been growing in popularity, with an increased need for managers, technicians and analysts of health care data.

Kleeman also singles out the biomedical industry. "There's a lot of excitement on campus and in the community," she says. As the medical hub in the Lake Nona area grows, she expects the biomedical field to "skyrocket." Additionally, she says an offshoot of health services that is getting a lot of attention is forensics, a career made popular by television programs such as "CSI" and "Cold Case."

And, at Valencia Community College, the nursing program has doubled within the last six years, while its other health-related programs continue to be strong. "We can anticipate additional requests for new health-related programs as Orlando's medical city evolves," says Falecia D. Williams, Valencia's assistant vice president for workforce development.

Strictly Business

Local colleges are also reporting a rise in enrollment in business administration, accounting, engineering and, in particular, computer-related careers, such as computer programming and networking, and database administration and analysis.

Kleeman says that while she is seeing an increase in students going into technical and engineering fields, UCF is also experiencing a higher demand for courses in business fields. An increase in the number of small- and medium-sized businesses has created a greater demand in the workforce for accountants, bookkeepers and business managers.

On the other hand, Kleeman's biggest challenge is the low enrollment in civil engineering. Employers, she says, are clamoring for more graduates in that field.

Williams says there continues to be interest in diverse industries at Valencia, with the most popular careers of interest, besides nursing, being criminal justice, music production, business administration and computer engineering.

Certifiable Popularity

Besides the traditional college career path, certification and continuing education programs in Central Florida are worthy of attention. Valencia

currently offers 65 different certificate programs that provide specialized or advanced training in specific career fields.

According to Christine Hinkley, business development manager in the division of continuing education at UCF, the leading health-related certification being sought is in legal nursing, which allows the student to learn how to perform an analysis of medical information as related to law.

In addition, Hinkley has seen a significant jump in courses in preparation for tests such as the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and the GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test). She believes the competitive environment for college admissions, in both undergraduate and graduate programs, is driving the industry for test-preparation courses.

"Getting into the best undergraduate or graduate program possible is the key to subsequent placement in top jobs and careers," she says. "With the economy slowing down, this is becoming a huge concern."



Online Job Search Resources

Sometimes searching for a career can seem like a full-time job in itself. Luckily, helping people with the process really is what Valencia's Internship and Placement Office does. They offer student services on all four of the college's campuses. They also have several resources on their Web site for alumni and members of the community who are on the job hunt, as well as for the employers who are looking to hire them.

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Visit www.valenciacc.edu/ipo and click on "Job Placement Resources" under the "Student Services" heading to access the following:

- **Community Jobs:** Listings of part-time and full-time jobs available to any student or person from the community. Jobs are grouped by industry.
- **JobCatch:** A free job search system for students and alumni. Allows you to post your resume online for approved employers to view.
- **Job Search Links:** Links to 42 different employment Web sites, including those specializing in specific career fields such as education and health care, and generalist sites like *Monster.com*.
- **Placement Partners:** List of resume referral services and current job openings within Central Florida that are available to Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degree graduates.

OFFERING A JOB?

To recruit Valencia students and alumni for jobs and internships, visit www.valenciacc.edu/ipo and look under the "Employer Services" heading.

VALENCIA NEWS

Photo Courtesy of Eddie Misicka



Gold ADDY award winning piece by Valencia student Eddie Misicka.



Eleven of Valencia's graphic design students were named winners as part of the annual ADDY advertising competition

hosted by the Orlando Chapter of the American Advertising Federation held on February 23. A total of 29 out of 35 awards in the student category were presented to Valencia students. Also, Valencia's own marketing campaign was awarded a Gold ADDY in the interactive media category of the professional competition for its Web site, www.EducationIsIn.com

The new Allied Health Building (Module 10), which is currently under construction on the West Campus, is scheduled to open this fall.

A joint-use building for Valencia and the University of Central Florida has been planned for the West Campus. Design development for the building is nearly complete.

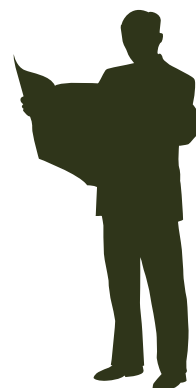
The Way Finding Committee began its installation of new maps and signage throughout all of Valencia's campuses in March. These updates take into account new construction, ADA compliancy, traffic flow patterns, and signage visibility in order to better guide people around Valencia's campuses.

Valencia's radiography program now offers advanced technical certificates in computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The application deadline for admittance into either program is July 1. www.valenciacc.edu/west/health

Valencia hosted its third-annual Community College Conference on Legal Issues Feb. 10-12 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando. The conference attracted more than 230 college administrators, faculty, staff and general counsel from 23 states to focus on key issues regarding campus security, human resources, college liability and risk management, student and academic affairs, and access and diversity.

Dr. Sanford C. Shugart, Valencia's president, has been appointed as the 2008 corporate walk chair for the Greater Orlando Light the Night Walk, benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The walk will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27 at Lake Eola in Downtown Orlando, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

On Feb. 23, Valencia hosted the Kerouac Celebration, a literary event held in celebration of the publication of Jack Kerouac's book, *On the Road*, on East Campus. There were poetry readings from nationally renowned former Poet Laureate, Billy Collins, as well as from Valencia students, faculty and local poets. More than 250 people attended the event.



Billy Collins at the Kerouac Celebration.



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Valencia Alumni Association Members receive a 10% discount on conference registration and a 15% discount on services.

Upcoming Conferences:

**Florida Developmental
Education Association's (FDEA)
30th Annual Conference**
Oct. 15-17, 2008
Orlando, FL

**Valencia's Learning
Conversations Conference**
Oct. 22-24, 2008
Orlando, FL

To book any of our conference and meeting planning services, or for registration information, call 407-582-3205.





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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.

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Has successfully earned an A.A., A.S. or A.A.S. degree or technical program certificate.

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