

SPRING 2010

VITAE

CONNECTING
VALENCIA
ALUMNI

GROWING
STRONGER
Through
NETWORKING



A Message From the President of the Alumni Association, George Ruiz

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

How time flies! It seems like just yesterday, and sometimes that is indeed the case, that we alumni were in a classroom on one of Valencia's campuses. Many of us relive fond memories as Valencia students and the diverse relationships we had during those times, keeping those most important to us and also adding to them.

Networking is a lifetime activity that involves meeting new people and developing new relationships. An important aspect of successful networking is realizing that you not only have something to gain from a relationship, but that you also have something to give; relationships depend on give and take.

As an alumnus and president of the Valencia Alumni Association, I am committed to constructing an alumni network that strengthens the connections between alumni, students and the college. This includes giving to each other through mentoring and supporting student scholarships. It also includes creating growing opportunities for alumni to take advantage of social networking and career assistance.

I encourage you to visit our Web site and explore ways you can get connected today! It may spark a whole new set of opportunities!



Best regards,

George Ruiz '08
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 valenciacc.edu/alumni to submit your information and photo to be featured in the *Class Notes* section.

VITAE

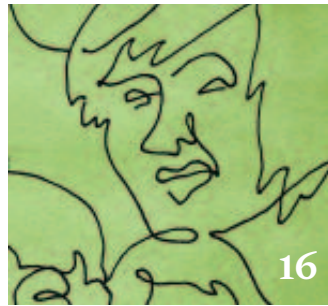
Rooted in the Latin word for “life,” vitae (vee-tay) means: the course of one’s life or career, a short account of a person’s life, a résumé. Since the purpose of this alumni magazine is to keep you connected to Valencia, the title *Vitae* reflects the collective résumé of alumni, faculty, staff and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



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VALENCIA

Networking through Pets

by Lisa Lovell '81, '83

It's Friday evening and most people are leaving their jobs to join a friend, business associate or significant other for a cocktail or dinner, or are going home to enjoy family. I, on the other hand, am driving to my neighborhood pet store to clean cages and feed cats for a local non-profit cat rescue that operates from that location—something I do three nights a week as a volunteer. Not only does the work provide me with a deep sense of satisfaction knowing that I am giving back to my community—something I also do through my employment with Valencia—it allows me to network.

Too often we are taught in our studies and careers to network for professional success and not necessarily for personal success and fulfillment. But don't be fooled: cleaning cat cages at a local pet store is a wonderful social and networking opportunity. Through this and other volunteer activities in animal rescue spanning over 20 years, I have met and—in some cases—befriended so many people, including children, who are truly interested in what I am doing and why I am doing it, have pet stories to share, or who are seeking guidance with a pet-related issue. Through these interactions, I have learned, guided, comforted, taught, laughed with, cried with, aligned with, recruited, and befriended so many wonderful, loving, selfless, generous, and eccentric people from all walks of life and levels of success. And, we all have one thing in common: our love and respect for animals. These conversations and encounters have, without intention, opened up so many doors for me personally and, yes, professionally. This can be said for any venue that may interest you.

In his book, "The Celestine Prophecy", author James Redfield writes, "Coincidences may have deep meaning" and "Coincidences can guide us towards our destinies." He emphasizes that every chance meeting or encounter does not happen by accident, rather that it has a purpose and should not be taken for granted or discounted. He further writes, "Once our manipulations are brought to personal awareness, our connection becomes more constant and we discover our own evolutionary path in life and our spiritual mission, which is the way we contribute to the world." These insights have become my personal mantra and have given networking a whole new meaning for me – not just another name and number to add to my list of contacts.

If you are interested in networking through animal-related volunteerism, please e-mail me at llovello1@cfl.rr.com for information on those opportunities.

Lisa Lovell is a Valencia Alumni Association board member and Paralegal/Assistant to the Vice President of Policy and General Counsel at Valencia.



The Breath of Life

Valencia alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends honored Mr. Lynn Capraun as they celebrated the 41st anniversary of the Valencia Respiratory Care Program on Friday, October 23 at Valencia's West Campus. Capraun, who volunteers as a deputy sheriff with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, began directing the program shortly after it began as a hospital-based program at Orange Memorial Hospital in 1968. After 41 years and more than 500 graduates, he retired from Valencia in January 2010. Capraun family members, including wife, Leeane, who is a retired nurse and sons, Erick and Jeff, who are both deputies with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, took Capraun by surprise and delighted the audience, along with Professor Jamy Chulak of the program, as they unveiled a new Valencia Alumni Association scholarship in his honor, the Lynn Capraun Valencia Alumni Respiratory Care Scholarship.

The Valencia Respiratory Care Program is considered to be one of the longest running respiratory care programs in the country with excellent facilities available to its students for clinical



Lynn Capraun, retired respiratory care program chair

practice, including the Orlando Regional Healthcare and the Florida Hospital systems. In addition, at least one fourth of each class has gone on to the University of Central Florida's Cardiopulmonary Sciences Program to complete their Bachelor of Science degree.

You can contribute online to the Lynn Capraun Valencia Alumni Respiratory Care Scholarship by visiting valenciacc.edu/alumni or call the Alumni Relations Office at 407-582-2946 for information. See reception photos at the alumni Web site's Photo Gallery!

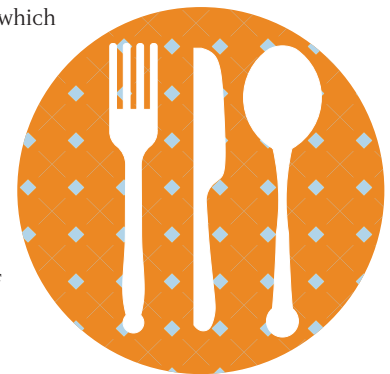
Thank You, Valencia

by *Brandon J. Ley '08*

I started at Valencia when I was 24 after getting a lot of my youthful angst and restlessness out of my system. I was bit of a troubled kid, dropping out of high school when I was 16, getting in some problems with the law, and bouncing from job to job all while holding on to this childish ideal that negated me from responsibility; a case of Peter Pan syndrome. When I turned 23, I decided that it was time to make a change; I got my GED, and started making moves that a year later would land me in Orlando, FL. At Valencia, I started studying Culinary Arts under Chef Pierre Pilloud. I was not sure if being a chef was what I wanted to do, but I knew that I loved what I was learning and more so, loving learning. It was taking those classes, coupled with my general education requirements, that gave me the confidence I needed to push myself further academically, and inspired me to get an AA in General Studies. While working on that degree, I felt my world grow exponentially as I was being exposed to new literature, art, histories, and theories from all over the world. I truly never knew

how much I didn't know until then; I refer to this as the humbling effect of higher education—the more you learn, the less you realize you know. They say ignorance is bliss, but I wouldn't give up that experience for anything. After finishing my double major, I got my B.S. in Hospitality and Tourism at UCF. Following that, I moved back home to Indianapolis and am currently working as a restaurant manager in Bloomington, IN, home of Indiana University. I have been out of school for a few months and am now getting that itch again for further education, which has me looking into graduate schools and volunteering in adult education programs.

It's funny, as I am writing this I start thinking about where I was and where I am now, and if you asked me where I would be 10 years from now—10 years ago, before any higher education—I probably would've said I would be a restaurant manager. This kind of perplexes me, as after all I've learned and done, that is the hat that I am wearing now. However, I suppose that the difference is I chose to wear this hat, but tomorrow I can be wearing any other hat I want. I am no longer limited by one skill set or glass ceilings. Thank you, Valencia.



APPLY ONLINE FOR 2009–2010

scholarships

VALENCIACC.EDU/ALUMNI

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS	AMOUNT	ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS	APPLICATIONS DUE
Mayor Richard T. Crotty Valencia - UCF 2+2 Graduating Scholarship	\$4,000 (\$2,000 at Valencia + \$2,000 at UCF)	Monday January 4, 2010	Wednesday February 3, 2010
Distinguished Graduate Award	\$1,500	Monday January 4, 2010	Wednesday February 3, 2010
Mayor Richard T. Crotty Valencia - UCF 2+2 High School Incoming Scholarship	\$4,000 (\$2,000 at Valencia + \$2,000 at UCF)	Wednesday February 10, 2010	Wednesday March 17, 2010
2010 Annual Scholarships	\$700 (\$350 in Fall Term + \$350 in Spring Term)	Wednesday February 10, 2010	Wednesday March 17, 2010
2010 Fall Alumni Scholarships	\$500 for each scholarship	Wednesday February 24, 2010	Monday March 29, 2010
2010 Alumni Association/Student Development Student Leadership Award	\$700–\$1,000	Monday January 24, 2010	Wednesday February 3, 2010

A Black History Celebration in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Photo courtesy of Dennis Hayes

Presentation by
Dennis Courtland Hayes,
Senior Vice President,
NAACP (retired Feb. 2009)

Thursday, January 21, 2010
Valencia's West Campus
Special Events Center
(Building 8)
Reception 6:00 p.m.
Program 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Mr. Hayes' topic will be: "The Future of the NAACP in the 21st Century and Its Impact on Civil Rights"
For more information, call 407-582-1057.

Co-sponsored by Valencia Community College:

- Student Development
- African American Culture Society (A2CS)
- Bridges to Success Program
- Black High Achievers Club
- Black Advisory Committee
- Valencia Alumni Association

SAVE THE DATE!!!



BRIDGES to SUCCESS 25th Anniversary Reunion

- Special Bridges Alumni Reception on Friday, July 30, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at West Campus Special Events Center
- Bridges Alumni Family Picnic on Saturday, July 31, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Barnett Park

According to program manager John Stover, while the Bridges to Success Program serves all students that request services, its primary focus is the recruitment and retention of at-risk, first-generation, and low-income, mostly minority students. An average of 1,400 students use the program's services each month. Stover is proud when "words such as passion, caring, understanding, and love are commonly used by students when describing the program's unique approach to services."

We need your help to spread the word of the upcoming reunion to all Bridges alumni! Please help us keep connected with you for updates by making sure we have your contact information. Simply fill out the online form at valenciacc.edu/alumni/class_notes/bridges.cfm and please be sure to note that you were referred by John Stover or "Bridges" – or call 407-582-2946.

Valencia Graduate Returns from Interfaith Delegation in Israel and Palestine

Israelis and Palestinians share Perspectives on Obama's Plan to Halt Israeli Settlements and Restart Peace Process.

Washington, DC —Jen Lauda, a graduate of Valencia Community College (2002) and a Masters candidate in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University in Washington, DC, has recently returned from a unique delegation to Israel and Palestine. Lauda joined 21 other participants, mainly from the U.S., with individual delegates from Canada, Germany, Namibia and South Korea. The delegation landed in Tel Aviv on July 27 for the two-week trip through the conflict zone.

Participants on this delegation had the unique opportunity to hear directly from Palestinians and Israelis regarding the role of the U.S. government in promoting a resolution to the conflict. The delegation examined Israeli and Palestinian perspectives on President Obama's plan to halt illegal Israeli settlement construction and restart stalled peace talks. Despite positive rhetoric from the administration, U.S. military aid to the region continues to flow unabated and conditions on the ground continue to worsen.

The delegates met with more than 14 Israelis and 15 Palestinians representing a wide swath of both societies. Delegates visited the homes of Palestinian families evicted by Israeli forces in Jerusalem and toured communities in southern Israel targeted by homemade rockets fired from the Gaza Strip. A special focus was on the work of nonviolent activists and other peace-builders working to create a better future for Israelis and Palestinians.

Co-sponsored by Interfaith Peace-Builders (IFPB) and the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation (USC), was the 31st delegation organized by IFPB since 2001, successfully educating nearly 500 North American citizens about the Middle East and deepening their understanding of its conflicts through eye-witness experience.

Jen Lauda is a graduate student in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at the School of International Service, American University. Ms. Lauda has been conducting research on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as part of her studies. She attended the delegation to "learn about the conflict from those who live it". A Canadian citizen, Ms. Lauda

is a mother of one and lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

"The thing that has struck me the most during my participation on this delegation," explains Ms. Lauda, "is the lack of information that the American people receive through the news media in regards to the illegal occupation of Palestine. The oppression I have witnessed is beyond belief, and I believe that if the American people were more aware of the ways in which our tax dollars are spent sustaining the occupation, they would demand an immediate change in U.S. government policy."

The Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation outside of St. George's Guest House in East Jerusalem.



Photo courtesy of Laurie Siegal

Jen's sign reads: "Stop the Occupation" in Hebrew, she can be reached at jl3997a@student.american.edu.



Photo courtesy of Jen Lauda






Say hello to
my little friend

Networking – Preschool Style

by Carol Traynor



It's Saturday and my four-year-old, Ethan, is asking could we please, please go to Logan's house. Ethan and Logan are in the same pre-kindergarten class. No little boy wants to wait for plans to be made; they just want to play. That is why the whole idea of play dates is almost laughable. Wikipedia defines the term "play date" as "an arranged appointment for children to get together."

The essential problem with play dates is: children want to play, but adults require appointments. So the solution, as I see it, is to schedule play dates before the child makes the request. Anything else will consist of you supplying your child with information they will not understand such as why we have to call first before dropping by and why it's courteous to give more than a half-hour's notice.

Making Appointments to Play

As any parent knows, play dates are never what one expects. I did call Logan's mom, Dana, and arranged to bring Ethan over. As we stood chatting at their front door, the family greyhound appeared on the

stoop. I heard Dana exclaim, "Grab her," but it was too late. As if on cue, Dana and her husband leaped into their cars and drove off—apparently it's the only way to catch an animal that can travel at speeds above 40 miles per hour. I was tasked with watching their children and mine in their upstairs play room until they returned with the dog.

Ethan wasn't even vaguely aware of what was happening. "Mama, someday I want to live in a house with 'tairs," dropping the "s" as he sometimes did. With the greyhound safely back at home, I went on my way and Ethan had a fine time with his friend. It was, however, our last invitation to Logan's house.

Who's on Their Friend List

Helping your child develop friends is of paramount importance. Ethan, who is neither overly shy nor forward, is not lacking for playmates. He has his younger brother, Hayden, who can be fun but refuses to take instructions from his older sibling. And he has several adoring aunts who are willing to build a fort out of the couch cushions or serve as his audience for a magic show. Still, there are times—weekends usually—when Ethan misses the company of kids his own

age and it usually falls to me to fill that need. At what age could you safely let your child out to play by themselves? I'm sure it all depends on the child and the neighborhood. At 4, Ethan doesn't have the cognitive ability to recognize danger or to react to it. Unfortunately, I had to learn this from first-hand experience.

Beware of the Older Child

The first neighborhood kids to show up on our doorstep were two cousins and their friend ages 6 to 10. For several days, they'd come on their bikes and eat the citrus off our trees while playing with Ethan, who acted noticeably younger than they did. One afternoon Ethan asked if he could go to their house just down the street and hang out in a tent they had pitched in the front yard. With some trepidation, I decided to let him go but went down to check on him soon after. The 10-year-old popped his head out the tent and said Ethan was okay when I inquired. Later during bath time, Ethan told me that the older boy had hit him and wouldn't let him leave. While nothing else happened, I couldn't shake the feeling that I had put him in danger. Several times that boy came by again, this time by himself, and asked if

Ethan could come out and play. My husband told him Ethan wasn't there (which was true) and besides, where were his 10-year-old friends? Finally, he got the message and stopped coming.

Finding Friends in the Neighborhood

If I were to get Ethan away from this gang of older kids, I knew that I had to find other, younger kids in the neighborhood. Especially for those times when arranging a play date wasn't practical. Knowing few of the neighborhood children, I set out to find some.

It surprised me to discover that the experience made me feel quite vulnerable. Walking up to a neighbor's door, knocking, and asking if my child could play with theirs produced an anxiety akin to what I had felt growing up: will these people like me (or in this case, my son), will they think I'm weird, what if they say "no"? I didn't want my fear to induce anxiety in Ethan. If I were too afraid to make the overture, how would he ever learn to take the risk of getting to know someone new?

It was with that in mind that I accompanied Ethan to a house just around the corner from us where two young boys could often be seen playing in the driveway.

After talking for a few minutes with their parents, they agreed to let Ethan and Hayden play with their boys and they did so for about a half hour while I hung around to make sure they didn't damage anything. It was awkward but seemed to go okay. I exchanged numbers with the mother. Between my husband Richard and me, we took the kids over a few more times but I couldn't



help but wonder why they never reciprocated. They never dropped by our house, the mother never called. Were my kids too unruly for her, I wondered? We only found out later that they were planning to move, so perhaps that was why they never warmed up to us.

Putting Yourself Out There, Again

Next, we met Cheryl and her boys, ages 4 and 7, just down the street from us. As before, I struck up a conversation with the mother after seeing the boys playing outside. Our kids played a bit together and I invited them to drop by our house sometime. But again, they never did. Recently, the mother bumped into Richard and asked about our boys. She confessed that she absolutely dreaded having to set up play dates. Then it began to make sense why she never brought her boys by. It wasn't personal. She just chose not to do it.

I'm not sure why I feel my son's need for people so acutely. Perhaps it's because I was an only child and empathize with Ethan's craving for friends that I am willing to rearrange my schedule and make the effort to find playmates for him.

On summer break, I took the kids to a park about 45 minutes away, just for a change. One mother who home-schooled her two boys was a powerbroker on the playground. After her seven-year-old and Ethan played some espionage game with Hayden as their clueless target, the boy's mother approached, noted that Ethan seemed like a nice boy, and asked if I'd like to exchange phone numbers to set up a play date. She immediately put my number on her cell phone and left.

I was thinking about her the following week when I found the slip of paper in my wallet with the phone number of Roger's mother. If a home-schooling mom could set up a play date with such efficiency, then surely I, the working mom, could too. ■

Carol Traynor is the Assistant Director of Marketing and Media Relations at Valencia.





RUN, WALK & ROLL
MARCH 21, 2010
IN MEMORY OF JUSTIN HARVEY

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

6:45 a.m. Registration opens

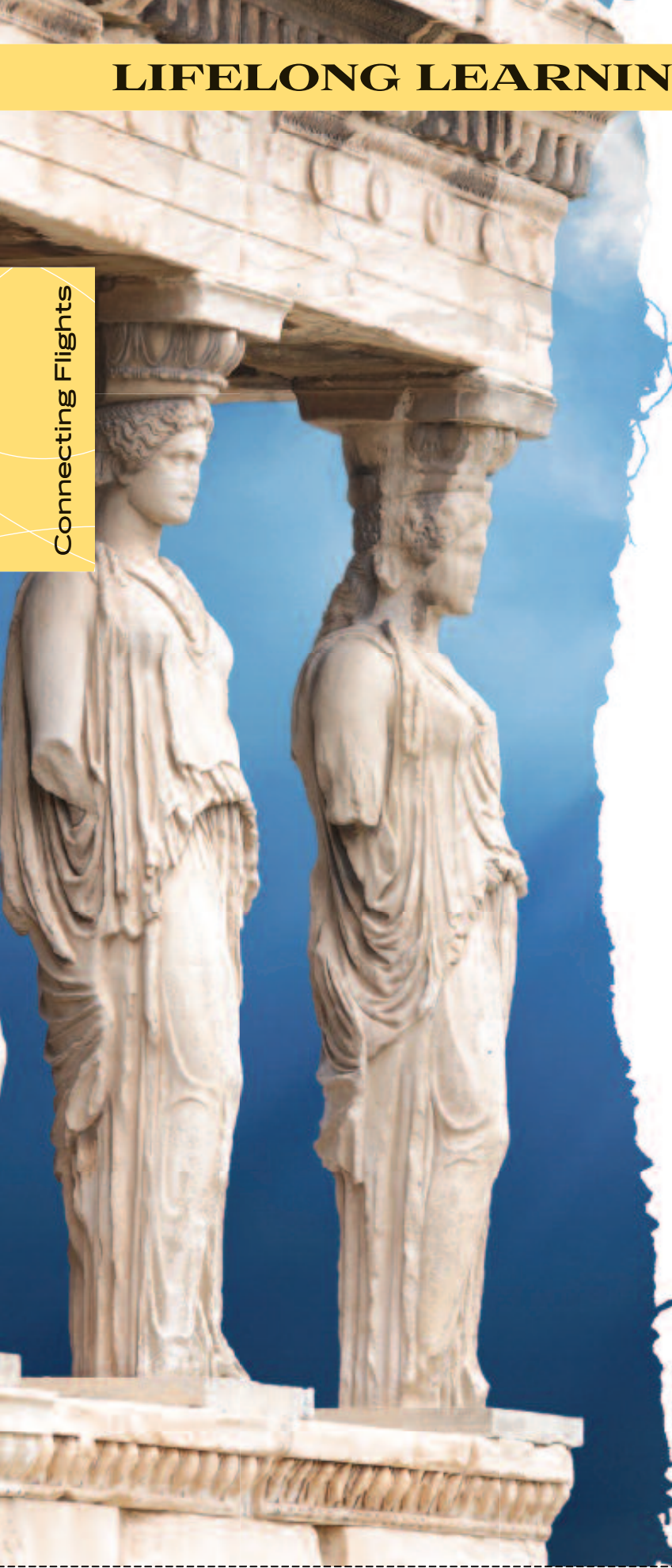
7:30 a.m. Race begins

Kids Fun Run following the race (free)

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.

To register, visit: valenciacc.edu/alumni





Greece is the Word

by Gustavo Morales

During spring break my wife, Ilse, and I had the opportunity to visit the Greek Isles with Valencia's Honors Program. We shared this experience with 21 students, many of whom had never been out of the U.S. in their lives. Starting at the Orlando airport, students began forming groups, helping each other with the luggage, with the rate of exchange of the Euros, and with the language. Some had actually taken the time to learn some basic Greek. Hard as I tried I was not able to learn more than a simple greeting or two and in the end it truly was Greek to me.

All of a sudden the students were transported to another continent, another culture, another language, another world. All their preconceived notions of a foreign country shattered the moment we landed in Athens. For many of them Greece was only the mythical place of Alexander the Great and the Parthenon, legendary place where myth and history intertwined in such a way as to be undistinguishable. Would we be sailing to Troy to rescue Helen from Paris' hold? Would we see where the Apostle Paul preached or where Marc Anthony and Cleopatra set foot on distant shores? For the next seven days we would go around trying to absorb as much as possible of the historical past of Greece while encountering a very modern country.

In **Athens** we visited the Temple of Zeus, the Acropolis, with its most famous building, the Parthenon, the stadium where the modern Olympic games were started. We ended eating and dancing in a typical Greek taverna in the area known as The Plaka.

We were on *terra firma* only a couple of days, the rest of the time we cruised the Aegean Sea visiting such islands as Mykonos, Rhodes, Patmos, Crete and Santorini and a brief incursion into Turkey where we visited Ephesos. Each site was unique and surprising. In **Mykonos** the landscape was dotted with XVI century windmills created to grind seeds using the sea breezes. The town consists of narrow cobble stone streets and square buildings all painted in white, some built at the water's edge.



Painting by Mike Malloy

Rhodes, an acropolis with a temple to Athena and a medieval city with palaces and moats, offered a contrast of architectures and times, plus the legend of the Colossus of Rhodes that, according to tradition, used to straddle the entrance to the bay.

In **Ephesus** we visited the house where the Virgin Mary spent the last years of her life. This is also the site of the Library of Celsus, the third largest of the ancient world, boasting at one time 200,000 volumes in its vaults, and an open-air amphitheatre with 25,000 seats with perfect acoustics still being used today for concerts. Every stone down the main street of this ancient seaport echoes the footsteps of history. This is also the sight of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, burned down by the deranged Herostratus on the very same day Alexander the Great of Macedonia was born on distant shores. The stones, monuments and ruins exude a link to the past where kings and noblemen, farmers and merchants, soldiers and sailors, sinners and saints, prostitutes and vestal virgins coexisted in this marvelous city.

Patmos, strongly steeped in religion sometimes referred to as "Jerusalem of the Aegean," reflects the presence of St. John who wrote the Book of Revelations in 95 AD. The Monastery of St. John the Divine, with its interconnecting courtyards, chapels, stairways, arcades, galleries and roof terraces, is without a doubt the most important landmark on the island.

In **Crete**, The Temple of Knossos with the legend of its labyrinth and the minotaur was the centerpiece of our visit. Red columns supporting the ochre building housed fabulous frescoes of agile young ladies vaulting

over menacing bulls. In Santorini white buildings and churches with royal blue domes invited the onlooker to peer into its azure waters and imagine in the midst of the giant submerged caldera the remains of the lost civilization of Atlantis.

Back on the mainland, our last stop was **Delphi**, home of the famous oracle, where the Pythias under the influence of subterranean emanations spouted cryptic messages that when interpreted by the priests changed the course of history. Besides the remains of the temple to Apollo there are specious amphitheatres and a great museum which houses marvelous sculptures, in bronze and marble, as well as highly decorated pottery.

Throughout the whole trip, students kept asking questions in an earnest desire to learn more about the individual sites visited. I do not think they were quite the same when they came back. Their appreciation for their education soared beyond never-dreamed heights, and so did my appreciation for the students.

Gustavo Morales is a professor of geology at Valencia and a member of the Valencia Retiree Connection.

Their appreciation for their education soared beyond never-dreamed heights, and so did my appreciation for the students.



LIVING A SECOND LIFE AT VALENCIA

by Edward Howell

Often, I am asked about why I spend so much time playing a virtual game. The reality is Second Life is much more than a game. It is a social environment where you can be who you want to be, as well as a platform to build with, a way to redefine and experiment with identity, a virtual world where anyone can contribute, and the distance between idea and implementation is very short. It is part of a greater movement toward user-generated content and for educators it's an innovation in expression and interaction. Compared to traditional forms of online learning, the 3D globally networked virtual classroom has endless possibilities.

Often online learning doesn't require much engagement with course material, but in Second Life there is real-time interaction, which means students need to engage in the discussion. And the interaction is genuinely exciting. Take my visit today as a case in point...

I appear in the middle of Valencia's virtual campus, seeing a few white sparkles still falling from me as my materialization completes. Immediately, I am deluged

with incoming information. A conversation is in progress in the Metanomics forum, in which someone is getting help with tracking their financial transactions relating to an art exhibition. I fly over to my office, landing outside the door with practiced ease. Other notices of upcoming events appear; a discussion on the limits of virtual worlds, an art exhibition with the artist attending in avatar form for a question and answer session; and a notice of the latest issue of a magazine I subscribe to, featuring articles on social life and social media.

In another forum, programmers are solving problems with their scripts by asking questions of a group of about 100 online peers, and the answers arrive in thick blocks of text. I scan through the discussion to see if there is anything useful for me. Walking into Building 1, I sit down in my office, and begin to sort through the information. Nearby, three artificial life forms, which look and behave like cats, walk over to greet me, purring and calling. My to-do list is the next thing I open, and I spend a few minutes updating it with notes on my latest completed task; creating a system of



teleporters for each campus building.

The cats, office, and document I am interacting with are all virtually present on my real office's computer monitor. The people I am interacting with are located all over the world. And my avatar sits in the Valencia Community College region in the massive, multi-user 3D environment called Second Life.

The Second Life environment combines text chat, instant messaging and VoIP, together with a realistic 3D environment, in which you interact with other people in the form of avatars. Valencia has had a virtual world presence since mid-2007, and has recently upgraded to a new campus, with expanded faculty offices, meeting areas, and classrooms. Like an online course, the students can remain at home while attending class. This fall, an Honors Mythology course will be taught virtually for the second year, and 20th Century Humanities and Digital Storytelling will also use the new learning environment. The virtual campus is available to students anytime, 24 hours a day.

The advantage of using a virtual environment such as Second Life is clear. It is a low cost, easy to use

replacement for meetings. There is no travel time required, and impromptu meetings can be set up with little effort and cost. Users of Second Life enjoy global access to other educators using Second Life from all over the world. Thousands of universities, organizations and corporations use it, including Mazda, Northrop Grumman, Sun Microsystems and The Louvre Museum.

Meanwhile, back at my virtual office, I finish updating my list. The cats, sensing that I have not moved for several minutes, are all asleep under my chair. I click the button to stand up, and my avatar, an 8-foot-tall blue elf, immediately complies. I log off for the time being...

If you would like to visit the Valencia Community College virtual campus, and see for yourself the amazing things that are available, simply create a Second Life account, join a group, and start getting notices about meetings, functions, innovations and creations of your peers and colleagues.

Edward Howell is an Instructional Design Specialist for the Office of Information Technology at Valencia.

Visit Valencia in Second Life:
[slurl.com/secondlife/
ValenciaCommunityCollege](http://slurl.com/secondlife/ValenciaCommunityCollege)

From Venezuela to Valencia

Interview with Daniela Herbert

by Lori Sunday '89

Q: Where are you from?

Maracay, Venezuela.

Q: How did you feel about coming to a new country and a new school?

I was excited and terrified at the same time. I was going to be living alone, far away from my family and in a country where I didn't know anyone. At the same time I was excited to move forward on the next step of my life and begin college. It was my mother's dream for me to go to school in the United States, and after some research I choose Valencia.

Q: How did you first start meeting people?

The first time I ever went to the Valencia campus I was scheduled to meet with the International Advisor, Lori Sunday. Lori kindly extended an invitation to me to join her at a Clubs Fair the Valencia International Club was attending. I was warmly welcomed by everyone there, and quickly made new friends. This was pivotal to my meeting people at Valencia.

Q: Did one friend or group of friends open up a new network of people you had a lot in common with?

Joining VIC in the Clubs Fair opened the doors for me to meet many people, all of whom offered something new and different to me. This made it easier for me to network later on when I was trying to open the Model United Nations Club at Valencia later that year. The creation of the MUN Club at Valencia was my dream. I had participated in MUN during high school and I had been able to see first hand how it had affected the participants. It made everyone more aware and



involved of the world around them, and by default this enhances their academic experience.

Q: What type of new experiences have you had by meeting new people?

I experienced Halloween for the first time with a group of friends from Valencia, which was incredibly fun. Also, I was forced to watch the Super Bowl with friends from here. They sat me down, and explained what was going on, it was different because there is no sport like this in Venezuela, and for me it's still difficult to call it Football, simply because to me that is what Americans call Soccer. That has been an adjustment I still haven't fully accomplished, (I even began calling American Football "Tackleball" as a joke, because I think it makes more sense that way). However, it was fun because of the way people watch it. It's like a big party, and that is something that I can relate to as a Latina.

Q: What kind of opportunities came your way after you started making new friends; any life-changing events?

Any new friend is always a life-changing event because each brings to your life new experiences and lessons, so making friends was one of the most important parts of my American experience. I plan on keeping in touch with my friends through either Facebook or email. I have made it a point to make sure that I have everyone's email, just to be safe.

Lori Sunday is the International Student Services manager at Valencia.

Reading as a Community

by Melissa Tchen

While reading could easily be perceived as a solo activity, that doesn't have to be the case. There are plenty of opportunities to share the experience with others, such as reading bedtime stories with the little ones or listening to a book-on-tape during a road trip, or even attending a real, live book reading by an author. But what I think really brings people together isn't necessarily the act of reading, but the discussions that come afterwards.

Book discussions can get started all sorts of ways. Maybe it's arranged – a required class assignment or part of a book club meeting. Maybe it's more impromptu – you get into a conversation with someone you see carrying the book you've just finished or with fellow moviegoers waiting in line to see the film adaptation (which, be warned, is hardly ever as good as the book).

On Valencia's West Campus book discussions are really catching on thanks to a community read program called "Get Into Reading." Each term, faculty and students vote to choose a new book to be read campus-wide. Participating professors assign the book to their students and incorporate it into their class while the library schedules book talks and events.

Students not required to read the chosen book are still encouraged to do so, as are college staff, alumni and community members. By engaging the community in dialogue, "Get Into Reading" aims to bring people together while also promoting tolerance and understanding about differing points of views and cultures.

Whether you decide to "Get Into Reading" or start up a conversation of your own, book discussions are a way to delve deeper into a story, extend your experience with a book a little longer, and to share that experience with someone else. So the next time you pick up a book, don't just start reading, start talking about it, too.

Join the Discussion Online

The Internet makes it easier than ever to connect with people to discuss books, share recommendations and reviews, and even start a virtual book club. Check out the Web sites below to get started.

Oprah's Book Club:
oprah.com/entity/oprahsbookclub

Barnes and Noble Book Club:
bookclubs.barnesandnoble.com

Share book reviews and create "to read" lists:
goodreads.com

Get resources for starting or running a book club:
litlovers.com

Join discussion forums:
booktalk.org

Be a Part of "Get Into Reading"

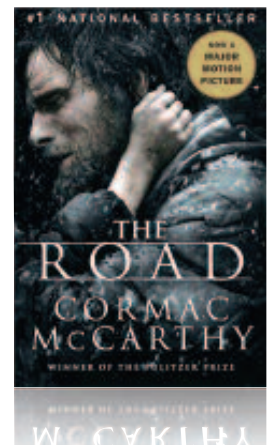
The fall 2009 "Get Into Reading" book selection was *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy. More than 500 West Campus students joined in reading the novel.

The Road Synopsis:

In the aftermath of a global catastrophe, a father and his son escape the harsh oncoming winter by travelling southward along back roads lined with corpses and ghost towns, remaining constantly on guard against bands of vicious marauders. Their will and love for one another is their only hope for survival.

As of press time, a book was not yet chosen for the Spring 2010 term, but should be announced by the time *Vitae* is mailed out. Visit the "Get Into Reading" Web site to find out which book was selected and to view related events:

valenciacc.edu/library/west/getintoreading.





A Network of Community

Support

by Michael J. G. McLaughlin '08

Community service means a lot to most of us. For me, it's a family tradition. My mother, Cassandra Reynolds, is a city commissioner in Daytona Beach, where she has championed better paying jobs and improved economic structure and most recently has been working for residents who have been displaced by flood waters. My sister, Stacey Y. Reynolds-Carruth, works as the director of the Fund for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University raising resources for students so they can excel in aviation and related fields. My aunt, Dr. Valerie Greene King is the director of diversity initiatives at the University of Central Florida and helps to ensure that UCF is meeting its goal to become more inclusive and diverse. And finally, my grandfather, the late James R. Greene, served as the founding president at one of Florida's first community colleges for African-Americans in the 60's, then Carver Junior College, now Brevard Community College.

As you can see, there are expectations in my family that we get involved, get engaged and most importantly, that we give back.

After graduating from UCF in '03 with a degree in liberal studies, I went to work for a large financial brokerage house and found that it wasn't what I wanted for a career. I had a deeper desire to give more to my community, to assist others in finding how they can contribute and help those who sometimes can't help themselves.

There is a saying that guides my professional career that I presume holds true for other dedicated community servants that goes like this: "I shall pass through this way but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

I can't think of a better place that meets that need than the Heart of Florida United Way, our region's largest supporter of health and human services. I count every single day as a privilege that I've been given for the opportunity to meet and work with others - locating and providing resources for so many in need of assistance in our community. That's the path I've chosen but I

know I can't make a difference on my own. I am grateful for all the others who play different parts in this network. Many are fellow graduates of Valencia Community College.

When we work together, we can accomplish so much more.

What does it mean to be an alumnus of Valencia? Let's start with the overall Valencia experience - for me, it was about intimate class sizes with professors who knew who I was and who taught me in a campus setting that embodied the sense of community. Many of us have built upon the learning and life lessons gained while attending one of the nation's most renowned community colleges.

Similarly, in my role with the Heart of Florida United Way's Resource Development department, I share the growing needs of Central Florida with others and ask for their support to address our area's most critical concerns. Along the way, I meet many wonderful people like Maria Caballero. Maria, a current Valencia student, works for one of the many local companies that we partner with at United Way that recognizes the mounting issues facing our community. Her employer and our partner, Publix Super Markets, is one of the businesses in our community that actively works to make a difference for the many people that are hurting in these tough economic times.

while serving on the selection committee for the Mayor Richard T. Crotty Valencia – UCF 2+2 Scholarship, which is awarded to high school students from Orange and Osceola Counties entering Valencia and to students graduating from Valencia and entering UCF. Talking with students who are eager to learn, ready to serve and inspired by what they can accomplish is an extremely uplifting experience. Empowering others with the tools they need to meet their educational goals is motivating and I'm continually impressed by the vision of our students. I have found that small, seemingly inconsequential seeds can grow into towering oaks.

family that are continuing on the tradition of community that extends beyond the Valencia experience. Every day, I am inspired by the level of commitment and caring our alumni and neighbors demonstrate for one another in these most difficult times. With unemployment at record highs, I've seen the number of people looking for help jump drastically at United Way's 2-1-1 24-hour information and referral help line. Every month, we hear from Central Florida residents seeking food, shelter and utility assistance as their number one reasons for calling. Think about that – even if you have a job and are experiencing a problem in just one out of those three areas, it is extremely difficult to get through your day while worrying, "When I get home, will the lights be on? What food is in the refrigerator? Is there even a home to go to?" While these questions are frightening, knowing that there is a place to call for help can be comforting. Trained 2-1-1 specialists found great rewards in being able to answer more than 115,000 phone calls for help in 2008 alone, providing responses to fellow community members in the time of their greatest need.

Empowering others with the tools they need to meet their educational goals is motivating and I'm continually impressed by the vision of our students.

They do this in part by allowing Maria to devote her time as a loaned executive with the United Way's Resource Development team where she has helped with our fundraising efforts for nearly three months. While she works from the United Way office, Publix will continue to pay her as a Publix employee – that's a collaboration for all of us to be proud of.

I've also met Debra Rosado '01, a skilled non-profit professional who is another Valencia alumna from Osceola County. Debra has worked with Help Now of Osceola County and the Osceola Council on Aging, two agencies that provide critical services to meet the needs of the community. She's started her own non-profit agency, At Family Ministry, Inc, that helps victims of crimes and abuse overcome challenges so they can continue with their productive, independent lives.

Education gives a strong foundation to any career and life as a whole. I first became active with the Valencia Alumni Association

Many are looking for ways to gain the experience they need to be future leaders and community servants. Because of Mayor Crotty's dedication and long career of public service, this scholarship shares his name. Mayor Crotty is not only one of Valencia's most prominent alumni but is a committed community servant who has also championed the United Way and served as the 2008-09 campaign chairman.

"Valencia served as my launching pad toward higher education and eventually a career in public service. I'm proud to be a Valencia alumnus and the scholarship that bears my name is my way of giving other young scholars the same opportunity I was blessed to receive. I carried the Valencia spirit of community service in my role as chair of last year's Heart of Florida United Way campaign. It is vital that we, who have been given so much, reach out and help the neediest among us," said the mayor.

Maria, Debra and Mayor Crotty are just a few extraordinary examples of our Valencia

My journey since leaving Valencia has led me to the world of non-profit. It's because of the Valencia spirit which Mayor Crotty talks about that we, the Valencia community, are still able to make progress in spite of plight. Booker T. Washington said, "We can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress." So, while we all have different responsibilities, each one is a part of a greater cause and you are a piece of our network. Let your Valencia Alumni Association know what role you're taking in our community. We want to hear from you! ■

Michael J. G. McLaughlin is vice president of the Valencia Alumni Association and is an account executive with the Heart of Florida United Way. Michael can be contacted at 407-835-0900 or Michael.McLaughlin@hfuw.org.



**VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ORLANDO MAGIC NIGHT**



vs.



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6:00 p.m., Amway Arena

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Terrace Reception (optional)
Post-Game On-Court Event

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Setting the Stage for Success

by Dr. Suzanne Salapa

On any given day you may find classical, contemporary, jazz, big band, drums or piano music booming from the dance studio on the East Campus. Scores of students pour in and out of classes: morning, noon, and night. "I never knew we had a dance program until I taught a class over the studio one semester," remarked one professor. "The sounds from that space were incredible!"

Founded in 1986 by former professor Ellie Potts-Barrett and current Valencia Dance Artistic Director and Professor Lesley Brasseur-Rodgers, the dance program provides the opportunity for dancers to hone their skills in technique classes and perform every semester throughout the school. Professor Brasseur-Rodgers proudly notes: "We have come such a long way from the beginning. We started out with a handful of dance classes, holding bake sales for costume money and performing on the East Campus mall, to an Associate in Arts in Dance Performance degree, three fully produced dance concerts each year and a

traveling student dance company.

How far we've come!"

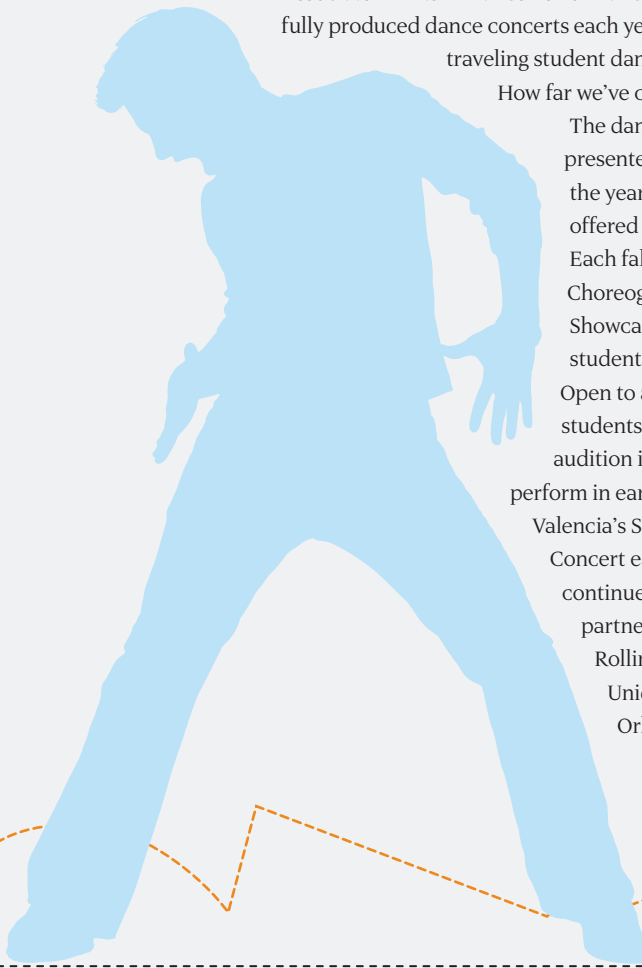
The dance concerts are presented throughout the year, with a concert offered each semester. Each fall semester the Choreographers' Showcase features student choreography. Open to all Valencia students, dancers audition in September and perform in early December.

Valencia's Spring Dance Concert each March continues a community partnership with Rollins College. Unique to the Orlando area and

many higher education dance programs, the two institutions joined forces in 1995 to produce a two-week performance schedule to give both Valencia and Rollins students another opportunity to perform. Professor Brasseur-Rodgers and Rollins Dance Chair Dr. W.R. Sherry choreograph pieces every year. In addition, internationally renowned guest artists set choreography for both Valencia and Rollins students during a two-week residency. Guest artists have included members of the Isadora Duncan Dance Ensemble, the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, the José Limon Dance Company, the Martha Graham Dance Company, Pilobolus, Shapiro and Smith and this year, David Parsons Dance. The collaboration has proved successful year after year, providing dancers with the wonderful opportunity to work with professionals and historic artists in our field.

The final performance of the school year is the Valencia Dance Theatre Reparatory concert held in July each summer. In conjunction with the summer session, the Valencia Dance program also hosts the Valencia Summer Dance Institute. Established from a 1999/2000 Governor's School for the Arts grant, this program is free to rising 9th-12th grade high school students. For four weeks each summer, the students participate in the development of dance, performance practices, cooperative learning, and communication skills, while working with various artists in the field of dance.

Valencia Dance is a committed community dance education partner. Our student company, Valencia Dance Theatre (VDT), promotes excellence in dance performance and increases the accessibility of this art form for general community-wide audiences. Each year, VDT provides a series of dance lectures and demonstrations for area elementary, middle and high school students throughout central Florida, including partner-in-education, the Dr. Phillips High School Dance Magnet Arts Program. Additionally, VDT attends and performs at conferences throughout the East coast as a member of the American College Dance Festival Association.



Graduates of Valencia's A.A. in Dance Performance and former members of Valencia Dance Theatre have gone on to dance professionally with dance companies and nationally touring shows, or have continued their education at four-year colleges and universities. Some of these alumni are currently teaching dance at educational institutions in the Orlando area, including Kristina Stevens, Emily Sutherland Cordell, and Nikki Peña.

Ms. Kristina Stevens, a 2005 graduate with an A.A. in Dance Performance and a recent graduate of Rollins College, is currently a member of the Dance Faculty on the East Campus. Additionally, she assists both Dr. Suzanne Salapa and Professor Brasseur-Rodgers in the day-to-day running of the dance program and in producing the annual performance season. In 2003, Ms. Stevens was forced to take a break from dancing professionally because of an injury and found at Valencia "a warm, supporting atmosphere that allowed me to pursue a degree in dance, while giving me the opportunity to perform at a challenging level once my injury had healed." As a student she enjoyed the opportunity to work with guest artists and to travel with Valencia Dance Theatre, activities she is able to continue in her capacity as the Assistant to the Dance Director. The connections she has made while at Valencia were also advantageous during her time at Rollins College, allowing her to transition easily from one college to another.

Emily Sutherland Cordell graduated from Valencia Community College in 2005, and Jacksonville University 2008. Ms. Cordell is currently employed by Seminole County Public Schools/Millennium Middle School and feels "The Valencia Dance Department gave me many opportunities to grow, both personally and professionally. I developed a strong support system of friends who had similar goals in dance performance and dance education. I am happy to say that I have maintained a majority of my friendships that began in the Valencia dance department and continue to make new friends with current Valencia dance students and those who began the program after me. The members of Valencia Dance became my roommates, closest friends, bridesmaids, and fellow dance educators. It was my true college sorority/fraternity where I was able to connect with my dance brothers and sisters." Ms. Cordell continues her connection with Valencia and is often a guest choreographer, adjudicator, and instructor.



Ms. Peña completed the dance program in 2007, graduated from University of Central Florida with both a B.A. in Sociology and an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction. She is currently employed by Seminole County Public Schools/Wekiva High School and is the Dance Director. Ms. Peña has worked diligently to achieve her goal of teaching dance in the public schools, "I love what I do and as hard as it is, I was very well prepared coming from Valencia. They gave me the step up that I needed. I now get to use the tools I acquired from my time there and put them to good use." Ms. Peña also returns to the Valencia Dance department as a guest choreographer, adjudicator and instructor.

Valencia Dance is grateful for the kindness and support that this college, campus, and administration provide to the department. We look forward to creating quality dance experiences, lifelong-learning, friendships and examples for years to come.

Suzanne Salapa is the Program Director and a professor of dance.



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

by Dr. Sanford Shugart

President, Valencia Community College



Valencia has always been an eager and effective partner in the community, and in October 2009 we saw an event that marked a milestone in our long and deep relationship with the University of Central Florida. On October 29, 2009, we “cut the ribbon” on the new University Center on Valencia’s West Campus.

The building alone is noteworthy. At just over 100,000 square feet, it is the largest ever built at the college. It is LEED certified, sporting an array of solar panels on the roof and many innovations designed to conserve energy throughout the structure. With an expansive atrium and a grand stairway, it may also be the most attractive and striking building at the college. I encourage you to visit it.

But what’s really remarkable about the University Center extends beyond the building to the amazing partnership and remarkable opportunity it represents. It is designed to house both Valencia and UCF students in programs that lead to bachelor degrees and beyond, all offered within the framework of the DirectConnect program in which Valencia’s graduates are guaranteed admission to UCF. Engineering, business, accounting, education and other majors are represented in the program and in future plans that should accommodate as many as 5,000 upper division students. Since its inception in 2006, the DirectConnect program has enrolled more than 30,000 students seeking a Valencia degree and who intend to complete a baccalaureate at UCF.

We may well already have the largest transfer relationship in the nation. More than eighty percent of our graduates transfer to UCF and more than sixty percent of their graduates begin as transfer students, the lion’s share from Valencia. In the coming years this number will grow geometrically, representing an expanded pathway to opportunity for our students and the community.

The White House recently called attention to this when the Initiative for Excellence in Hispanic Higher Education, led by Juan Sepulveda, held a public forum on campus and cited this partnership as a model program. Their message was that this partnership works for all students, and especially those who are often under-



The new University Center on Valencia's West Campus.

represented in higher education. It works for the institutions, as well. Valencia is able to fulfill its mission of providing access without resorting to much more expensive alternatives or losing our sense of core mission. UCF is able to continue its march toward prominence, including highly selective freshman admissions, without sacrificing its commitment to outstanding local students. Everyone benefits. And that's the power of partnership.

Importantly, this powerful partnership has its roots in Valencia's founding, and those roots, too, were acknowledged at the dedication ceremony. A bronze plaque was unveiled honoring Dr. Charles N. Millican, founding president and president emeritus of UCF, who offered pivotal support for the

founding of Valencia. In 1967, President Millican endorsed the proposed Valencia Junior College and offered his assistance in its creation. By supporting the founding of Valencia at a time when some in the community were concerned that the Orlando area might not support both a public two-year college and a public university, Dr. Millican laid a foundation of institutional partnership rooted in service to the people of Central Florida with the aim of extending opportunity to all.

The plaque honoring Dr. Millican notes that the building is a physical expression of the strong UCF/Valencia partnership that continues to yield enduring benefits to our community, and invites all who enter the doors of the University Center to be

reminded of the hundreds of thousands of students whose lives have been and will continue to be touched as a result of Dr. Millican's visionary leadership and the continuing collegial efforts of UCF and Valencia. When you visit the new University Center building, please take a moment to reflect on the role that Dr. Millican played and consider the impact of this powerful partnership on our shared community. ■

*Everyone benefits.
And that's the power
of partnership.*

STEPHANIE DOUGLAS 2009

Stephanie Douglas is pursuing a bachelor's degree in hospitality management at Harris-Stowe University in St. Louis.

MAUREEN (RAZAK) SAHID 2009

Maureen (Razak) Sahid is currently in her second year pursuing a bachelor's degree in accounting as a student at the College of Business at UCF.

KRISTINA CRUTCHFIELD 2009

Kristina Crutchfield (A.A. in biology) is pursuing her B.S. at UF and hopes to start veterinary school in the fall of 2010.

DAVID URENA 2009

David Urena is currently attending the University of Florida to finish the last two years of a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering degree. He is ready for whatever challenges await him!

RYAN SIMONS 2009

Ryan Simons began pursuing a bachelor's degree in architecture at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York after recently being accepted into the five-year program. He plans to attend graduate school after completing his degree.

CARRIE RUSSELL 2008

Carrie Russell graduated from Valencia with a degree in film technology. She has been working on Capitol Hill and the surrounding area in Washington, D.C. in the areas of still photography and video and production. She has worked with the Hill Newspaper, Disney, The Travel Channel, Washington Spaces Magazine, the American Red Cross, and PGA Tour Productions and feature films.

CEAIRA CRAWFORD 2008

Ceira Crawford has been serving in the United States Air Force as a medic and recently returned from a tour of duty in Kuwait.

CHANTELLE YANDOW 2008

Chantelle Yandow is a licensed massage therapist in Florida and practices at a salon/spa in Winter Springs. Prior to her A.A. degree at Valencia in 2008, she graduated with an A.S. degree from Keiser University in 2007. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in religious studies at UCF and working on an honors thesis. She plans to continue on to graduate school after graduation in Fall 2010.



TIFFANY GEORGE 2008

Tiffany George is currently finishing an anthropology degree at UCF. She hopes to graduate in spring 2011.

MICHELE KANE 2008

Michele Kane is living in New York and is currently applying to colleges in that state to finish her B.A. in secondary art education.



ESTHER (CALDERON) STAPLES 2007

Esther (Calderon) Staples will graduate from Rollins in May 2010. She has been married for six years, has two children and is opening her own ST's Bath Products business.

MEGHAN VANCE 2008

Meghan Vance is attending UCF to pursue a master's degree in history.

DEIDRE (VAN DIXON) RUIZ 2007

Deidre (Van Dixon) Ruiz is working as a registered nurse in Labor and Delivery and loving it.

ELIZABETH MIKL 2007

Elizabeth Mikl (Digital Media and Music Production) is working at Disney and interning at WKMG Channel 6.

LISA BELL 2007

Lisa Bell is currently employed as a respiratory care therapist at Orlando Health.

MARISSA (PERCY) VALLADAREZ 2007

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

VENECIA HENDRICKS 2007

Venecia Hendricks is currently working as a support center administrator and finishing her Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice at UCF. She is proud that her 5-year-old son is starting kindergarten this year and looks forward to the new journeys in life they will experience.

MICHAEL COOPER 2007

Michael Cooper graduated from UCF with a degree in psychology. He is now pursuing a master's degree in counseling at Johnson State College in Vermont.

EILEEN BUSTAMANTE 2007

Eileen Bustamante graduated Cum Laude in May from Florida Atlantic University.

JANELLE TRABAKINO 2007

Janelle Trabakino is currently attending Pace University in New York.



VANESSA APPOO 2006

Vanessa Appoo went on to earn a B.S. degree from UCF in health services administration. She currently works at the corporate office of Orlando Health as a corporate charge management analyst and is a graduate student in the first class of UCF's new health care informatics 20-month master's degree program. The health care informatics program will admit only one class per year.

RACHEL APPOO 2005

Rachel Appoo (A.A. and A.S. in nursing) recently graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing in August 2009 from UCF. Rachel participated as a volunteer for a medical mission trip sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Orlando working with tribes along the Amazon River in Brazil in July 2008. She is currently working as a clinical nurse at Dr. Phillips Hospital in Orlando and plans to pursue her master's in nursing.



DANIELLE JONES 2007

Danielle Jones wouldn't trade working as a registered nurse in the emergency room for the WORLD!

CHELSEA HOWARD 2007

Chelsea Howard works as a volunteer for the Regional Building Committee (RBC). RBC completes "quick builds," which is the construction of one building in just one weekend. RBC undertook a campaign in 2004-2005 to repair and reconstruct Florida homes that were damaged during the hurricanes, all based on volunteerism. Chelsea feels that: "Aside from helping draw up blueprints and designs for the buildings, having a hands-on part in the work is like nothing else. The rewards reaped with this work are absolutely amazing; there is no other place I would rather be."

AMAAN MOHIUDDIN 2007

Amaan Mohiuddin hopes to graduate from UCF in spring 2010 with a degree in social science education and to pursue a master's degree and/or joining the Peace Corps after that. His long-term plans include a career in the international relations field and making a difference in the world, including creating a school in India for the underprivileged.

AIMEE MICHAUD 2007

Aimee Michaud (Honors) recently graduated from the University of West Florida (UWF) with a bachelor's degree in communication arts-print journalism, also from the UWF honors program. In addition to a class, an honors thesis, and an internship at the Pensacola News Journal, she also worked a part-time job during her last semester and feels the rewards of her accomplishments. She is back in Central Florida with her fiancé and hopes to find freelance writing opportunities.

CHANELL LEWIS 2007

Chanell Lewis is a junior at Florida A&M University majoring in business administration with a minor in computer information systems.

ISABELITA MANALASTAS 2006

Isabelita Manalastas is currently a pharmacy student at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, Florida after earning her A.A. degree in biology at Valencia.

FAISAL HAMEED 2007

Faisal Hameed is finishing grad school in New Orleans and sends his regards, "Thanks Valencia! Great memories!"

**STACEY PADGETT 2006**

Stacey Padgett recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting from USF in St. Petersburg after earning an economics degree at Valencia.

ELENA VLASENKO 2006

Elena Vlasenko graduated with a master's in nursing from the University of South Florida in August.

JORGE CARRILLO 2005

Jorge Carrillo worked as an electrical designer for an engineering firm in Orlando after graduating from Valencia with a degree in building construction technology. He is currently pursuing an electrical engineering degree at UCF and plans to graduate by 2011.

ABEER ABDALLA 2005

Abeer Abdalla is currently serving as the Chairwoman of the Young Members Committee of the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

DIANA ANTOLINEZ 2004

Diana Antolinez has been teaching pre-algebra and beginning algebra at Valencia's West Campus as an adjunct faculty member since the fall of 2007. She received her Associate Faculty Certificate that same fall and is now involved with the Learning in Community program (LinC) as a Bridges to Success Program math instructor. Diana is also the assistant to Dr. Claudia Genovese-Martinez at the Math Comp House on the West Campus.

JEFFERY K. FULLER 2003

Jeffery K. Fuller earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 2005 from UCF, followed by a Juris Doctorate degree from Barry University School of Law in 2008 after graduating from Valencia. He recently opened The Law Office of Jeffery K. Fuller in Orlando and practices in the areas of estate planning, contract law, corporate law, general business law, residential real estate, landlord/tenant, and foreclosure defense.



KATHLEEN (LAMB) GRIMMETT 1973

Kathleen (Lamb) Grimmert moved to Austin, Texas in 1981 and has two sons. She worked at the University of Texas as a graduate coordinator and at Austin Community College as an academic advisor, articulation director, and assessment coordinator. She volunteers at the Texas State History Museum and at various music events and is a member of the Texas and Travis County Archaeological Societies.

JOANN DARNELL 1998

Joann Darnell is pursuing a nursing degree at Valencia after 21 years of working in the legal field after graduating from Valencia's paralegal program. After having the experience of watching her granddaughter being born a few years ago, Joann realized that nursing was what she really should have been doing and is excited to have the opportunity to pursue her dream career at this point in her life. "I am proof that you are never too old!" She expects to graduate with her nursing degree in 2011.

RACHEL (RAY) JANELL 2003

Rachel (Ray) Janell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business professional management for Nova Southeastern University in 2004 and a Master of Science degree in accounting and finance management from the Keller Graduate School of Management in 2009 after graduating from Valencia. She enjoyed returning to Orlando from South Carolina for her 10-year OakRidge High School class reunion in October.

CALVIN HODGE 1995

Calvin Hodge is currently living in South Carolina. He earned a degree from Valencia in hospitality management.

DESHAUNDR A FLEMING 2002

DeShaundra Fleming has been employed as a paralegal specialist at the office of Lawson Lamar, the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

PAUL HARLOW 1994

Paul Harlow manages the Cardiopulmonary Department at Waldo County General Hospital in Belfast, Maine. Struggles with a learning disability meant many extra study hours and challenges. Paul attributes Lynn Capraun's encouragement and belief in him from his days as a student in the respiratory care program as a large part of his success today. Paul and his wife came from Maine to reconnect with faculty and friends during the 41st Respiratory Care Program Alumni Reunion honoring Lynn Capraun in October at Valencia's West Campus.

JENNIFER LAUDA 2002

Jennifer Lauda earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from UCF after graduating from Valencia with a degree in political science, international relations. She spent two weeks during July and August on a trip to Israel and Palestine as a delegate with a group called Interfaith Peace-Builders to witness the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the ground and to explore the role that the United States plays in the conflict. Participation in this research delegation opened her eyes to the reality of the conflict. It is important to her to share what she witnessed and that people receive accurate information about this conflict, which often contradicts the image that mainstream media portrays.

SUSAN (BITTING) GAILIT 1988

Susan (Bitting) Gailit is hoping to go back to school for another degree now that her kids are out of school.

ANUPAMA (ZOPE) VIBHAKAR 2000

Anupama (Zope) Vibhakar is employed as a night shift lead respiratory therapist at Florida Hospital in East Orlando.

PEGGY (KORNEGAY) MELVIN 1979

Peggy (Kornegay) Melvin works at Orlando Health in financial planning with budgeting and nursing productivity as her two areas of responsibility. She taught at both UCF and Valencia as an adjunct professor for accounting and health care finance courses and has served on Valencia's Accounting Advisory Committee for 15 years. Peggy has volunteered for the Orlando Ballet for 10 years. Peggy and her husband have two sons, both grown and married and two grandchildren (2 more boys). As a hobby, she has been researching a pirate in their family from North Carolina that trained Blackbeard!



JESSICA ZUNIGA 1998

Jessica Zuniga, board member of the Valencia Alumni Association, has recently won second place in the Toastmasters Area Competition for the Humorous Speech division. Her speech title was, "Recipe for Love." The Toastmasters area competition includes the first place humorous speech winners from the five area clubs in Central Florida. Her dream is to become a motivational speaker and inspire audiences to live a life of harmony and success.

EARL FREDRICK GILL 1975

Earl Fredrick Gill currently resides in Fort Myers and has been employed as the vice president of a construction company for the past 20 years. Prior to that time, he was a district manager for Pepsi in Orlando for 10 years.

Where are they Now?

Susette Percy '08 is proud to announce that her daughter, Marissa Valladarez, who is a recent graduate from Valencia's Nursing Program, was honored on May 8, 2009 with the Beginning Practitioner of the Year Award for the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies.

Sondra Denny '08 is enjoying retirement in Orlando with her husband, David, and is busy doing the things that have been saved on her "to-do list" for a number of years. "I believe the best parts of retirement are not having to punch a timecard, having time to enjoy a leisurely breakfast or lunch at one of our

favorite restaurants and taking nice walks. Retirement is GREAT!"

Michael Pizycki '99 is currently residing in a cabin in the beautiful Georgia Mountains with his wife, Adele, after working for 26 years at Valencia. The town of Blairsville has a population of about 700, has two stop lights, and a new WalMart opened in August. "Adele and I walk 2-1/2 miles every day except Sunday. Life is good!"

Ivan Applebaum '03 retired after 30 years of service. He and his wife Sandy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by taking a Caribbean

cruise in October with their children and grandchildren. Although retired, Ivan continues to teach at Valencia.

Boyd Johnson '97 retired from Valencia after 27 years and is currently working with homeless veterans and True Life Choice/Christian Crisis Pregnancy Center. He and his wife, Frances, took a trip to Paris and Scotland via the Queen Mary in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary in September.

Jane (Gaines) Lucia '85 retired after 15 years at Valencia. She and her husband Morris (Spike) enjoy travelling to upstate New York, often visiting

some of their children along the way. They have eight children, 13 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren between them. "We look forward each year to our reunion with our Valencia family as we enjoy it so much!"

Judy Jones' 04 retired after teaching at Valencia for 28 years. She and her husband, Roy, have 12 grandchildren ranging from 4-23 years old. "My math teaching now is back to arithmetic. I had forgotten what wonderful little minds little ones have and how open they are to new things. I don't think I have ever been so busy. It's a good thing I am 'retired!'"

Carole Trachy '95 retired from Valencia after 18 years of service. She is excited to have a new addition to her life—she became a great grandmother in August!

Stan Melnick '05 retired after 38 years of service to Valencia. And guess what? He is back teaching at Valencia and walking three to seven miles a day!

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

Valencia Retiree Connection SPRING MEET UP

PRIVATE RECEPTION
All retirees welcome.

Friday, March 26, 2010
6:30 p.m.
East Campus Atrium

Valencia Spring Dance Performance

The community has long enjoyed the Valencia Spring Dance performance in partnership with Rollins College. Designed to highlight guest artists and faculty works at the end of the spring term each year, the program features student, faculty and guest dancers.

8 p.m.
East Campus
Performing Arts Center

Tickets: \$6.00 for members to support the Valencia Dance program and its students. Box Office: 407-582-2900



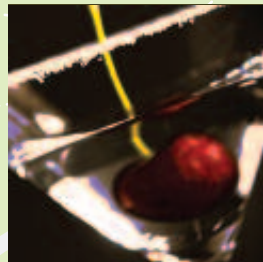
Sierra Club of Central Florida

Meets the third Wednesday of every month at Leu Gardens, beginning at 7 p.m. Meetings feature a guest speaker or educational session on a variety of environmental topics. Membership in the Sierra Club is not required. centralfloridasierra.org



First Thursdays at the Orlando Museum of Art

From 6-9 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, OMA showcases a new theme with works by local artists, live music and cash bars. Admission is free to OMA members and \$10 to non-members. omart.org/programs/1st-thursdays



February 6 Cocktails and Cosmos

Held at the Orlando Science Center, this stargazing event incorporates music, art film and a laser light show. Free for members, \$13 for general admission. osc.org

Ivanhoe Village Gallery Stroll

On the second Tuesday of every month from 6-9 p.m., the art galleries along Virginia Drive open their doors to the public, offering wine and refreshments and showcasing new artists. Admission is free. ivanhoevillage.org



March 19-21 Central Florida Home and Garden Show

Meet the professionals, check out new products and get ideas for your next remodeling, renovation, landscaping or decorating project. Held at the Orange County Convention Center. Tickets are \$10. centralflhomeandgardenshow.com

February 19-21 Silver Spurs Rodeo

The non-stop action at the largest rodeo east of the Mississippi includes more than 50 events. Held at the Silver Spurs Arena at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee. Check the Web for tickets and dates. silverspursrodeo.com



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 valenciacc.edu/visionsvoices.



Photo courtesy of Beth Ann Fennelly

Tom Franklin and his wife, Beth Ann Fennelly live in Oxford, Mississippi with their two children.

Beth Ann Fennelly & Tom Franklin

Thursday, February 25, 2010 West Campus, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Award winning poet **Beth Ann Fennelly**, whose poems have appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies, including *Best American Poetry* (1996, 2005, and 2006 editions), *The Kenyon Review*, and *The Bloomsbury Review*, states "The time we share on earth is too precious," and reminds us accurately of this in her life's work and calling. She has written four books of poetry to date. Her first book, *Open House*, won the 2001 Kenyon Review Prize for a First Book and the GLCA New Writers Award. *Tender Hooks*, her second, uncovers explorations into motherhood, joyous and raw. Her third book is *Great with Child: Letters to a Young Mother*. Most recently published was *Unmentionables: Poems*, in 2008. Often described as some of her best work, it holds accounts of life and captured thought. "Accurate perception, is a moral choice," she says. "The more you look closely, the better you get at seeing."

The Edgar Award-winning author of *Poachers*, and recipient of a 2001 Guggenheim Fellowship, **Tom Franklin**, has continued his success with two more books of historical fiction. *Hell at the Breach* is based on events that happened a close distance to the home where he was raised. "Along with breathtaking descriptions of Mitcham Beat's scenery...Franklin does what Harper Lee did in *To Kill a Mockingbird*; He lets his set of quirky characters run the story while he focuses on the repercussions of his characters' curiosity and age. *Hell at the Breach* is an impressive novel that should catapult Franklin into the big leagues." Nickolas Thomas, *USA Today*. Tom's latest, *Smonk*, published in 2006 is another guilty pleasure for those who love dark tales, sinister characters and humor to match.

The first poem of the book *Tender Hooks*, "Bite Me," opens with these lines:

You who are all clichés of babysoft
crawl to my rocking chair,
pull up on my knees,
lift your delicate finger to the silver balloon
from your first birthday,
open your warm red mouth
and let float your word, your fourth
in this world, Bawoooooon—
then, delighted, bite my thigh.

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Valencia Arts Dates for Spring 2010

Music

For more info, contact:
407-582-2332

Faculty Recital

Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Student Showcase

Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Spring Choral Concert

April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Contemporary Concert

April 15, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Spring Symphonic/ Jazz Concert

April 13, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Spring Opera Workshop

April 23, 24, 7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theater

Film

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

14th Annual Film Celebration

Feb. 12 & 13,
Times: TBA
Performing Arts Center

Dance

For more info, contact
Theater Box Office:
407-582-2900

Valencia Spring Dance Concert

March 26, 27, 8 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Valencia Dance Theatre Repertory Concert

July 16, 17, 8 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Visual Arts

For more info, contact:
407-582-2298

Lane Wyatt – Photographs & Installations

Jan. 22–March 12
Opening Reception
Friday, Jan. 22, 6:30–9 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten Gallery

Annual Juried Student Exhibition

April 16–May 21
Opening Reception
Friday, April 16,
6:30–9 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten Gallery

Courtney Puckett— Recycled and Installed

June 18–Aug. 7
Opening Reception
Friday, June 18,
6:30–9 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten Gallery

Theater

For more info, contact
Theater Box Office:
407-582-2900

Marat/Sade: The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Chareton under the Direction of Monsieur de Sade, by Peter Weiss and translation by Geoffrey Skelton

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

World Premiere of a New Play by a Florida Playwright

March 30, 31,
April 1, 2, 3, 7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theater

Student-Directed Short Plays

Program A: April 7, 1 p.m.
Black Box Theater
Program B: April 14, 1 p.m.
Black Box Theater

Almost, Maine by John Cariani

June 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19,
7:30 p.m.
June 13, 20, 2 p.m.
Black Box Theater

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



Valencia's Well-Engineered Partnerships

By Melissa Tchen

A large institution like Valencia knows a little something about networking. As a community college, it's in our blood – and our mission statement.

So many of the opportunities that we are able to provide to our students and the community are only possible thanks to well-established partnerships – with Orange and Osceola County public schools, with the University of Central Florida, and with local businesses and industry leaders.

If I were to write about all of Valencia's partnerships, it would probably take up this entire magazine. So instead, I am going to highlight one effort that has required the work of Valencia and several partners: the effort to promote and provide pathways to degrees and jobs in engineering.

It all started in 2009 with a national initiative from the White House to improve education from kindergarten through college in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, collectively referred to as STEM.

It turns out that U.S. students have been lagging behind other nations in these areas. Not wanting to lose future inventions, scientific discoveries and technological breakthroughs to other countries, the U.S. has made STEM education a priority. At Valencia, electronics engineering technology became a primary focus, mostly in response to a local industry need.

Northrop Grumman, a global security company whose Laser Systems division is based locally in Apopka, was in need of more photonics technicians but was tired of spending the time and money on national recruitment efforts. Instead, they decided it would be more beneficial to create a training program locally. They approached Valencia for help.

The result was a unique partnership between Valencia, Northrop Grumman and Orange County Public Schools to create the Photonics Academy at Wekiva High School in Apopka. Launched in fall 2009, the program provides students with the knowledge and opportunity to become laser and photonics technicians



Dr. Elise Gruber Wekiva High School Principal, **Nasser Hedayat** Dean of Architecture, Engineering and Technology at Valencia, **Ron Blocker** OCPS Superintendent and **Gaston Dudley** Director of Human Resources and Security at Northrop Grumman Laser Systems.

upon graduating high school. (For those of us who are not scientists, this means that they will be trained to build and troubleshoot lasers and fiber optic devices. These can range anywhere from barcode scanners to missile guidance systems.)

The academy's coursework focuses on mathematics, sciences, communications, electronics and optics, as well as hands-on training. Participating students normally begin the program in 9th grade, maintain a grade point average of 2.5 and participate in dual enrollment through Valencia. Through dual enrollment, the students take college-level courses for free in high school, while earning credits from Valencia.

By the time they finish high school, the Photonics Academy graduates will have had the opportunity to earn up to 48 credits toward an associate degree from Valencia, and will have high-paying jobs waiting for them. Those who go on to complete their Associate in Science degree in Electronics Engineering Technology stand to earn between \$25,000 and \$40,000 per year.

The academy is the first of its kind in the area, with a private company bringing resources to a public program. Northrop Grumman has provided \$20,000 for equipment and for the program instructors' salaries. OCPS has put \$100,000 worth of grant funds toward the program for the purchase of laser and optics equipment. Valencia is providing the instructors for the program as well as the electronics equipment.

Plans are underway to expand the electronics engineering technology curriculum on Valencia's own campus, as well. A pending National Science Foundation grant would help to fund the development of three new advanced-level photonics courses covering content identified by the industry as being most critical for photonics technicians.

Also, the college has established avenues for students to pursue bachelor's degrees in engineering. They can complete the first two years of a bachelor's degree through Valencia's Associate in Arts engineering pre-major, which is articulated with UCF. The program parallels the first two years at UCF and is designed specifically to prepare students to transfer to UCF's College of Engineering and complete a four-year degree.

Now, they can do so without having to leave Valencia's campus, thanks to the University Center, a new building on the West Campus, which is shared by both Valencia and UCF. The building has enabled UCF to bring its engineering program to the west side of Orlando, opening up opportunities for those who might not have been able to attend classes on UCF's main campus.

By working together, Valencia, the University of Central Florida, Orange County Public Schools and Northrop Grumman have been able to create opportunities for Central Floridians to pursue jobs and advanced degrees in engineering and engineering technology. And it's all thanks to networking.



How to Work a Room: A Survival Guide

by Geraldine Gallagher

Several years ago I was asked to co-lead a workshop, “You Schmooze, You Win.” Although the Yiddish term was appropriate – “to converse casually, especially in order to gain an advantage or make a social connection” – it bugged me, striking me as descriptive of sleazy communicators wishing to take advantage. I was hypersensitive, but I prefer to experience social and professional interactions as opportunities to build genuine relationships.

I was asked to share with you a few networking tips, perhaps because I have had much experience walking into rooms of strangers or because I am shy by nature. To get you started, here are a few suggestions.

Geraldine Gallagher, CFRE, has served as president and CEO of Valencia Foundation for nine years. She welcomes your feedback and networking strategies. Visit her at www.facebook.com/geraldinegallagher to share your experiences

Know Your Purpose

Determine the purpose of attending the event. Are you seeking job leads, representing your organization, supporting a nonprofit or meeting new friends? What objectives do you hope to achieve? Based on your goals, prepare a 60-second “elevator speech” that succinctly describes your intentions.

Although practiced networkers and business leaders, foundation directors conduct this exercise to advocate for Valencia. Each of their speeches is personal and based on their experiences and stories they’ve gleaned from students and staff. They plan ahead to tell their Valencia story, and you can do the same to tell your story.

Be Prepared

Perhaps the most important tool is the courage to approach strangers. Develop a brief self-introduction so you don’t panic or ramble. Practice a few short stories that are relevant to your purpose. Read the newspaper so you know what’s going on in the world. Bring business or calling cards, as well as a way to collect them in a pocket or handbag. Dress comfortably and appropriately in an outfit that makes you feel good to diminish fidgeting and boost confidence.

In our Web 2.0 world, you’ll also want to engage on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and other sites. Although that’s a topic for another article, include your contact information on cards and be willing afterward to expand your networks among people of like minds.

Face Your Fears

If the prospect of wandering into a room of people you don’t know takes your breath away, plan ahead. What makes you nervous? It could be fear of rejection. Identify what intimidates you and develop strategies to overcome them.

Years ago, I noticed that a community leader was isolated at events. I consulted my boss, wondering if this gentleman was just arrogant. His insight was priceless: Perhaps this CEO is just shy. Afterward I sought him out, and he genuinely welcomed the conversation. I learned to approach those standing alone – and have been met by very grateful people.

Seek Inspiration

Think about the warm people you admire, who are always able to engage you and others. What specific traits do they engender? How can you emulate their strategies?

Leil Lowndes, author of “Talking the Winner’s Way,” observes: “There are two kinds of people in this life.

“People don’t care
how much you know
until they know
how much you care.”

Those who walk into a room and say, ‘Well, here I am,’ and those who walk into a room and say, ‘Ahh, there you are.’” We’ve met them.

Ask questions. Listen carefully to the answers and ask follow-up questions. Don’t look over the shoulder of your new companion, seeking the next networker or the VIP. Offer to make connections.

Zig Ziglar encourages genuineness: “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” One of my favorite questions when I meet a couple – guaranteed to amuse them and offer precious insight (and often great fun in the divergent versions) is to simply ask how they met. Another easy opener is “I’m new to this organization. How did you get involved?” If you promise to make a connection later, be sure to follow through.

Partner in a dialogue, not an interrogation. James Morrison, author of “The Art of Conversation,” suggests that although we “realize it is bad manners to monopolize a conversation, it’s equally bad manners not to talk enough.” As you resist the urge to jump in with your own story, it’s also important to be willing to reveal your authentic self – whether that is a recent job loss or an experience relevant to your purpose.

Avoid the Danger Zone

While you’re focused on your goal, be mindful not to be overbearing in your message. Avoid politics, religion and potentially offensive jokes. Forgo the second glass of wine, especially when job-seeking. Disengage gently, perhaps by introducing another person you’ve just met to your new acquaintance.

Most of all have fun. If you approach this experience as an adventure, you may discover that you enjoy the ride.



VALENCIA NEWS



Valencia Student Featured on CNN

On Oct. 22, Valencia student Carlos Robles was featured within the CNN special, "Latino in America." The documentary, hosted by correspondent Soledad O'Brien, highlighted various Latino-American communities, including the Puerto Rican community in Orlando. Robles, who was a police officer in Puerto Rico, aims to become a sheriff with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. He was working on his English language skills by attending Conversational English courses through the Center for Global Languages at Valencia Enterprises, the continuing education division of Valencia. CNN followed his progress for eight weeks, documenting his class work and gaining insight into his life in Orlando.

Remedial Education Grant

In June, MDC, Inc., a grantee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, announced that it will give over \$1 million to the state of Florida to expand remedial education programs that promise to boost the college completion rates of low-income students and students of color. As part of the grant, Valencia will receive \$733,333 over three years to create a centralized remedial program to be used across its four campuses. The college will use the funds to align high school, remedial, and college-level standards; expand a student success course, peer tutoring, and remedial learning communities; and embed reading skills into its remedial math courses.

Bachelor's in Architecture Offered on West Campus

Starting in fall 2010, the University of Central Florida will begin offering its new bachelor's degree in architecture on Valencia's West Campus. Participating students will take two years of classes through Valencia and two years through UCF, with the potential to also obtain a master's from the University of Florida.

New Board Member

In Oct., Governor Charlie Crist appointed a new member to Valencia's District Board of Trustees: public relations executive Lori Kifer, who serves as vice president for the Orlando office of Edelman, the country's largest independent public relations agency. The new trustee replaced outgoing member Ronald Blocker on Valencia's governing board, for a term that ends in 2013.

White House Summit for Hispanic Education

On Sept. 23, Valencia hosted the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, a "Community Conversation." Approximately 100 people attended, sharing their concerns and ideas on the issues facing Hispanics in attaining an education. The event also outlined President Obama's goals for improving education, including an investment of \$12 billion in community colleges over the next decade.

A Taste for Learning

On Oct. 17, Valencia Foundation and UCF Foundation partnered to present "A Taste for Learning," an annual fundraising event. More than 800 people came together for the international wine sampling and auction, generating \$388,000 for scholarships, including matching funds. The funds will benefit 2+2 scholarships for DirectConnect, a proactive initiative that assures Valencia students access to UCF.

Valencia Receives National Hispanic Education Award

On Nov. 1, the Osceola Campus was awarded the Outstanding HACU-Member Institution Award from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Dr. Silvia Zapico, provost of Osceola Campus, accepted the award on behalf of the college.

Record Enrollment

The college experienced enrollment growth of nearly 11 percent for the fall term, bringing the college-wide headcount to 38,951.

OOPS!



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

LET EVERYONE KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO!

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

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

- Candid shots of you interacting in an authentic setting are preferred. Avoid sending traditional portraits.
 - If sending electronically, files should be in jpeg or tif format. Files should be 300dpi resolution at 4"x6" (this would be a file approximately 3mb to 6mb in size).
- The Alumni Association can also help to spread the word! Let us know about your meet-ups, networking events, annual retreats, reunions and save-the-dates that your fellow alumni might like to attend or did attend with you. Whether it's getting a group together for sporting events, charity fundraisers, a day at the parks or just brunch and lunch, let us know. And if you send pictures we might just include them in the next issue. We can share your adventures and good times with our readers so next time they can plan on joining in on the fun!
- And don't forget if you have an idea for a future article or would like to be a contributing writer, please contact the Alumni Association. Send all submissions to alumni@valenciacc.edu.



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Student Member

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

Honorary Member

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

Leaders Wanted!

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



Stay connected.

Join the Alumni Association.

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

Benefits and Services Include:

- Copy of *Vitae* mailed to you
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ALUMNI
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