

SPRING 2009

# VITAE

CONNECTING  
VALENCIA  
ALUMNI



Investing in Each Other

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

## Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the president of the Valencia Alumni Association this year. I was a nontraditional student the first time someone asked me to volunteer at Valencia. I did so immediately and found the experience so rewarding that whenever I have been asked to volunteer since, my answer has almost always been: "I can't say no to Valencia." Valencia has helped me to achieve goals that seemed distant, however I learned that they were possible and have achieved them and even more. I am grateful when I remember the friendship and support I was given by faculty and fellow students, as well as scholarship support from the Alumni Association.

I feel it is important for alumni to give back to Valencia and its students in whatever way they can: support alumni networking events, volunteer their time to mentor students, participate on college committees, or support the college and its students through individual donations or annual fundraising activities such as the Alumni Association's 5K Run, Walk & Roll and Valencia Foundation's Taste For Learning. I invite you to visit the Alumni Association Web site and/or contact the Alumni Relations office (407-582-2946) to explore innovative ways to get involved and make a difference.



Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcy Porter'.

Marcy Porter '05  
Alumni Association President

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

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

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have an idea for a future *Vitae* article or are interested in being a contributing writer, please contact us at [alumni@valenciacc.edu](mailto: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](http://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-tay) means: the course of one's life or career, a short account of a person's life, a résumé. Since the purpose of this alumni magazine is to keep you connected to Valencia, the title *Vitae* reflects the collective résumé of alumni, faculty, staff and students who have proudly walked through our doors.



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## Thirty Years of Smiles

Valencia's dental hygiene program celebrated its 30th anniversary at Valencia's West Campus on Saturday, October 11th. Approximately 90 alumni, guests, faculty members, students and friends connected with each other and were treated to student-led tours of the newly opened Health-Related Sciences Building. The planning team working with the Alumni Relations Office included Pamela Sandy, Program Chair, and Robin Poole '79, faculty member of the dental hygiene program. Reunion photos can be viewed in the Photo Gallery at [www.valenciacc.edu/alumni](http://www.valenciacc.edu/alumni).

*There have been more than 600 graduates since 1978.*



### Association Outings

#### Save-the-Dates for Upcoming Alumni Reunions:

##### Culinary Program Alumni Drop-In Reception

Tuesday, March 31, 4:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Valencia's West Campus

##### Hospitality Alumni Reception

Tuesday, March 31, 4:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Valencia's West Campus

##### Architecture Program Alumni Drop-In Reception

Tuesday, March 31, 4:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Valencia's West Campus

##### Respiratory Care Program Alumni Reception

November 2009, TBD  
Valencia's West Campus

Make sure you receive your invitation – update your alumni contact information by visiting [www.valenciacc.edu/alumni](http://www.valenciacc.edu/alumni) and clicking the Membership Signup link on the right-hand side. You can also check the alumni web site to see if there is a chapter for your program or contact the Alumni Association office to get one started.

### Alumni Poll

Is there an alumni chapter for your program?

Yes

I wish!

Soon – it's in the works

I'm not sure

[View Results](#) [Submit](#)

Check out the new poll feature on our web site. Your feedback will give us a better idea of who our members are and will help us update alumni offerings.



Eddie Coleman

## Eddie Coleman WavaTron Scholarship

Eddie Coleman, a former Valencia – UCF Two Plus Two incoming scholarship recipient from Jones High School, graduated from Jones in 1989 and from Valencia in 1991. He then went on to graduate from UCF in 1995. Eddie now owns his own software development company in Orlando, WavaTron. Remembering not only the financial assistance he received from the

scholarship, but also the pride he felt of having someone believe he was worthy of the investment, Eddie has donated scholarship funds for two years now to be awarded specifically to a Jones High School student entering Valencia.

The recipient of the Eddie Coleman WavaTron Scholarship this year was Jacqueline Feazell. Like Eddie Coleman, Jacqueline is the first in her family to attend college and wants to make a difference in the lives of others.

“I want my younger siblings to look up to me and say ‘I can do it too.’ I want to be a great role model for young ladies and young men because not everybody has someone to look up to,” she said.

Dr. Briget Williams, the Principal of Jones High School, along with Eddie and many others, has no doubt that Jacqueline is already well on her way as an inspiration to others. *To support Alumni Association scholarships and others, please visit [www.valencia.org](http://www.valencia.org) or [www.valenciacc.edu/alumni](http://www.valenciacc.edu/alumni).*



## Alumni Support Foundations of Excellence

The first year of college lays the foundation for learning success. Valencia is participating in a one-year Foundations of Excellence group study to consider ways we can better serve our first-year students with the help of The Policy Center on the First Year of College. Valencia currently has 170 people, including Valencia alumni and retirees, working on one or more of the nine “Foundational Dimensions” that promote learning and success of first-year students: Philosophy, Organization, Learning, Faculty, Transitions, All Students, Diversity, Roles and Purposes, and Improvement. *If you would like to get involved, please contact: Kurt Ewen (407-582-3413), Sonya Joseph (407-582-4994), or Ann Puyana (407-582-2778).*

## Alumni Achievers Reception 2008

In addition to the Eddie Coleman WavaTron Scholarship, the Valencia Alumni Association manages 12 scholarship endowments through the Valencia Foundation and was proud to award 43 scholarships at the Alumni Achievers Reception on June 11th. More than 130 alumni and guests celebrated academic success and volunteerism. The scholarship recipients, outstanding alumni, students and volunteers were honored during the reception.

Among the many scholarship awards, Valencia Alumni Association board member Michael McLaughlin '03 of the UCF Alumni Association's Scholarship Committee and fellow board member Tammy Lamm '70 presented Mayor Richard T. Crotty Valencia – UCF Two Plus Two Scholarships, valued at \$4,000, to the following six graduating high school students entering Valencia:

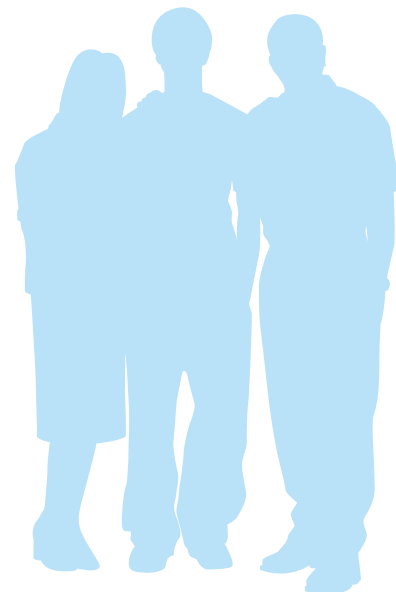
### Orange County:

- Gergana Atanasova, Edgewater High School
- Jennifer L. Planas, Cypress Creek High School
- Natalie L. Samocki, Timber Creek High School

### Osceola County:

- Kristin A. Anderson, St. Cloud High School
- Shonnel O. Boston, Osceola High School
- Danielle E. Windham, Paths at Teco

*Please visit the Alumni Association's Web site to see the names of all scholarship recipients and Alumni Reception photos.*





THREE WAYS TO GIVE  
YOUR TIME, TALENTS  
AND TREASURES TO  
THE COMMUNITY





## Taking Stock in Children

by Melissa Tchen



Children are pretty impressionable. Tell them they can succeed, and they're likely to believe you. Which is exactly the idea behind Take Stock in Children.

The statewide program helps low-income, at-risk children to succeed by guaranteeing them a scholarship to college and pairing them with a mentor to encourage them along the way.

Participating children begin the program in middle school and continue on until they graduate high school. They must sign performance contracts agreeing to get good grades, exhibit positive behaviors, remain drug and crime free, and meet once a week with their mentor. In return, they receive a 2+2 Florida Prepaid College Scholarship, which provides two years' tuition at a community college and two years' tuition at any state university.

### Valencia's Investment

In 2007, Sandy Shugart, Valencia's president, recognized the need for a Take Stock in Children program in Orange County and decided that Valencia should be the one to administer it.

"We have many children in our county that are dreaming of going to college, and we are committed to making that dream a reality," said Shugart. "This program will provide our children with a chance to obtain a higher education and will help them get there with the guidance of a caring mentor."

Valencia partnered with Orange County Public Schools to administer the program and began the 2008-2009 school year with 50 Take Stock in Children participants from Lockhart, Lee and Howard Middle Schools. The students were selected based on applications, recommendations from their school principals and interviews with the Valencia Take Stock in Children Advisory Council. As the program grows, Valencia anticipates adding other middle schools.

### Mentoring Provides Big Payoff

If it weren't for Take Stock in Children, many of the participating students simply wouldn't have thought that a college education was financially feasible for them. The program's guarantee of a college scholarship certainly removes that barrier – but a mentor does even more.

The No. 1 indicator of a child's success is a relationship with a caring adult. Take Stock in Children mentors help their mentees build a foundation of basic values, set goals, and understand the importance of staying in school. By helping mentees believe that it's within them to succeed, mentors help to remove the mental barriers that hold many students back.

While Take Stock in Children mentors only meet with students for one hour each week, their effects are long lasting. Nationwide research shows that if a young person is mentored they are 52 percent less likely to skip school, 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs, and 27 percent less likely to begin drinking alcohol.

### More Buy-In Needed

Take Stock in Children has met its mentor quota for the 2008-2009 school year, but is already anticipating a need for additional mentors for the 2009-2010 school year as more children are accepted into the program.

Volunteer mentors will meet with one student on school grounds, one hour per week for an entire school year, and may agree to mentor that student throughout their high school years as well. An orientation session is provided to all mentors, and Valencia's Take Stock in Children staff provides assistance throughout the mentoring process.

In addition to mentors, Valencia's Take Stock in Children program is also in need of donations. The Valencia Community College Foundation purchases Florida Pre-paid Tuition plans for each participating student using local donations and matched funds from the State of Florida. The more donations the program receives, the more students it can help.

Elisha Gonzalez-Bonnewitz, director of Take Stock in Children of Orange County, encourages people to contribute however they can. "By helping a dedicated young person who is committed to achieving success, you are forever changing the life of a deserving child who otherwise might never have the opportunity to realize the dream of an education."

*To volunteer as a mentor, provide a tax-deductible contribution or to obtain more information about Take Stock in Children of Orange County, contact Elisha Gonzalez-Bonnewitz at 407-582-3120.*

*For information about Take Stock in Children of Osceola County, contact Diane Parker at 407-348-9728.*

(continued)

## Valencia Gives: The Gift of Life

by Michael Bosley



Did you know that Valencia Community College houses a full-service Blood Center on West Campus in partnership with Florida Blood Center (FBC)? If you are one of the 2,387 donors who donated blood between Jan. 1, 2007 and Sept. 2008 you are familiar with this service and the friendly faces who greet each donor. These donations resulted in 1,874 units collected, which saved 5,622 lives.

Florida's Blood Centers (FBC) began in a small, four-room hospital wing providing about 100 units a month for transfusion purposes. Shortly after the start of World War II, as demand increased, Floridians were called upon to build a fully operational blood banking facility. On April 2, 1942, FBC was incorporated as a nonprofit organization founded on the philosophy of people helping others with volunteer blood donations. Today, FBC has grown into a sophisticated, state-of-the-art medical facility with dozens of locations and mobile units. FBC is the largest blood center in Florida and is the sole supplier of blood to more than 70 hospitals and health care facilities throughout the state.

As someone who gives blood every 56 days, it is so rewarding to see my colleagues and Valencia students giving the gift of life. This is probably one of the easiest and most rewarding volunteer opportunities you could ever do. Every time I visit the center I receive excellent attention and have a minimal wait time. The staff is very committed to making their donors feel comfortable; if you have never given blood before this is a great place to start. They treat each person with extra care and always appreciate your visit.

Next time you are on West Campus or in the neighborhood, stop by the Health Sciences Building Room 100C. The hours of operation are: Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The branch closes for three weeks in August and follows the same closed

days as the Valencia college calendar. For additional information please visit the FBC Web site: [www.floridasbloodcenters.org](http://www.floridasbloodcenters.org).

## Habitat for Humanity

by Debbie Garrison



I grew up in a family that fully subscribed to Albert Schweitzer's philosophy on volunteering. My grandmother volunteered into her 90's shuttling those who couldn't drive to appointments, serving meals to the elderly at the local community center, and helping her church raise money by helping staff the food stand at the county fair. My mother and father volunteered for the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church, public schools and many other organizations while raising six children and working full-time. So, it was only natural that I became involved in volunteering too.

Eighteen years ago, my church was

difference in the lives of those families, and I was learning all kinds of new skills.

I made lots of new friends among the other regular Habitat volunteers so when the church completed its third sponsored house, I kept volunteering. Two or three Saturdays a month I worked on Habitat homes. As I became more skilled, I was put in charge of small groups of volunteers, teaching them how to do a particular job and overseeing their work. It wasn't long before I became an official Habitat crew leader. As Habitat built house after house, my skills continued to grow. I am now able to lead work teams in many different areas of home construction.


I love my work at Habitat and often recruit friends from other places, including colleagues from Valencia. Several faculty members, students, staffers and even members of the board of trustees have worked alongside me to build Habitat homes. When Habitat was looking for sponsors for future homes, it seemed natural to suggest that Valencia get involved. When I proposed

**"You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's a little thing, do something for others – something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it."**

**–Albert Schweitzer**

sponsoring a house for Habitat for Humanity Orlando, and I was invited to participate. I wasn't particularly skilled in any of the building trades, but I was willing to give it a try. I showed up on Saturday with my hammer and was paired with a Habitat crew leader who showed me how to frame the interior walls of a house. I had a good time working with other volunteers and future Habitat homeowners, so I came back the following week. Most Saturdays for the next three months you could find me at the job site. I helped hang drywall, shingle a roof, paint and landscape. By the time Habitat handed the keys to the new homeowner, I was hooked. For the next few years, every time my church scheduled a Habitat workday, I was there. Soon I was the one recruiting new volunteers and organizing the church workdays. It felt wonderful to know that I had made a

such a partnership to the East Campus math department and later to the Provost's leadership team, it was met with an enthusiastic response.

In August 2008, the East Campus officially kicked-off a project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. The goal is to raise \$70,000 in donations between now and Spring Break 2009 in March and then provide volunteer labor by students, staff and faculty of Valencia's East Campus to help build a Valencia-sponsored home for a family in need of safe, affordable housing. If you would like further information about this project or to make a donation, contact me, Debbie Garrison, at 407-582-2304. 



APPLY ONLINE FOR 2009

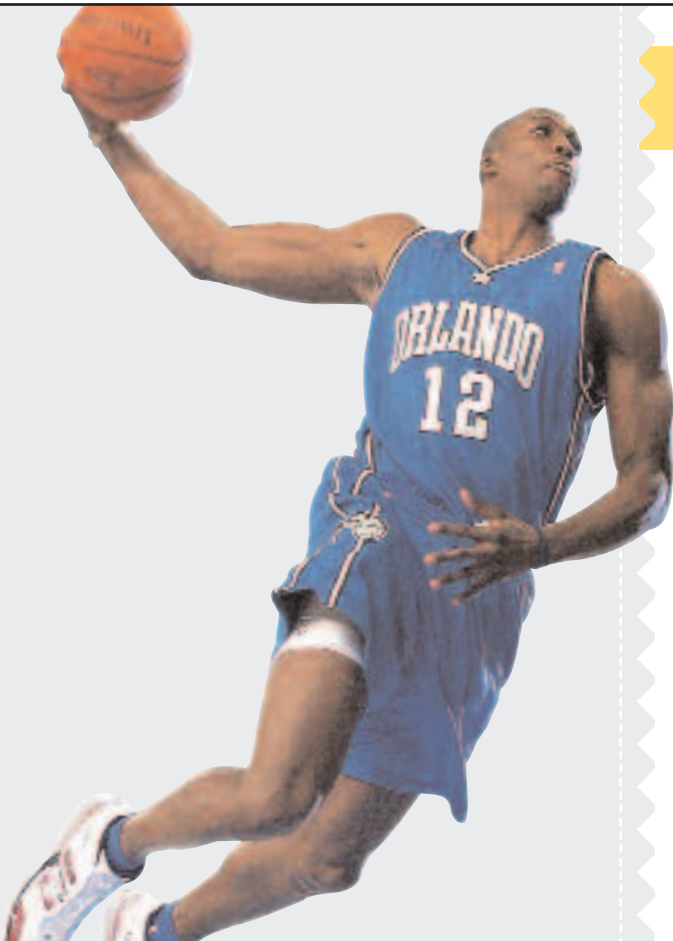
# scholarships

VALENCIACC.EDU/ALUMNI

ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

 VALENCIA

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS	AMOUNT	ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS	APPLICATIONS DUE
Mayor Richard T. Crotty Valencia - UCF 2Plus2 Graduating Scholarship	\$4,000 (\$2,000 at Valencia and \$2,000 at UCF)	Friday January 2, 2009	Wednesday February 4, 2009
Distinguished Graduate Award	\$1,500	Friday January 2, 2009	Wednesday February 4, 2009
Mayor Richard T. Crotty Valencia - UCF 2Plus2 High School Incoming Scholarship	\$4,000 for each scholarship (\$2,000 at Valencia and \$2,000 at UCF)	Wednesday February 11, 2009	Tuesday March 17, 2009
2009 Annual Scholarships	\$700-\$1,000 (divided between Fall and Spring Term)	Wednesday February 11, 2009	Tuesday March 17, 2009
2009 Fall Alumni Scholarships	\$500 for each scholarship	Wednesday February 25, 2009	Monday March 30, 2009



## VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ORLANDO MAGIC NIGHT



vs.



Orlando Magic vs. Cleveland Cavaliers  
Friday, April 3rd, 2009  
8:00 p.m., Amway Arena



**TICKETS ONLY \$20**

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

Valencia alumni, friends, faculty, staff and retirees are invited to register or purchase tickets, contact Andi Jackson at: 407-916-2427 or [ajackson@orlandomagic.com](mailto:ajackson@orlandomagic.com)

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

ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

 VALENCIA

## 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](http://www.valenciacc.edu/visionsvoices).

## Susan Werner, singer/songwriter



Photo: Scott Montgomery

**FEB. 5, 2009**  
**1 P.M.-2 P.M.**  
**CD SIGNING/Q&A: 2:15 P.M.**  
**EAST CAMPUS**  
**PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

With six albums under her belt, an active touring career throughout the U.S. and a string of accolades from the likes of *The Washington Post*, *The Village Voice* and *The New Yorker*, Susan Werner has become one of the defining artists of the folk music genre. Her songs effortlessly slide between folk, jazz and pop, and are delivered with a sassy wit and classic Midwestern charm. Her new album, "The Gospel Truth," explores the role of the church in contemporary American life. Quite possibly the first "agnostic gospel" album, her new songs speak in a wide variety of voices, from faithful and traditional to the critical and even the unconvinced.

## Barry Lopez, author



Photo: Nancy Crampton

**MAR. 5, 2009**  
**READING: 1:15 P.M.-2:15 P.M.**  
**BOOK SIGNING/Q&A: 2:15 P.M.**  
**OSCEOLA CAMPUS**  
**BUILDING 2 AUDITORIUM (101)**

Barry Lopez is an essayist, author and short-story writer of both fiction and non-fiction. His fiction work often addresses themes of ethics and identity, while his nonfiction work usually focuses on the relationships between man and nature. Lopez is best known as the author of *Arctic Dreams*, a personal account of nature in the Far North, for which he received the National Book Award. His essays can be found in two collections, *Crossing Open Ground* and *About this Life*, and in several anthologies. He is also a contributor to publications including *The Paris Review*, *Orion*, *Manoa*, *Outside*, *The Georgia Review*, *Harper's*, and *National Geographic* magazine.

## Valencia Arts Dates for Spring 2009

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### Music

For more info, contact:  
407-582-2332

#### Faculty Recital

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

#### Student Showcase

Feb. 26, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

#### Spring Student Recitals

Mar. 4, Apr. 8, 15, 2009,  
12 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

#### Spring Choral Concert

Apr. 7, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

#### Contemporary Concert

Apr. 21, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

#### Spring Symphonic/Jazz Concert

Apr. 14, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

#### Spring Opera Workshop

May 1, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Black Box Theater

#### Spring Arts Festival

Feb. 2009 times TBA  
Performing Arts Center

### Osceola Art Festival, Feb. 7-8, 2009

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Sunday  
The Osceola Center for the Arts and Valencia Community College have partnered to host the 41st Osceola Art Festival, which will be held on Valencia's Osceola Campus, located at 1800 Denn John Lane in Kissimmee. Showcasing artists from around the country, the event will be an art, cultural and educational festival experience for the whole family.

### Theater

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

#### The Tempest by William Shakespeare

Feb. 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27,  
28, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Feb. 22, Mar. 1, 2009,  
2 p.m.  
Black Box Theater

#### Winner of Valencia's 17th Annual Florida Playwright Competition- World Premiere!

April 1, 2, 3, 4, 2009, 7:30  
p.m., April 5, 2009, 2 p.m.  
Black Box Theater

#### Afternoon Delight

April 15: Free: Student-Directed One-Acts, Program A 1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
April 22: Free: Student-Directed One-Acts, Program B 1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
Black Box Theater

### Visual Arts

For more info, contact:  
407-582-2298

#### Selected Fine Art

##### Faculty 2008

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

##### Drawings & Mixed Media Works by Mary Stewart

Jan. 23 - Mar. 13, 2009  
Opening Reception Friday,  
Jan. 23, 2009, 6:30 p.m.-  
9:30 p.m.  
Anita S. Wooten Gallery

##### Annual Juried Student Exhibition

Apr. 17 - May 18, 2009  
Opening Reception and  
Awards Friday, Apr. 17,  
2009, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Anita S. Wooten Gallery

### Dance

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

**3 in Motion: Dr. Phillips Visual and Performing Arts Dance Magnet collaboration with Valencia Dance Theatre and Orlando professional jazz company, Cinedance**  
Feb. 7, 2009, 7 p.m.  
Dr. Phillips High School  
Performing Arts Center

#### Valencia Spring Dance Concert

Mar. 27, 28, 2009, 8 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

### Film

For more info contact the  
production office:  
407-582-2413

#### 14th Annual Film Celebration

Date TBA  
Performing Arts Center

#### Silver Wings & Civil Rights: The Flight to Fly

Feb. 13, 2009, 6:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

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*All arts events are held at Valencia's East Campus unless noted. The East Campus is located at 701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail in Orlando. Arts dates are subject to change, please check with the box office for confirmation before an event.*



## She's Betting on Valencia *by Geraldine Gallagher, CFRE*

**Q: What influences in your life have encouraged you to be philanthropic and community-minded?**

According to my mother, Helen Calafut-Von Dolteren, it doesn't take much to be a nice person—a kind word, holding a door open for someone or sharing a bowl of homemade soup. Combine kindness with God's word, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" and you naturally wind up with philanthropy in my world.

**Q: Tell us about your law firm.**

AEGIS Law Firm, P.L., focuses on personalized estate planning. The company was founded upon the principle that it is our mission to help our clients fully understand complicated issues through education and personal attention.

**Q: There are many charities and causes you could support, and you do. But you clearly have prioritized your time, talents and resources. Why is Valencia one of your priorities?**

Public education and the arts are my dual missions, and Valencia allows me to support both. I care about this college because anyone can begin anew at Valencia, whether it's to sharpen their work skills or tool for a new career. I have heard the college described as the Ellis Island of higher education, and it is true. Valencia's students come in all shapes, sizes

and ages, and from diverse income levels, families and backgrounds. The college's programs provide opportunities in just about any field you could imagine.

How much easier could it be to support an institution that does so much for

everyone in every corner of our community?

**Q: Why do think that philanthropy matters?**

As a society and as individuals, I believe we have a moral obligation to give and to give back, to protect and keep safe those who need a hand up, and

to provide everyone with the opportunity to learn and succeed. This is our American dream. I also believe that giving when no one is looking and telling not a soul is a cornerstone of philanthropy and service.

**Q: What are your priority initiatives for your term as foundation board chair?**

I would like to build upon the previous good works of the foundation board chairs who walked before me and ensure that the college and all of Central Florida come to know, appreciate, love and support the Valencia Foundation. Each of us as board members, donors, students, alumni, retirees, faculty and staff can make it our mission to tell Valencia's stories in the community. We have to raise the profile of the college and our foundation so that when donors are planning their philanthropy, they understand the vital role the college plays in this community. For our donors, not one penny of your donation is spent on anything other than your intended use, be it scholarships, teaching chairs or programs.

**Q: What do you hope your life legacy will be?**

When I die, I want people to realize that they have the power to change the world—it's just going to take awhile and through a lot of small actions. Whether it's through a hot meal, scholarship or educational workshop, it can be done. We can leave the world a better place than we found it. Mother Teresa once said, "Do no great things. Do small things with great love."

**Q: What is your fondest hope for Valencia?**

I would like to win the PowerBall for \$200 million so we can build all the campuses and facilities and fund an enormous educational endowment to assist students and the college. But it is my fondest hope that I see the day when any deserving student in our community is able to attend college, and money doesn't stand in the way. That will take an endowment many times the size of our current one, which is the largest among 1,200 community colleges, as recorded by the National Association of College and University Business Officers. Our student need has never been greater, and I'd like work with my fellow board members, alumni and community partners to ensure we have the resources to keep the doors open for community college students in financial need.

Helen Von Dolteren-Fournier, JD,CFP, President of AEGIS Law Firm, P.L., is the chair of the Valencia Foundation's board of directors.



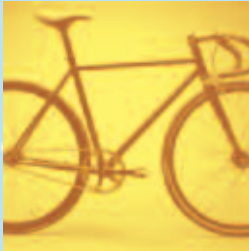
# 2009 TWO FOUR SIX MONTHLY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb  
6-15

## ArtsFest

Hosted by United Arts of Central Florida to kick off its fundraising campaign, ArtsFest takes place at various venues throughout Orange, Seminole, Osceola and Lake counties, featuring music, dance, drama and art from more than 125 cultural organizations. All events are free and open to the public.

[www.redchairproject.com](http://www.redchairproject.com) or 407-628-0333, ext. 28



## Tour de Cure—American Diabetes Association

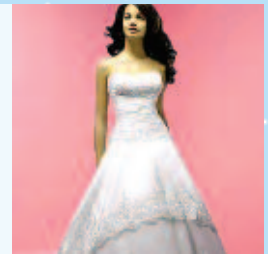
Held to benefit the American Diabetes Association, this biking event takes place along the back roads of East Orlando. With four routes of varying difficulties to choose from, there's something for all levels of cyclists. [www.tour.diabetes.org](http://www.tour.diabetes.org) or 1-888-DIABETES

Feb  
22

Mar  
3-14

## Brides Against Breast Cancer Gown Sale

Held at the UCF Fairwinds Alumni Center, all proceeds from this event will go to breast cancer charity. You can buy a wedding gown, or donate a used one—they are looking for contemporary gowns from 2000 or later. [www.bridesagainstabreastcancer.org](http://www.bridesagainstabreastcancer.org)



## Red Cross Rendezvous Gala

This black-tie affair includes an auction, dinner and dancing—all to benefit the American Red Cross of Central Florida. This year's event will be held at Disney's Contemporary Resort. Tickets are \$160.

[www.centralfl-redcross.org](http://www.centralfl-redcross.org)

Mar  
28



## Fringe Festival

Taking place in and around Loch Haven Park, the Orlando Fringe Festival is an uncensored, non-juried theatre festival that exposes patrons to performances ranging from mild to wild. All proceeds from ticket sales go directly to the artists involved.

[www.orlandofringe.org](http://www.orlandofringe.org)



May  
14-25

May  
3-14

## Charity Challenge XXIV Florida Citrus Bowl

A little bit of friendly competition goes a long way when it's for charity. Any company in the hospitality industry can create a team to participate in events like tug-of-war, tubing, obstacle courses and more, with their entry fees going to the charity of their choice. Also, the event is in need of sponsors, as well as volunteers to help out. [www.charitychallengeinc.org](http://www.charitychallengeinc.org)

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



**PAUL ALFRED SKINNER**

♣76

Paul Skinner completed his Fire Technology degree at Valencia and went on to earn his Bachelor's in Fire and Safety Engineering and Technology from the University of Cincinnati, as well as his Master's in Public Administration at UCF. He remains active as a member of the Christian Surfers of Daytona Beach and working with the Boy Scouts of America.



**JANICE FASIG**

♣78

Janice Fasig has been a nurse for 30 years. After gaining her nursing degree from Valencia in 1978, she has steadily worked her way up through the ranks at her hospital and now works with patients as a case manager.

**LOUISE M. GOUGE**

♣88

Award-winning author Louise M. Gouge has published seven novels, with two more due for release in 2009. She currently teaches English and Humanities at Valencia's Osceola Campus.



**GEN (GORSKI) COLE**

♣87

Gen Cole, who finished at Valencia in 1987, has become a fierce fighter against childhood obesity. Her kids' fitness program, Kids' Hoop, has been presented at the City of Casselberry's Summer Camp Program and at the Maitland Civic Center.

**J. SCOTT PULEO**

♣94

Holding an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science degree from Valencia, as well as a Bachelor's degree from UCF, J. Scott Puleo now works as Director of Recruiting for Northwestern Financial Network—The South Florida Group.

All non-credited photos courtesy of featured alumni



**DIANE W. BENNETT**

**2003** Diane Bennett, a 2003 Valencia graduate, studied at the University of Florida for both Bachelor's and Master's studies. Diane has participated in efforts to improve wastewater treatment in environmentally sensitive areas, and is currently working as an Engineer at the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency.



Photo: Don Burlinson

**CYNTHIA HARRIS**

**2009** Criminal Justice graduate Cynthia Harris now owns and operates the Altamonte Springs restaurant, Hughey's American Grill.

**CHERIE RAMIREZ**

**2002** Cherie Ramirez is almost halfway through her PhD at Harvard University in Biological and Biomedical Sciences—which keeps her frequently in the lab! “I recommend Valencia every chance I get and continue to be thankful for the wonderful mentors and professors I had as a dual enrollment student.”



Photo: Don Burlinson

**STACEY J. MACKEY '04  
ELSIE TRACY '05** (not pictured)

**2004** Since finishing her studies in Valencia's Culinary program in 2004, Stacey Mackey has formed a successful business partnership with Elsie Tracy, another Valencia graduate. Their company, The Gourmet Table, has provided personal, in-home chef service and healthy alternatives to dining out for three years, operating in Orlando, FL and Napa, CA. Sommelier Leilani Batty, a former student of the Valencia Culinary program, has also recently joined the company.

**SOEURETTE MICHEL**

**2003** Soeurette Michel is currently finishing up her studies at Florida A&M University's College of Law in Orlando, and is serving as the Community Service Chair for the Black Law Student Association and the Student Bar Association Community Service Chair.



## CHARLES NORMAN

**2007** Charles Norman, who holds three degrees from Valencia (03, 04, 07), recently climbed Mount Rainier in support of a fundraiser for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. He encourages anyone who might also be interested in similar opportunities to head over to [www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org) and see how they can get involved.



Photo: Don Burlinson

## ARLEEN SANTOS

**2007** Arleen Santos has used her Valencia nursing degree with the Orlando Regional Health Cardiovascular Unit since May 2008. She plans on doing her Master's in Nursing and is considering becoming a teacher.

## CHRISTINE NICOLE LORENZ

**2008** Christine Lorenz, who finished her Business Administration degree at Valencia, transferred to the University of South Florida to continue her studies and is now double majoring in Psychology.

## LUIS AYALA

**2008** Luis G. Ayala now works for United Space Alliance in Houston, TX. He deals with modification and preparation of hardware for both the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station.

## ISRAEL CAMARA

**2008** Israel Camara graduated from Valencia after studying Civil Engineering and Surveying Technology. He has two children and now works in Orlando as a Civil Engineering Designer. He works with many aspects of his company's preparation and construction planning, as well as dealing directly with clients.

All non-credited photos courtesy of featured alumni

## Let everyone know what you've been up to!

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

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

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





## Where is she now?

by Bill Castellano '70

When Joan Tiller retired in 2007 as Valencia's assistant vice president for workforce development there was one unanswered question at her retirement party – after 26 years, what will Joan do now? Though speaker after speaker posed the question, she kept everyone guessing. At least part of the answer came early in 2008 when Joan Tiller agreed to become the third president of the Valencia Retirement Club. [Ivan Applebaum and Gustavo Morales served previously as the first two presidents of the group that was created in 1998.]

What have you been up to?

During an interview shortly after her retirement, Tiller was asked to identify her greatest contribution to the College. Without hesitation, she said: "... being part of the team, the family and being able to provide input into the direction of the college ..." As a result, it wasn't surprising that one of her first acts as the new leader of the retirees was to create a leadership team [Bill Castellano, Carolyn Edwards, Mary Beth Elkins, Rhonda Glover, Marlene Petty, Julia Ribley, Rick Stout, Joan Tiller, Ruth Webb, and Jerry Wright]. One of the first decisions made by Tiller and the leadership team was the determination that "Valencia Retiree Connection" would become the group's name moving forward. It was agreed that a goal for the group would be to create a culture of inclusion that ensures that those retirees who have a love and interest in Valencia have meaningful opportunities to stay involved with the college and support students and alumni, as appropriate. There was also discussion regarding the importance of identifying opportunities for retirees to participate in volunteer, advocacy, and civic engagement opportunities on a regular basis.

The leadership team starting working in late July on a number of initiatives such as lifelong learning connections to the college, updating e-mail addresses of members, updating the group's Web site, and new communications strategies. It was agreed that the first major Valencia Retiree Connection event would be a "Kickoff" luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 30 in HSB-105 on the Valencia West Campus. Later in the 2008-09 academic year, it is anticipated that a Visions & Voices Performance/ Reading and Reception for retirees and their guests will be held at the Winter Garden Theatre.

Where are they now? Joan Tiller and her Valencia Retirees Connection leadership team are back serving Valencia, again.

Keep in touch!

Retiree Connection luncheon photos can be viewed on the Retiree Connection Web site: [www.valenciac.edu/retireeconnection](http://www.valenciac.edu/retireeconnection)



## The Fight to Fly Documenting Silver Wings & Civil Rights

by Jennifer Isabell

DISCOVER A STORY, DEBATE AN ISSUE, REWIND TIME, RAISE AWARENESS, DOCUMENT INJUSTICE, PRESENT THE WORLD AROUND YOU, ACT FOR CHANGE.

These are words found in many course descriptions encouraging those who aspire to make a difference to do so through the art of storytelling and film. What is art but redesigned truth, a change in perspective, a shift in the paradigm? Through the art of filmmaking, history can be displayed in front of us—the world we have collectively grown out of becomes relevant to the world we live in today. Our barriers are challenged and our separateness becomes less predominant as issues that were once far away become close to our hearts. The storyteller's gift is our oldest form of education. Creatively, writers and producers have invested their time, resources and own hearts to bring history to life through film. In doing so, they ensure that new generations can connect with the past and promote social awareness, empathy and change.

“Silver Wings & Civil Rights: The Fight to Fly” is one such film that documents the story of the first all-black fighter squadron that escorted bombers into Europe during World War II. Produced in collaboration with Valencia’s Film Production Technology Program, it is the first feature film by writer/director Jon Anderson, Valencia alum ‘92.

Originally from Miami, Anderson was studying photography at Miami-Dade College in 1989 when he also took an interest in theater. “You put photography and theater together and you get film,” he told the

*Miami Herald* in ‘04 to explain his progression into filmmaking. Anderson later transferred to Valencia where he completed the film program in 1992. After graduating he continued to work his way up in the film industry, getting his first start back home in Miami as a production assistant.

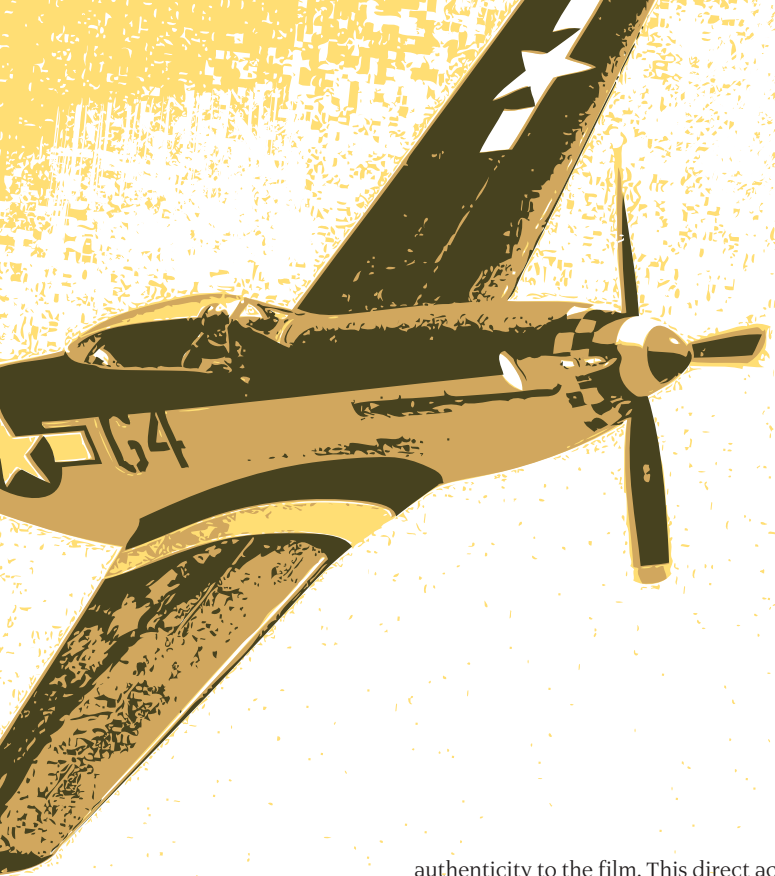
Anderson’s inspiration for the documentary “Silver Wings & Civil Rights: The Fight to Fly” came after a chance meeting with Leo Gray (a retired Florida-based Tuskegee Airman). The newfound friendship was the spark that led to the idea for the documentary.

On the film’s Web site [fight2fly.com](http://fight2fly.com), Anderson describes what captured his interest: “The story of the Tuskegee Airmen has inspired me since I first read about them in the studies of WWII. They were a group of young Americans who flew and fought even though they lived in a country that, at the time, institutionalized racism. Many have heard about the black fighter pilots who never lost a bomber they escorted over fortress Europe, a great feat for any aviator or soldier. But their greater achievement is lost to many more,” explains Anderson.

Named for the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama where they trained, the Tuskegee Airmen set out to prove their capability in combat at a time when African Americans were mostly treated as second-class citizens. The locally produced documentary includes first-hand accounts from P-51 fighter pilot, Hiram Mann, B-25 bomber pilot, Nasby Wynn, and P-51 fighter pilot, Leo Gray – three of the original airmen whose stories of courage, bravery and tenacity give



David Brame, Dynamx Digital



authenticity to the film. This direct access gives viewers a way to personalize the human connection as stories of hardships and injustices are told by those who lived it.

On the film's Web site Anderson goes on to say, "The Tuskegee Airmen actually fought two wars, one that changed the world, and one that helped change our nation. 101 black officers of the 477th bomber group were arrested and considered to be mutinous when they entered a whites-only U.S. Army officer's club in which they were not welcome. The U.S. military was a microcosm of the society at the time, accepting minorities as a whole but denying them personal liberties. In what would later be known as civil disobedience, the men of the bomber group defied the U.S. government and caused a change in the U.S. military when President Truman finally desegregated the Armed forces in 1948."

Film is a collaborative art that takes extreme focus and dedication to resonate with an audience. Everything that you see in a film was decided on through the integration of many voices: the lighting, the scenery, the tone and manner of how the story unfolds; into a single vision. It is the impact of that vision that makes films so important in educating our society, challenging our beliefs. Providing a voice where there was none is the accomplishment of Anderson's documentary "The Fight to Fly." The film gives credit to those who bravely stood their ground in the fight for equality and gracefully reveals lessons about our country's history of racism and segregation, never to be forgotten or repeated.



Office of Air Force History, Maxwell Air Force Base

"Silver Wings & Civil Rights: The Flight to Fly" will once again be shown at Valencia's Performing Arts Center on Feb. 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., admission is free. The award-winning, 90-minute documentary includes vintage footage, photographs, reenactments and first-hand accounts



Office of Air Force History, Maxwell Air Force Base

from surviving members of the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bomber Group. "The Fight to Fly" was directed by Orlando-based filmmaker Jon Anderson and produced and edited by Valencia graduate David Brame, with executive producers Ralph Clemente, director of Valencia's film program, and Chuck Weise, also of Valencia. Kristi Newman, Valencia graduate, composed the music score. For more information about the film visit: [www.fight2fly.com](http://www.fight2fly.com). Valencia's Performing Arts Center is located at 701 Econlockhatchee Trail in Orlando. Tickets can be purchased through the Valencia box office at 407-528-2900. A discussion forum will be held immediately after.

# Weathering the Eco



# conomic Storm

*Valencia perseveres through lean times*

Dear Friends of Valencia:

Many of you are following the serious economic challenges of our country and state and are reading in the newspapers about serious consequences for the public schools, universities, health care system, etc. Some of you may be wondering what impact this is all having on Valencia. In the past several weeks, I have been visiting with staff and faculty on each campus in forums to discuss our situation, and I'd like to share the same information with you, Valencia's extended family.

First, in times of economic stress, the people of our community do just as you might expect—they improve their skills and enhance their educations so they will be more competitive and productive. Thus, community college enrollments typically expand in hard times. This has certainly been true at Valencia. Our normal growth pattern of 4-5 percent per year ballooned to 17 percent last summer and nearly 10 percent this fall. Such rapid growth stresses our capacity in normal times, but it is compounded by the budget cuts we are taking from the state and are likely to continue to see for the next 18 months or more.

Whereas the universities immediately froze freshman enrollment as the budget crisis unfolded in Summer 2007, we made a decision in principle to serve as many as we could without any artificial enrollment caps and to try to weather the economic storm with our students. Meanwhile, the state has cut our operating appropriation three times since Summer 2007, and we expect additional cuts during the current year and in next year's budget. The combination of

unfunded enrollment growth and real budget cuts has translated into a 30 percent reduction in state support per full-time student in less than two years. Some (about two-thirds) of this has been made up by the state increasing tuition and fees, shifting the costs to the students. But there are limits to this strategy, as well. When I came to Valencia in 2000, roughly 70 percent of the college's operating budget came from state appropriations; as of this year only 45 percent comes from the state. We are no longer a state institution, but a "state-assisted" institution.

So how has Valencia fared? So far we are managing this challenge with our hopes, our main work, and our focus on students and

important negative consequence will be a temporary (we hope) reduction in access. We simply cannot afford to add more course sections, in spite of growing enrollment demand. Therefore, many students will be admitted to the college next year but will be unable to make a schedule, effectively denying them enrollment. I estimate the number to be near 3,000 whose educations will be, at best, deferred.


But we believe we can preserve the mission and forward momentum of the college by avoiding damaging rumoring, announcements of "potential layoffs," and other drum beating designed to send a political message. The college is suffering real challenges, but we refuse to politicize

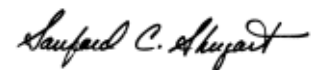
*We are no longer a state institution, but a "state-assisted" institution.*

their learning intact. Early in the crisis, we identified principles we would use to manage the reductions, protecting students and their learning experiences first, as well as our best work underway to improve their learning and our staff. Further, we adopted a rule of complete transparency with regard to our finances and have tried to communicate often and deeply with all the staff and faculty, who have shown a remarkably responsible stewardship for every penny we still do have available to spend.

More budget cuts are coming. No one can say how large, although we anticipate at least another 8 percent this year. But Valencia will weather even these heavy seas if we stick to our principles. The most

them at the cost of our morale and our work. With any luck, as the state's economy eventually recovers, so will our financial condition, with our institutional strength carefully nurtured through the crisis.

Meanwhile, some of you are also following state developments in the creation of new "state colleges" and additional baccalaureate-granting colleges out of existing community colleges, wondering what this will mean for Valencia. More on this next issue... 



President,  
Valencia Community College



Valencia's conference and meeting planning team provides professional management for your event, wherever the destination, allowing you to focus on what's important — a memorable and educational conference.

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

**Upcoming Conferences:**

**The Community College  
Conference on Legal Issues**  
February 15-17, 2009  
Orlando, Florida

**Florida Summit on  
Health Sciences Education**  
April 15-17, 2009  
Orlando, Florida

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



# Faculty and friends, students and alumni, with your help, we have reached them all.

*Valencia Foundation recognizes your support and graciousness. We thank you for championing our cause yesterday and today, and we look forward to our work together as we set the course for an even brighter tomorrow.*



**VALENCIA**  
FOUNDATION

WWW.VALENCIA.ORG

I strongly believe that our future as a community depends on building partnerships that help our schools and students succeed. Bringing together Valencia Foundation and the Orlando Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for this annual golf tournament and fundraiser has been very rewarding for me.



— *C.T. Hsu, president of C.T. Hsu + Associates, PA, speaking about the partnership between Valencia and AIA Orlando*

When I went to Valencia, I was David's wife and the kids' mother and the dog's owner, but I wasn't Mary Collier. I thought: I just don't think I can learn—I'm 50 years old.



And so I signed up for this absolutely dopey math class and it was just, I was just beside myself! I couldn't believe it. I could learn. I got A's, and I did well, and so then I really dove in head first and really got into Valencia. And it was the best thing that I have ever done in my life. It changed my whole life.

— *Mary Collier, senior vice president of Collier Jaguar Inc. and Valencia's first Distinguished Graduate in 1982*

With your financial assistance, our service-learning students are given an opportunity to learn by doing and to immerse themselves in cultural and linguistic settings that provide perspectives and insights into their own. Also, studies show that the "more engaged students are, the more likely they are to persist in college and to learn at higher levels" (Community College Survey of Student Engagement, 2006). This experience may encourage one or more of the students to continue on to dental school after Valencia. Through your funding, you have provided a "learning-centered" experience and have impacted the participants' lives in positive ways for years afterward.



— *Thera Woodard, Study Abroad and Global Exchange coordinator, referring to service-learning trips to Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic*

The foundation's financial support did much more than make an incredible learning opportunity accessible to three individual students, it also gave incentive and hope to other students who dared not consider such a wonderful opportunity for themselves. One student came up to me after learning of the scholarship support and asked, incredulous and delighted, "Why not me?" I fully anticipate that next year many more students will apply, hopeful to get some



assistance which will make this dream a reality for them.

— *Richard Sansone, professor of EAP and Portuguese, speaking about a Spring Break learning tour of Brazil*

I have been fortunate to be surrounded by many wonderful people throughout my life. People to love, teach, encourage and support me in my journey to accomplish my goals and grow as a young woman. I am grateful to have always had my family behind me, but there is a specialness about an organization that doesn't even know me, to believe in me and want what I want for myself: to pursue my education and keep climbing until I reach my goals.

— *Hannah Butcher, freshman, studying nursing*

I wish to thank you for the opportunity that you have given me to pursue my dream of getting an education that will assist me in helping others. I have always dreamed of this opportunity and at this moment, day by day, it is slowly coming true. Thanks to you and your generosity, I am working every day to achieve this goal, which was at one time very difficult to obtain. With your help, I have been given another precious piece of the puzzle, which I am trying to complete. Your gift to me I appreciate very much and will always remember this opportunity you have given me and I thank you very much for that.

— *Lisa Marie Duke, sophomore, studying biology*



PAYING MY *Civic*  
*Rent*

*An Enduring Valencia Legacy*

by Bill Castellano '70

**R**aymer F. Maguire, Jr., is often referred to as “the father of Valencia.” Maguire was Chairman of the first Advisory Committee that governed the direction of the College when Valencia was part of the Orange County Public Schools from 1967 to 1969. Then Valencia became independent of the public school system and was established under the direction of its own District Board of Trustees. Maguire was Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1969 through May 1974 and continued to serve on that body for more than a decade.

Albert T. Craig, Valencia’s first president, noted on the College’s 15th anniversary that of the many people who helped to establish Valencia he considered Maguire the one who made “the most significant contribution.” Valencia’s second president, James F. Gollatscheck, echoed Craig when he said, “There is no one individual in the Orlando



area more responsible for the development of the College from its inception to the institution it is today.” That history of service was recognized in 1977 when the College named the library building on the West Campus in honor of Raymer F. Maguire, Jr.

In the January 1982 issue of *Glimpse*, a Valencia Community College publication, Raymer Maguire, Jr. explained his commitment to community service, in general, and his dedication to serving Valencia, in particular.

*Raymer Maguire, Jr. has devoted 15 years to service for Valencia Community College. He refers to this as “paying my civic rent.” His philosophy of public service is based on the concept that citizens inherit good things in a community from what others have done and that the current generation must contribute in order for the next generation to continue to inherit good things in its community. He says that has been paid back for his service many times over by the contributions of Valencia and the other community colleges to postsecondary education in Florida. Maguire says, “Our society is a better society because of community colleges. He says, however, that he wants one thing in repayment for his years of service: “I want students who have graduated from Valencia in the past 15 years and the students who will graduate in the next 15 to 30 years to recognize that a whole group of lay leaders provided them with facilities to get their education and that in turn owe an obligation to make the world a little bit better place to live in for those that will follow them.”*

*What that amounts to is the Maguire philosophy of civic rent. He has paid his civic rent in many ways, including service to Valencia for 15 years, and he hopes that others will continue this process so that Valencia and Central Florida, as well as the rest of Florida and the nation, will continue to be better places for their citizens to live and work.*

While “paying my civic rent” is a phrase clearly associated with Raymer Maguire, Jr. in his adult years, it is a concept that he first learned as a young Central Floridian.

Maguire grew up locally in an active family with a strong commitment to community service. His father’s family settled in Central Florida in 1885. Both sides of his family took advantage of the area’s frontier opportunities. His father, Raymer Maguire, Sr., established a law firm that his son would eventually head. By the 1960s there were 75 lawyers in Maguire, Voorhis & Wells. Both father and son not only attended the University of Florida Law School, but were members of Blue Key, the university’s leadership fraternity. Both Maguire men were recognized for their outstanding service to the University by being presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award – Maguire Sr. in 1959 and Maguire Jr. in 1975. His stepmother, Charlotte Maguire, was

Orlando’s only female physician during World War II and in later years helped to create the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

Maguire’s concept of giving back to your community was brought home to many in 2000 with the release of “Pay It Forward,” a popular movie, starring Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt, and Haley Joel Osment. However, Benjamin Franklin may have been one of the first recorded proponents of the concept when he wrote in 1784: “I do not pretend to give such a sum; I only lend it to you. When you [...] meet with another honest man in similar distress, you must pay me by lending this sum to him; enjoining him to discharge the debt by a like operation, when he shall be able, and shall meet with another opportunity. I hope it may thus go thro’ many hands, before it meets with a knave that will stop its progress.

This is a trick of mine for doing a good deal with a little money.” Pay it forward is a novel, a movie, but most of all it is a timeless idea.

Raymer Maguire, Jr. passed away in 2003. The legacy of his contributions to Valencia and the community the College serves lives on. Maguire and his family have made major financial contributions through the Valencia Foundation and unmatched commitments of time and energy to governance of the College. The focus of it all, however, has been on providing quality educational opportunities for the citizens of Orange and Osceola counties. Raymer Maguire, Jr., and his family have made “paying my civic rent” a lifelong commitment. It is a concept that was inspiring 26 years ago ... it is a concept that is compelling and timely today. 🐜

*Pay it forward is a novel, a movie, but most of all it is a timeless idea.*



Raymer F. Maguire, Jr.

## The Hills are Alive...

by Ann Farrell

Atop a mountain in the tiny village La Cucarita, Dominican Republic, 12 Valencia students and six faculty and staff spent 10 days in August conducting an arts and crafts camp with 53 children in 4th and 5th grade.

This trip, a partnership between the Valencia Study Abroad and Global Exchange Office and the Mission Office of the Catholic Diocese of Orlando, gave the students an opportunity to explore and experience first-hand the reality of life in a poverty-stricken, developing country. Tracy Harrison, through her Bank of America Endowed Chair for the Humanities, offered all the students partial scholarships to cover the cost of their trips.

### What People are Saying

"The Valencia Mission team was a beautifully diverse group of people who came together as humanitarians for a common goal," said Ingrid Delgado. "They brought much to the La Cucarita children with their education activities and games. What makes this group so special was their openness to the people, to the experience, and most importantly to how it would change the rest of their lives."

Delgado is a 2003 Valencia graduate and is employed the Diocese of Orlando as a long-term missionary working with the adults and youth of La Cucarita. Delgado and her husband, Robert, have lived in La Cucarita since January 2008.

### Reflections of the trip from Andrea Carlson

I decided to go on an international service-learning trip because I had a desire to help people outside of my normal horizons. I wanted to gain a better perspective on the world I live in so that I could live as a more empathetic person. When I embarked on the trip, I thought I was going to be challenging myself to live in a way that was unfamiliar; I thought every day would be a struggle that would teach me lessons I would keep for a lifetime. I was wrong; no day was a struggle. Instead, every day was this grand adventure in which my needs and wants no longer mattered, what mattered was the people of La Cucarita. I did not think once of the luxuries at home, instead I thought of the people who lived as I was every day and who remain thankful for everything

they have.

My most vivid memory of this stay is still my time with the "shyest girl in the entire village," the little 3-year-old, Daniela. She has forever touched my heart. I will never forget the older children coming up to me, a girl who spoke maybe five words in Spanish, to lead me to precious Daniela. On my last day, as I was loading my things into our pickup truck that would take us down the mountain, Daniela found me to say goodbye. She had one of her older friends write me a letter, which said, "Thank you for giving me the gift of love." At the time I did not know the English translation, I just knew that there was this little child I had to say goodbye to. I will always hold Daniela dear to my heart, for she taught me that love transcends even the toughest language barriers and I can be successful in helping to share my love with those who need it most for years to come.

Another main lesson [of the trip] was flexibility. We were teaching a summer camp on top of a mountain in the Dominican Republic during rainy season. Children were coming from villages as far as a two-hour walk away; nothing was guaranteed to go as planned. We were working with children who maybe knew a few phrases in English, the majority of us only knew a few phrases in Spanish. Not every lesson was going to be carried out as planned in the classrooms of Valencia Community College, and that was fine, we adjusted. Some of the most rewarding lessons





I received were when I took a step back and just enjoyed the ride wherever it went, which with the children as my guide was always an adventure!

I would certainly recommend this trip to any student, faculty, or staff member who is willing to give up their comforts in order to gain so much more. This trip is not for everyone, but anyone with an open heart and eagerness to learn will benefit greatly. As a result of this trip, I feel as if I have found my purpose in life. I think I may be a tad biased toward the rewards of this trip because I benefited in such tremendous ways. Anyone considering a life in education should be so blessed to experience a trip where the students are eager to learn as these students were. I feel a strong commitment to helping La Cucarita and other villages alike because of how much I received in just a 10-day trip. You may go to this village believing you are there to help those less fortunate, but the lessons and experiences you receive in return far outweigh anything you planned to give.



## List of Participants

### STUDENTS

Melissa Alicea-Acevedo  
Janet Bryan  
Rafaela Canevari  
Andrea Carlson  
Erin Duffy  
Angelic Edwards  
Carl Irani  
Alexandra Lane  
Coralys Melendez  
Claritza Mendoza  
Chanel Salado  
Charlotte Stewart

### FACULTY & STAFF

Ann Farrell  
Barbara Frazier  
Tracy Harrison  
Heith Hennel  
Christie Pickeral  
Lana Powell

# Lessons From The Rainforest

## Interview with Kristyn Schuller *by Lori Sunday '89*

Every year, biology professor Steve Myers takes a group of students on a field study to another country. In 2005, Kristyn Schuller was one of those students, accompanying Myers to study abroad in the rainforests of Guyana for 10 days. Now a student at the University of Central Florida studying biology with a focus in botany, Schuller reflects on her time spent learning about the indigenous plants (and people) of Guyana.

**Q: What were the goals/purposes of the trip?**

The goals of the trip were to expose students to field biology, give students a unique cultural experience, and to inspire young people to take an active role in conservation and learn about the neotropics.

**Q: What was a typical day in Guyana like?**

A typical day would include waking up at sunrise and going for a walk through the forest looking at different plants and seeing what animals we could find. Upon our return we would have breakfast and then commence our main day activity, like visiting a village, traversing to a new camp, or fishing for dinner. Because it was very hot during the day, we usually took a nap or had some downtime after lunch. Evening consisted of dinner, river cruises in search of nocturnal animals, and going over the day's field notes.

**Q: What was your most memorable experience?**

A few things come to mind, such as piranha fishing, and actually catching one, and seeing a massive anaconda while traveling down the Essequibo River, but the most memorable is spending time getting to know the locals.

**Q: Were the living conditions different from your own in the U.S.?**

Guyana is the poorest country in South America, so the living conditions were definitely different.

We were in remote Guyana and I

believe that the tribal village people are better off than the city people. The rainforest is healthy and vibrant and the people were that way too. The city is dirty, polluted, and a little daunting. Our hotel in Georgetown had an armed guard and a gate and we were advised not to go out after dark.

### Interesting Facts About Guyana

(from [www.guyana.org](http://www.guyana.org))



- Dense forests cover four-fifths of the country.
- Guyana is known as the country of Six People—Africans, Amerindians, Chinese, East Indians, Europeans and Portugese.
- Guyana is notably famous for Kaieteur Falls, which is situated on the Potaro River and is one of the highest waterfalls in the world, being nearly five times as high as the Niagara Falls in North America
- It is the only country in South America where English is the official language.

**Q: What are some of the cultural differences between the U.S. and Guyana?**

They are conservative, shy people (Guyana used to be a British colony, so a lot of the classic Victorian British sensibilities are still apparent). They are not wasteful (eat every part of the animal, even the chicken feet), are appreciative and more aware of their natural resources, they have positive outlooks on life not dependent on money or things. People are reliant on themselves and their village for food (they grow, catch or hunt everything they eat) and they are much more community-orientated.

**Q: What words of wisdom would you give Americans about Guyana?**

I would encourage Americans to visit and experience their culture and to see the forest and meet the locals. Guyana has 70 percent of its rainforest still intact, so help keep it that way and recognize the importance of the gem that is Guyana. It's a small country with a lot to offer, like intact rainforest (some parts still unexplored) and tribes still practicing their ancient traditions. It's also a hotbed of biological diversity and holds many endangered species.



Photo courtesy of Kristyn Schuller

# BOOK L♥VERS

by Paulette Smith

Zora Neale Hurston's rediscovered masterpiece, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is the story of a young girl growing into a strong woman. The main character, Janie will not let the judgment of others define who she is as an individual. She is, in the end, defined by her experiences and actions, not by those who observe and pass judgment on her.

Although the story is grounded in the sand around Central Florida in Eatonville, the novel starts and ends with an image of the ocean. The first sentence of the novel gave me a picture of how the main character, Janie, is passive and allows her grandmother, husband and neighbors to form her life; "[s]hips at a distance have every man's wish on board." Have you ever stood on the shore and watched a ship on the horizon pass? The viewer is so small and powerless compared to the distant ship; nothing he does can influence what is being viewed. By the last paragraph in the novel, Janie has defined her life through action and personal responsibility. "She pulled in her horizon like a great fish-net. Pulled it from around the waist of the world and draped it over her shoulder. So much of life in its meshes! She called in her soul to come and see." She does not just view her life, but lives it.

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* became a classic after Hurston's death, and it captures new readers because we relate to the story and characters in it. This book is set in our own community, and its author is the subject of this year's 20th anniversary of the Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities (ZORA! Festival) on January 23-25, 2009. I recommend this book to you. Enjoy!



“Get Into Reading” is Valencia’s first-ever community read. Modeled on a national initiative called “The Big Read,” its goal is to get Valencia into reading while promoting community through themed events and more. It seeks to engage our campus and alumni community in dialogue and bring us together by promoting tolerance and understanding about different points of views and cultures.

Please join us at West Campus in 6-202 for discussion groups on:

**Wednesday, January 28, 2009, 1:00–2:15 p.m.**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 8:30–9:45 a.m.**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 8:30–9:45 a.m.**

Please check the Alumni Association Web site for more information and to get involved. [www.valenciacc.edu/library/west/getintoreading](http://www.valenciacc.edu/library/west/getintoreading)

- Online reading forum
- Blog discussions
- Discussion brown bag lunches

## Making a Culinary Program from Scratch

by Melissa Tchen

### The Right Ingredients

Before Chef Pierre Pilloud came to Valencia 12 years ago, there was no culinary program at the college—and there weren't necessarily any plans for one.

Pilloud had been brought on to join Valencia's hospitality program but thought that there was a great opportunity for a culinary program at the college. He decided to make it his mission to create one.

Getting the program off the ground wasn't exactly easy. Pilloud spent a year writing the program's curriculum before he could even try to get buy-in for it from the community, the college and the state, not to mention potential students.

Finally, Valencia began offering some culinary courses, but only for continuing education. Pilloud taught these while still working to get the Associate of Science degree program approved by the state. Thanks to numerous trips to Tallahassee and help from Joan Tiller in workforce development, Valencia's Culinary Management A.S. program was finally approved.

At this point, Pilloud had a program, but he still needed students. So he got a listing of all the licensed food operators in Orange County and started sending them information and even going door-to-door in an effort to recruit students.

As far as admission standards in those early days, Pilloud joked that, "If you had two legs, two arms and a knife, you could go into the program."

### Now We're Cooking

As more students joined the program, there became a need for an additional instructor—and Chef Ken Bourgoïn was just the man for the job.

"In our industry, it's hard to take people out of it and get them in the classroom because the industry is so demanding," Bourgoïn said. "I was available during



Chef Pierre Pilloud and Chef Ken Bourgoïn

the day, so it worked out."

That was 10 years ago and he's been with the program ever since.

By this time the culinary program was getting on its feet, but still didn't even have a dedicated classroom or a kitchen. For five years, cooking labs were conducted in the back of the East Campus cafeteria kitchen.

Eventually, after proving its viability, and thanks to a partnership with Disney, the program was to have its own lab and classroom space built on the West Campus.

"You've never seen anyone so excited," said Pilloud, speaking of his students. "We would bring the blueprint of the new lab and the list of equipment to class so that they could make sure we had everything."

The culinary program moved to West Campus in December 2001 and by January 2002, was conducting classes in the new space. The 61,000 square-foot facility included its own classrooms, banquet rooms and a demonstration kitchen with 20 fully equipped workstations.

“We’ll always have nostalgia for East Campus, but we don’t miss it,” Bourgoin said.

Now, the culinary program is expanding its facilities once again, with additional classroom space and a commercial-sized instructional kitchen in Building 8 on West Campus, which is scheduled to open in February. The building will also include a studio for the architecture program and serve as a conference center with a 40-seat executive dining room and a 320-seat assembly area.

### A Recipe for Success

While the culinary program has done nothing but grow since its beginnings, the curriculum has remained the same.

“We did it right from the start,” Pilloud said. “The beauty is the way we teach is maybe the way we wanted to be taught...We teach something because no one ever showed us and we wish they had. Or someone did show us and it worked.”

Passing on personal knowledge and connecting with students one-on-one has been a cornerstone of the culinary program’s success. This includes dishing out career advice. Both Pilloud and Bourgoin encourage their students to pursue their dreams and to do what makes them happy, but to be realistic.

“There’s only one Emeril,” Pilloud said.

They also warn students that a career as a chef can be taxing and won’t likely last them until retirement. They encourage students to plan ahead and to get a degree beyond Valencia, so that they’ll have career options, such as teaching, down the road.

“I tell them that one day you’ll be fired. You could be sued. Then what? A manager can be fired, a dishwasher cannot. I wish every one of those guys at 55 [years old] without a job would come here to teach,” said Pilloud.

As for himself, Pilloud says he doesn’t plan on changing professions. “This is the best job I’ve ever had,” he said. A sentiment echoed by Bourgoin.



Culinary students Edgar Franco and Karen Grimes

### The Proof is in the Pudding

Chef Pilloud’s vision for a culinary program at Valencia has certainly paid off. The only two-year degree-granting culinary program in Orlando, it has seen its graduates go on to work for local hotels, theme parks, restaurants and catering companies.

“Now we see students coming back. They say ‘I’m the executive chef’ and you go ‘wow,’” Pilloud said. “The best feeling is to watch the people—to know that once they’re out, they’re actually able to fly, to keep a job, to be happy.”



## You’re Invited

Please join Chef Pierre Pilloud & Chef Ken Bourgoin & the Valencia Alumni Association for a drop-in reception welcoming culinary program alumni, faculty and students.

Don’t miss this opportunity to tour the new culinary program area, reconnect with old classmates and professors, meet new friends, network, hear what’s happening at Valencia – and just have fun.

Make sure you receive your invitation – update your alumni contact information by visiting [www.valenciacc.edu/alumni](http://www.valenciacc.edu/alumni) and clicking the Membership Signup link on the right-hand side.

4:30–8 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2009, West Campus

# SWEET SUCCESS



## Change Careers, Change Lives

by Nick Bekas

To say that teaching is an influential profession is an understatement. Teachers help to build and enrich our community and strengthen the opportunities of generations. Teaching is not a vocation; it is an avocation of services that requires constant dedication. At the heart of all teachers is the desire to make a difference. Many choose the teaching profession because they themselves were influenced by one of their teachers.

Not all teachers choose the profession while pursuing their college degree. They return to it after being in business, sales and marketing, law, engineering and other areas realizing later that they've always wanted to teach but didn't know where to start.

Valencia's Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) is a state-certified program created to help people with bachelor's degree become teachers. In the past two years, the EPI program has helped more than 100 people become certified teachers. The EPI program builds on a students' expertise in a particular subject

and gives them the knowledge and skills necessary to be a highly qualified teacher. After completing Valencia's program and becoming a teacher, one EPI graduate had the following to say:

"I had been working as a professional graphic designer for 25 years. I wanted to change my career and share my love of art. I am so excited that now I can share this love with children; teaching is the best thing anyone can do."

Valencia graduates have contributed to our community in many ways, and the program continues Valencia's rich tradition of giving back to our community. Teachers light the path for future generations, and Valencia's EPI program is helping them to shine that light.

To find out more about the EPI program, visit the Web site at [www.valenciacc.edu/eipi](http://www.valenciacc.edu/eipi) or call 407-582-5473.

A HISTORY of an

EXTRAORDINARY LEARNING Community



Order your copy at: [www.valenciacc.edu/historybook](http://www.valenciacc.edu/historybook)



# Getting with the Program

by Melissa Tchen

*One of Valencia's most important missions is to provide career programs that respond to the defined needs of our community. In order to do that, we involve hundreds of business and industry leaders in advisory boards for our Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degree programs. A Valencia alumnus, Max Porges is one of those professionals, serving as the chairman of Valencia's Information Technology advisory board.*

When Max Porges started at Valencia, he was intent on pursuing a degree related to computer hardware, but wasn't sure where he saw himself in the industry. So, after noticing that there were a lot of job listings for computer programming in the local paper, he decided to try out the Intro to Programming Concepts course.

He immediately found himself drawn in by the subject matter and knew that he had found his calling. Soon, he was reading advanced programming books in his spare time and pursuing an internship with the help of Valencia's Internship and Placement Office.

It turned out that Porges actually had enough courses under his belt to qualify him for an entry-level programming position in Central Florida Investments' in-house IT department. He was able to earn internship credit and complete his Associate in Science degree, all while beginning to work within the industry.

After earning his degree, Porges continued on at CFI as a programmer, later taking on a role in engineer management, and eventually senior management. Altogether, he spent about seven years in CFI's IT department, before leaving in April 2008, to lead a software engineering team at Highwinds, a proprietary technology developer.

As a professional, Porges knew what the IT industry needed in employees and wanted to help ensure that Valencia graduates had the edge they needed to make it in the industry.

"There were some aspects of Valencia's IT coursework that I felt were becoming outdated, and I wanted to help Valencia modernize the program to allow its graduates to be more competitive upon entering the workforce," Porges said.

With that goal in mind, Porges joined Valencia's IT advisory committee. Now, he is the chairman and is responsible for keeping sessions moving so that he and fellow board members can assess local employer

needs in an effort to modify and modernize course material.

"We have some pretty lively discussions during our bi-annual meetings since the committee members come from a broad range of local industries, which also lends a balanced perspective to the decisions made by the group," Porges said.

The input that the advisory committee provides has a direct impact on the structure and content of Valencia's IT course catalog and degree programs. Often, suggestions gathered at a committee meeting

**"I wanted to help Valencia modernize the program to allow its graduates to be more competitive upon entering the workforce."**

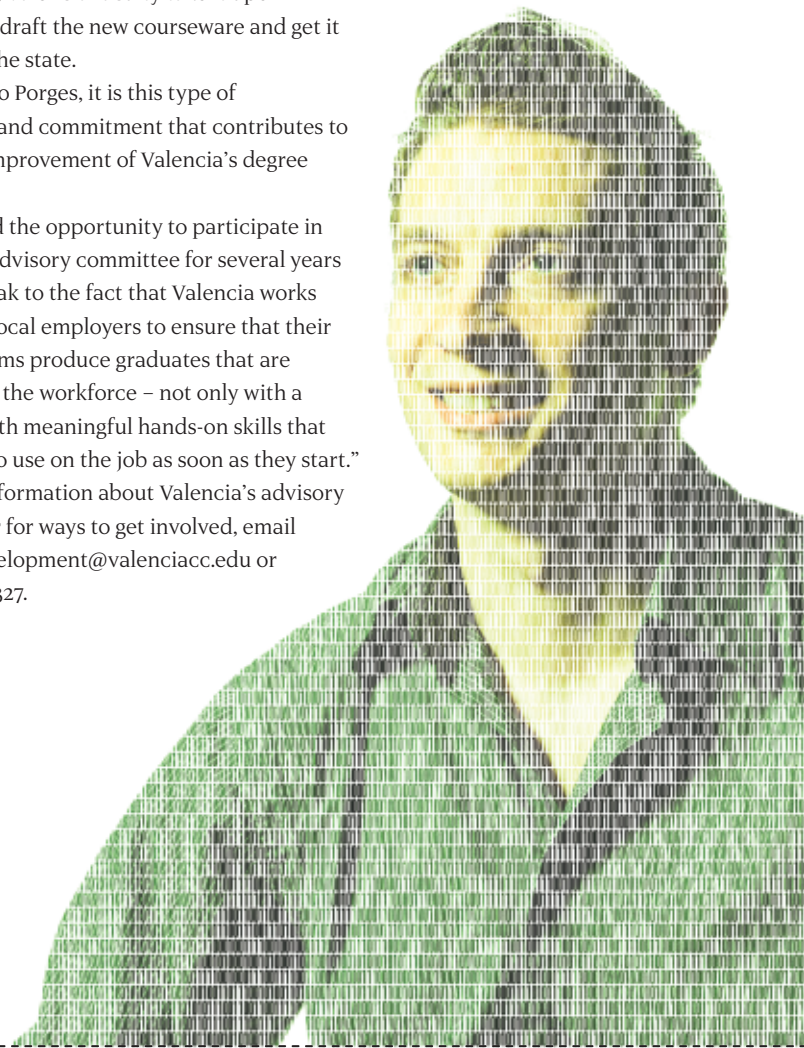
will be present in the catalog within 12 months.

In many cases, Valencia faculty take it upon themselves to draft the new courseware and get it approved by the state.

According to Porges, it is this type of collaboration and commitment that contributes to the ongoing improvement of Valencia's degree programs.

"Having had the opportunity to participate in Valencia's IT advisory committee for several years now, I can speak to the fact that Valencia works directly with local employers to ensure that their degree programs produce graduates that are ready to enter the workforce – not only with a degree, but with meaningful hands-on skills that they can put to use on the job as soon as they start."

For more information about Valencia's advisory committees or for ways to get involved, email [workforcedevelopment@valenciacc.edu](mailto:workforcedevelopment@valenciacc.edu) or call 407-582-3327.



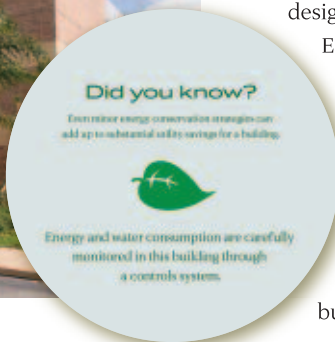
# VALENCIA NEWS



Allied Health and Sciences Building

## Valencia opens LEED certified green building

The new Allied-Health and Sciences Building (Building 10) on Valencia's West Campus opened its doors this past fall. It is the first Valencia building to be designated a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified green building. LEED certification recognizes building performance in five key areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. If you stop by the building, look out for the signs posted around about the building's "green" characteristics.



**UCF Expands Bachelor's Programs on Valencia's West Campus.** A joint-use facility on Valencia's West Campus will help UCF to expand its offerings on the west side of Orlando. Currently, UCF offers four undergraduate degrees at Valencia: Applied Science, Business Administration, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Psychology. The three-story, 100,000-square-foot building will house additional UCF baccalaureate and graduate degree programs, including nursing, electrical engineering, and a professional MBA program, along with Valencia's two-year engineering program and shared student services. The building is scheduled to open in August 2009.

**Valencia Alert.** Valencia has a new system for notifying students, faculty and staff if there is a crisis on campus. In the event of an emergency, participants will receive real-time updates and instructions via email and/or text message. To sign up for this free service, visit [alert.valenciacc.edu](http://alert.valenciacc.edu).

**New District Board of Trustees Member.** In July, Governor Crist appointed Jo Quittschreiber, a retired teacher from Kissimmee, to Valencia's District Board of Trustees. Her term runs July 25, 2008 through May 31, 2012. Quittschreiber succeeded Larry Slocum, who served on the board for nearly 20 years.

**Valencia Recycles.** In its effort to be more environmentally conscious, Valencia has placed recycle bins in the common areas on each campus for the college-wide collection of paper, cans and plastic bottles.

**Congratulations to Ralph Clemente.** On June 10, Ralph Clemente, director of Valencia's Film Production Technology program for the last 20 years, was awarded the Film Florida Legends Award at the Enzian Theater. The awards gala was hosted by Film Florida to honor pioneers in the film, television and production industry who have made a significant impact on film in Florida.

**Civic Leadership Community Award Recipient.** Sergeant Kim Miller of the Florida Highway Patrol, a Valencia alumna, was awarded the 2008 Civic Leadership Community Award. Miller was a keynote speaker at Valencia's 3rd Annual Civic Leadership Day political debate, featuring Dick Batchelor and Tico Perez, in September.

**Valencia Named Best Community College in Florida.** Valencia was voted as the best community college in Florida, tied with Santa Fe Community College, in *Florida Monthly* magazine's Best of Florida Awards 2008.

## OOPS!



An article about Visions and Voices visiting poet, Tony Hoagland in the Summer/Fall 2008 issue of *Vitae* neglected to mention that the appearance was in partnership with Atlantic Center for the Arts.

An article about Chef Rob Young in the Summer/Fall 2008 issue of *Vitae* stated that the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary has a 1,100 square-foot banquet space. The space is actually 8,000 square feet.

\* Keep your eyes peeled and let us know if you see any errors in this issue of *Vitae*. We're always eager to learn from our mistakes. In fact, we'll be a little disappointed if you don't find anything!

*What are you running for?*



Whatever your reason for participating, there's one great benefit—helping someone go to college. Join in as those of all ages and physical abilities come together for the Alumni Association's annual Run, Walk and Roll to raise scholarship funds for Valencia students. Participants and guests can also enjoy refreshments, children's arts and crafts activities, and post-race health screenings and massages.



**RUN, WALK & ROLL  
MARCH 1, 2009**

**Valencia's West Campus**  
1800 S. Kirkman Rd., Orlando, Florida

**6:45 a.m. Registration opens**

**7:30 a.m. Race begins**

**Kids Fun Run following the race (free)**



To register visit  
[www.valenciacc.edu/alumni](http://www.valenciacc.edu/alumni)

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## Membership is FREE

### Full Member

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

### Student Member

Has started but not yet completed a diploma and/or certificate program.

### Honorary Member

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

## Leaders Wanted!

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



# Stay connected.

## Join the Alumni Association.

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

### Benefits and Services Include:

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- 10% discount – Valencia Enterprises continuing education classes and programs
- Discounted Valencia Character Company theater performances
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- Discounted Valencia 5K registration

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