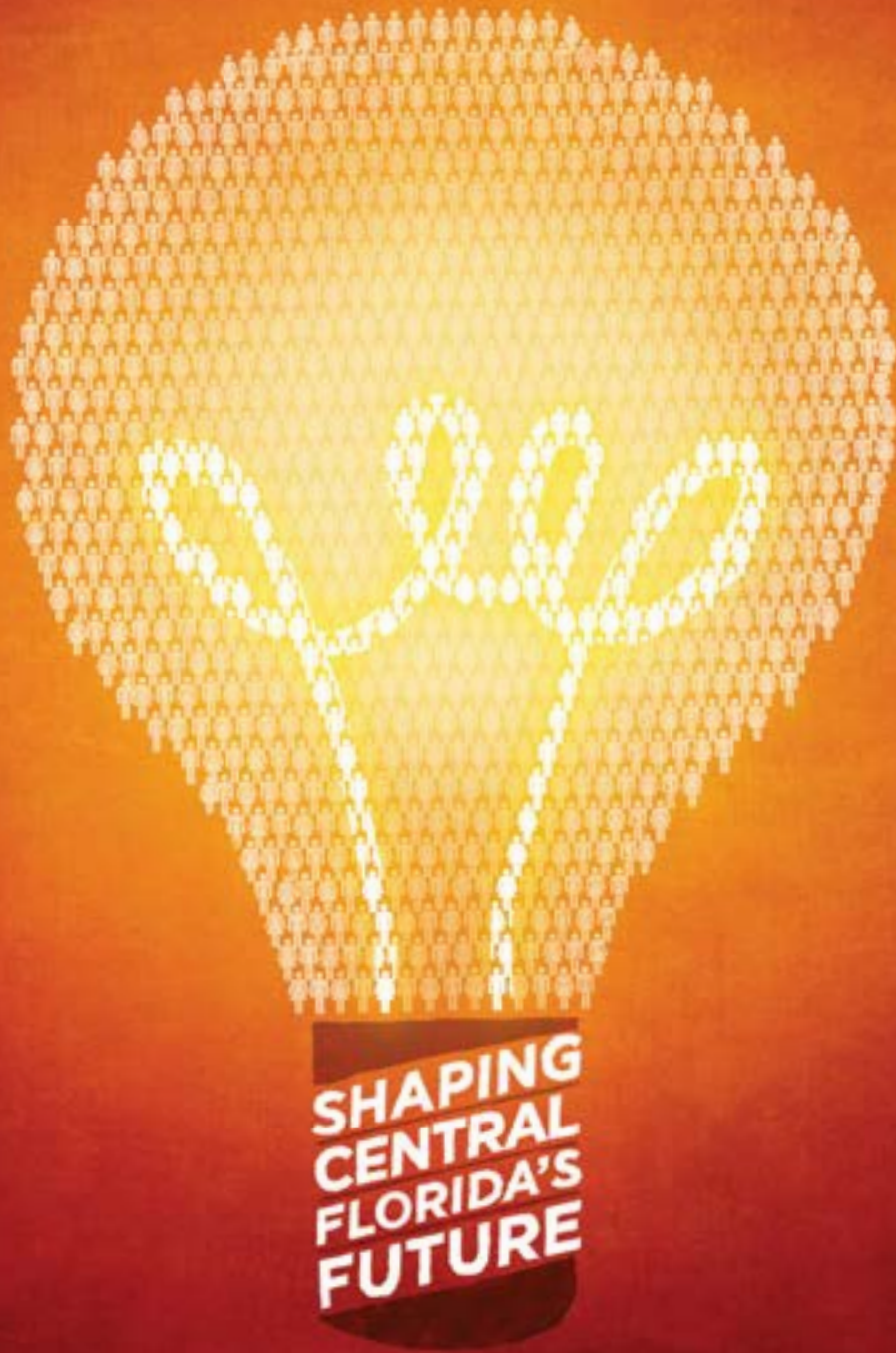


WINTER 2012

VITAE

THE MAGAZINE OF
VALENCIA COLLEGE



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. Because the purpose of this 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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The Valencia Alumni Association provides opportunities for lifelong personal, educational and professional growth for alumni and students of Valencia College.

Valencia is a member of the Florida College System.

VALENCIA COLLEGE

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VALENCIA NEWS



Photograph by Julie Fletcher

Osceola Honors 9/11 Victims with Field of Flags

To honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Osceola Campus teamed up with the Rotary Club of Lake Nona to stage a dramatic display of flags on its expansive lawn—one flag for each of the nearly 3,000 lives lost on that tragic day.

Kathleen Plinske, president of the Osceola and Lake Nona campuses, came up with the idea as a way for students, many of whom were only six or seven years old at the time, to learn about the events of that day.

The display also served as the backdrop for Osceola County’s Sept. 11 memorial service, which included participants from the Osceola County Sheriff’s Office, Osceola County Emergency Services, Kissimmee and St. Cloud police and fire departments, and the Osceola County Veterans Council.

National Magazine Spotlights Valencia for ‘Ideas That Are Transforming Education’

“Orlando Magic” was the headline of a feature story on Valencia in the Oct. 6 edition of the National Journal magazine. In a series titled “Restoration Calls,” Valencia was

cited as an example of how new thinking could transform higher education and the economic fortunes of students.

The National Journal, published in Washington, D.C., reports on the current political environment and emerging political and policy trends. Readership includes members of Congress and other influential individuals beyond the Beltway.



DirectConnect a Winner at Helping Latinos Excel

Valencia's DirectConnect to UCF program was selected by Excelencia in Education, a Washington, D.C.-based organization, as among the best programs in America for increasing academic opportunities and success for Latino students. Top honors also went to programs run by California State University Bakersfield and the University of Texas, El Paso. All honorees had to demonstrate that they effectively boost Latino



enrollment, performance and graduation.

The DirectConnect to UCF program guarantees that graduates of Valencia and three other Central Florida colleges can start at UCF as juniors, offering students a real advantage as UCF becomes

more selective in its admissions. Today, nearly a quarter of UCF's baccalaureate graduates—and the majority of its Hispanic grads—are transfer students from Valencia.

Valencia Makes Military-Friendly List

With the second largest enrollment of veterans among Florida's state colleges, Valencia has made the 2013 Military Friendly Schools list (www.militaryfriendlyschools.com).

"Inclusion on the list of Military Friendly Schools shows Valencia College's commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students," said Sean Collins, director for G.I. Jobs and vice president at Victory Media, which publishes the list.

Valencia provides veterans services on all of its campuses, including assistance with VA benefits, student support, workshops and activities. There's also a student veterans club, a veterans-only speech class, and professional development to help faculty recognize the unique challenges of veterans in integrating

into the college environment.

The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.





\$1

BILLION AND COUNTING

By Linda Shrieves Beaty





What's a college worth to a community?

It's more than just the dollars that students spend on meals and apartments. Instead, a college contributes to the overall economy of its hometown in many ways—from the higher wages that college graduates earn and then spend in that region to money the college spends on everything from stationery to electricity, from food service contracts to instructors' salaries.

And in Valencia's case, the college is worth a whopping \$1 billion a year to Central Florida.

That's the conclusion of an independent economic impact study, conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. of Idaho. The study, the first one conducted in Valencia's 44-year history, found that the college generates close to 3,000 jobs and spends \$231 million each year on buildings, salaries, services and supplies. In addition, the study found that Valencia's graduates contribute \$781.7 million in earnings, spendings and savings to the region's economy each year.

From higher earnings to job placement, the value of a Valencia education plays out every day in the lives of our graduates. Turn the page to read the stories of three recent grads.



Want to learn more about Valencia's value to the Orlando area? Check out "Valencia Counts," an easy-to-understand video that tells how much Valencia is worth to you: news.valenciacollege.edu/impact

\$1.00

INVESTED
IN EDUCATION

EQUALS

\$5.60

INCOME
INCREASE



Eric Palm

When the newspaper business started changing—moving articles and content to the Internet—Eric Palm knew he had to change too. So Palm, a graphic designer and copy editor, signed up for some classes at Valencia so he could learn about Adobe Flash Player, a computer program that newspaper designers were using to create interactive web pages.

After getting laid off in 2009, Palm invested most of his unemployment compensation in Valencia—where he took classes in two different tracks, digital media

and graphic design. And, thanks to class projects and volunteer work that he and his classmates did for local nonprofits, Palm made connections at Valencia that paid off handsomely.

In Feb. 2011, Palm landed a one-year contract job with Lockheed Martin. While there, he met a Disney executive looking for someone who could write, but was also adept with digital media and video. The job seemed like a perfect fit for Palm's skillset. Today, Palm works on the social media team for Disney's recruiting arm—charged

with attracting job candidates for Disney's many divisions, from Walt Disney Studios to ESPN.

And the bonus? Palm is earning more than he did in the newspaper business.

"I thought I was going to be in newspapers forever, but the world changed," says Palm, now 38. "Luckily, I think I've been able to recover nicely. And I'm making more money than I ever have."

95%

JOB PLACEMENT RATE



Shardeh Berry

When Shardeh Berry transferred from Valencia College to the University of Central Florida this fall, she was surprised by the number of UCF students who knew her.

"I'm taking a public administration class and we have to introduce ourselves and I've found a lot of recent Valencia grads in my class," said Berry, who was Valencia's Distinguished Graduate for the Class of 2012.

And though she doesn't know their names, many of them know hers—because they remember her speech at the May 2012 commencement ceremony. "In my classes,

more than half of the students are transfer students—and many of them are from Valencia," says Berry, 24.

Berry, a single mom with two small children, had been worried about fitting in at UCF. "I was concerned about going there as an older student," she said, "but it definitely feels good, especially to see a lot of older students and so many students who are Valencia grads."



22%

OF UCF GRADUATES STARTED AT VALENCIA

Angel Velazquez

Angel Velazquez loves his job.

As a computed tomography technician at Orlando Regional Medical Center, he performs CT scans on patients throughout the hospital. And it's gratifying, he says, to help figure out what's wrong with a patient.

"You definitely feel as if you're helping people," says Velazquez, 26.

Velazquez graduated from Valencia with an A.S. degree in radiography in 2010, but he already had experience in the field, thanks to clinical rotations and an internship at ORMC that were

coordinated by Valencia.

"I was lucky to get a job within a couple of months of graduating," says Velazquez. "I interned there and that gave me an advantage."

Valencia's radiography program accepts 25 students each year and the job placement rate for graduates is now 100 percent. Starting salaries for radiography graduates range from \$36,000 to \$40,000 a year.

As for Velazquez, he attributes his job—and his success—to his Valencia education and hard work.

When others ask for advice, he's quick to tell them to study hard to get into the competitive radiography program. "Every class counts. Your GPA has to be high—especially if you're going to get an internship," he adds. "You have to do well from the beginning." ■

VALENCIA EVENTS

DECEMBER

Dec. 4—Fall Symphonic/Jazz Band Concert

7:30 p.m.
East Campus Performing Arts Center
Admission is free.
valenciacollege.edu/arts

Dec. 7 - 8—Fall Opera Workshop

7:30 p.m.
East Campus Black Box Theater
Students perform selections from famous operas and Broadway shows.
Admission is free.
valenciacollege.edu/arts



Yow Dance's Melissa J. Dixon
Photograph by Cheryl Mann



Hybrid portrait by Selena Kimball

JANUARY

Jan. 18 - March 8—Drawings by Selena Kimball

Opening reception- Jan. 18 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Gallery hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Anita S. Wooten East Campus Gallery
Portraits of people who were bystanders at historical events; plus a collection of hybrid portraits, inspired by a pictorial genealogy of a wealthy New England family.
Admission is free.

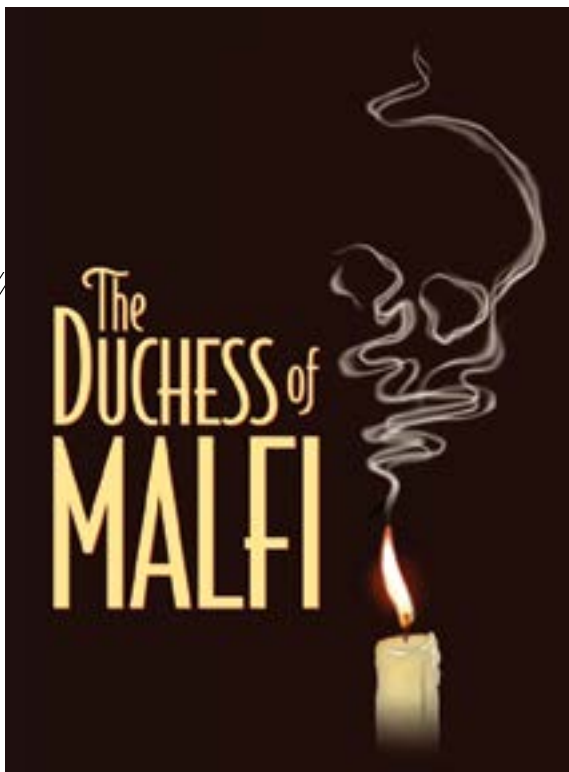
Jan. 30—Visiting Author John Prendergast

Lecture 1 p.m.
East Campus Performing Arts Center
Admission is free.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1—"3 in Motion" Dance Concert

7 p.m.
East Campus Performing Arts Center
Dr. Phillips High School Dance Magnet, professional modern company Yow Dance and Valencia Dance Theatre present a community dance partnership event.
Tickets: \$10 general admission; \$8 for students, faculty/staff, alumni and seniors; \$6 for children under 12
Box office: 407-582-2900
valenciacollege.edu/arts



The DUCHESS of MALFI

Feb. 14 - 24—The Duchess of Malfi, by John Webster, adaptation by Michael Shugg

Feb. 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, & 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 17 & 24 at 2 p.m.

East Campus Black Box Theater
Considered one of the great tragedies, the play begins as a love story, and ends as a nightmarish mix of obsession, murder and revenge.

Tickets: \$12 general admission; \$10 students, faculty/staff, alumni and seniors

Box office: 407-582-2900
valenciacollege.edu/arts

Feb. 26—Faculty Recital

7:30 p.m.

East Campus Performing Arts Center
Valencia music faculty performs.

Admission is free.

valenciacollege.edu/arts

MARCH

March 13—Dedication Ceremony for Building 4, Osceola Campus

Ceremony at 5:15 p.m., tours at 6 p.m.

Public unveiling of the newest building at the Osceola Campus, which will be jointly occupied by UCF and offer an expanded array of bachelor's degree programs.

RSVP: events@valenciacollege.edu

March 22 - 23—Valencia Spring Dance Concert

8 p.m.

East Campus Performing Arts Center
Valencia and Rollins College dance students perform faculty works and those of a guest artist.

Tickets: \$10 for general admission; \$8 for students, faculty/staff, alumni and seniors; \$6 for children under 12. Free for Valencia students with college ID.

Box office: 407-582-2900
valenciacollege.edu/arts

March 30—Run, Walk & Roll 5K Race

6 p.m.

West Campus

Annual race for scholarships, this time in support of criminal justice, paramedic and EMT students.

valenciacollege.edu/alumni



Embracing the Entrepr



entrepreneurial Spirit

More Valencia graduates are choosing to start their own businesses.

By Linda Shrieves Beaty

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

But Felipe Robine took that adage one step farther: When life handed him lemons, he set up his own lemonade stand.

And that's the essence of being an entrepreneur. Learning to roll with the punches, learn lessons as they're delivered and adapt to a changing marketplace.

For Robine, the lemons came in the form of a layoff. As a student and hospitality major at Valencia, he'd been working as a concierge at the Hyatt Grand Cypress Resort for nearly three years—even working his way into the Hyatt's management training program—when the recession hit.

Laid off in February 2008, Robine pondered the advice he'd heard from Valencia Professor Jim Inglis, who taught him to watch for trends in the industry. "Professor Inglis said that the hospitality business is an ever-changing segment of the industry and you have to prepare yourself for changes," Robine says. "My professors taught me to recognize changes and take action—which is what I did."

So Robine, a member of the local concierge association, took advantage of the many contacts he'd made in the hotel industry and launched his own business in May 2008. At first, he focused on transportation, providing limousines and other transportation to conventioners visiting Orlando.

But as the recession deepened—and fewer businesses held conventions in Orlando—Robine re-examined his business plan. "Because I'm Brazilian, I decided to shift gears and start catering to Brazilians visiting Orlando," Robine says. He regrouped and focused on creating a concierge-style tour operation for Brazilian tourists. "Now when a client contacts us from Brazil, we find the right hotel, the right transportation and once they're here, we guide them through the city, inside the parks and outside the parks."

Robine's business has grown steadily and, today, about 80 percent of his business comes from South American tourists, while the limo business represents only 20 percent of his income. "If I hadn't made that transition, I wouldn't be in business today," says Robine, 26, who will earn his bachelor's degree in hospitality management from the University of Central Florida in December.

Like a growing number of college graduates, Robine started his own business when



Chatranant Savigamin Costello

he couldn't find a job in his industry. But experts who watch the labor market see a growing entrepreneurial spirit among today's college students.

Many experts believe that today's college students have seen their parents or neighbors get laid off after many years of working for a business. Frustrated by the lack of jobs available—or the possibility of working at fast-food restaurants or as an unpaid intern to gain experience—many of today's college students believe they may be better off working for themselves.

To aid students in an increasingly start-up world, colleges are adding entrepreneurship classes and programs. And those classes appear to create budding entrepreneurs. A study released in 2011 by researchers at Babson College found that college students who take two or more classes in entrepreneurship are more likely to start their own businesses.

Of the nation's community colleges, about two-thirds offer at least one class in entrepreneurship, according to the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship. And Valencia College is moving in that direction. Business Professor Lana Powell, who teaches students basic concepts of entrepreneurship in her Introduction to Business Class, is

exploring the idea of creating a course on entrepreneurship. Ultimately, she'd like to see the college develop an Associate in Science program in entrepreneurship.

To sow the seeds of entrepreneurship, Powell assigns students in her Intro to Business course a semester-long project: Come up with a small business you can operate for one semester—with only an initial investment of \$30. At the end of the semester, students must show a profit.

In the past 10 years, her students have ventured into car-detailing, jewelry-making and tutoring. Some have created custom-designed T-shirts; others sold homemade cookies. One student, already a personal trainer, teamed with an apartment complex to offer personal training sessions in the complex's gym.

Another enterprising student walked dogs at lunchtime—because so many of his neighbors had to leave work to walk their dogs during their breaks. His business was so successful that he continued operating it after the semester ended.

The odds of succeeding at your own business are steep, yet students aren't deterred. "I'd say about 80 percent of my students say they want to own their own business, if not now then someday," says Powell. "My recommendation is this: Get a

job close to the kind of industry you want to be in—if you want to own a restaurant, start working in the restaurant business—so you can see how the business operates. Get some experience and then launch your own business."

Meals on wheels

That's precisely what Chatranant Savigamin Costello did.

After graduating from Valencia's culinary program in 2008, Costello began working in the kitchens at several local restaurants, including Cala Bella at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort.

By 2011, Costello was itching to start her own business. That's when her sister-in-law, a chef in North Carolina, suggested



“I’d say about 80 percent of my students say they want to own their own business.”

that she buy a food truck.

“I knew that I wanted to own my own business, but the money wasn’t there to open a restaurant,” said Costello, who moved to this country from her native Thailand at age 18. “Plus I didn’t have the experience to open a big restaurant. But food trucks were just becoming popular, so I decided to do it.”

With help from her parents and grandparents, she paid \$13,600 for a step van and then spent another \$40,000 to outfit it with a complete mobile kitchen. She debated what to call her truck, but decided that since she loved to cook so many different types of food—from Thai to Italian to Irish—that she’d settle on “Eclectic Kitchen.”

Today, Costello’s Eclectic Kitchen food truck features a regular menu of five Asian-inspired dishes, which have proven popular with customers. And though she once changed the menu daily, she has found that the predictability of the menu keeps food costs down—and allows her to spend more time marketing her truck and her catering business.

But it’s the food that’s getting all the attention. Food bloggers and writers have raved about her stir-fried chicken basil served over jasmine rice (which sells out quickly), not to mention her shrimp and corn fritters, a recipe that her great aunt used to make, which Costello serves with a sweet curry remoulade sauce. And though many food trucks are meat-heavy, Costello has also earned high marks for a vegetarian signature dish: butternut squash gnocchi topped with crispy fried leeks and bathed in a curry sauce. She also incorporated a vegan dish into her lineup: vegan spring rolls stuffed with spinach, rice vermicelli, tofu, green papaya, carrots and basil.

Although she regularly sets up at the Tasty Tuesday food truck roundup in the Milk District (Robinson and Bumby avenues, near T.G. Lee Dairy) on Tuesday nights and is usually at the Edgewood

Farmers Market on Thursdays, Costello doesn’t have a lot of regular stops.

She recently scored a food-truck coup: She has been asked to participate in Windermere’s monthly food truck event and the Daily City Food Bazaar food truck roundups—invitation-only events that can make a food truck profitable.

Financially, Costello is breaking even right now, but she plans to stick with the business for two years. She’s lucky, she says, that her husband is paying the household bills while she pours most of her energy into making it in the competitive food truck business.

“I’ve talked to other food truck owners and have worked on three other food trucks, just to learn more about the

after graduation, set up his own business, Nocturnal Web Designs. Today, Stearns has eight part-time employees who live all over the country.

All former gamers that Stearns met online, they hold full-time jobs by day and work for his company, creating Web pages and doing search-engine optimization work at night—hence the company name, Nocturnal Web Designs.

Now the company has more than 30 clients, a dedicated network in Atlanta and Stearns hopes to soon hire some of his part-timers to become full-timers. For his success, he credits Valencia.

“In one of my very first security classes, we literally built a network with Windows 7, which wasn’t on the market yet,” says



Chris Stearns

business,” says Costello, 39. “They tell me that you have to keep going for at least two years. After those two years, if there’s no cash flow, I will re-think it.”

Night moves

Like many students, Chris Stearns headed back to college when the recession hammered his father’s real-estate business in South Carolina.

Intrigued with computers, Stearns studied information technology at Valencia—and learned how to tackle projects, solve problems and experiment with the latest technologies. After graduating from Valencia, he studied computer science at UCF and, shortly

Stearns, now 29. And in Professor Colin Archibald’s project class—in which the students are given 16 weeks to complete a project for a fictional client—Stearns discovered that he wanted to run his own company.

He thanks Valencia for providing that entrepreneurial spark.

“I got out of Valencia the knowledge and the skill set to understand my business and to run my business efficiently and effectively,” Stearns says. “My professors were honest, straightforward, good people. If you teach that and show that, your students are going to grasp that... and their classes primed me to do what I’m doing now.” ■



Mark Hose: The Man with the (Architectural) Plan

By Roger Moore

EXPERTS SPOTLIGHT

An architect's mission, Mark Hose says, is "to design a space where when people approach the building, they have a little hop in their step. They know they want to go in there. They don't know why, but they just want to be there, in that space."

Hose, architect and facilities planner with Valencia College, keeps that goal in mind as he works to reshape the various campuses, with their blend of the new and the renovated. It's part of the juggling act his job requires at a growing college, where some structures are new, but many more are 30–40 years old and in need of updating.

Hose is a fan of "transparency" in academic buildings, of adding windows with views to structures that were once built in an austere, institutional style. That means he wants West Campus's bare-walls-facing-the-lake structures to all have views of that lake.

And that plays into the college's newer construction ethos—"green."

"Building green" was a newish idea when Hose was in college at San Diego's New School of Architecture and Design. It gained popularity during his years with the commercial architecture firm Baker Barrios, his previous employer. But it has become a mantra at Valencia, where design efficiencies and system upgrades have helped the college save some \$3.8 million in utility costs during the past three years. A new "chiller plant" system that circulates cooling water in a loop through the West

Campus slashed heating and cooling costs by more than \$100,000 a year the moment it came on line.

Hose says that green design seems to be here for the long run. But that trend has both obvious benefits—reduced operating costs, smaller carbon footprints—and a new set of challenges for the designer.

"You still have to worry about functionality. Can students, faculty and staff use the building the way we've designed it?"

For instance, a hot trend in design is "daylighting," where lights are programmed to supplement rather than replace natural window lighting.

"What happens? Users come in to actually use the room and they complain about the heat or the glare from the windows, so they put in blinds. The blinds stay shut and so much for our 'daylighting' efforts."

But "daylighting" can work in spaces like atriums and cafeterias.

Other changes are far more subtle. From carpeting (doing away with toxic adhesives) to tile (made from recycled drywall waste), Valencia is turning greener by the day, something Hose says makes his job a great one to have in architecture and design's Green New World.

"You design houses, green or otherwise, and you've got to please, what, four or five people? A college? Thousands. Now that's a challenge."

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A BRIEFING FOR ALUMNI, RETIREES, FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS OF VALENCIA

Shugart: Florida state colleges unveil ambitious plan to be best in the nation

When the state legislature convenes, legislators will receive a new, headline-grabbing proposal from the presidents of Florida's 28 state colleges: A four-year plan that will double the number of college graduates in Florida by the year 2020.

The plan, which has been dubbed Florida First, calls for Florida's state and community colleges to lead the nation in job placement, affordability and accountability. Florida First also calls for the state's public colleges to be the nation's best at accelerating students, through partnerships with high-schools and universities.

The idea grew from discussions that state college presidents, including Valencia College president Dr. Sandy Shugart, had with Gov. Rick Scott earlier this year. To pay for the changes, the college presidents will ask for a 35-percent increase in state funding during the next four years.

"I think [legislators] will probably blink when they first see the price-tag," said Shugart. "But it's not a one-year price-tag."

To be first in the nation in job placement, the proposal includes investing in programs that need

workers, including careers in science, technology, engineering, math, and health and life sciences.

The state colleges would also promise to hit certain benchmarks on graduation rates and certificate awards. Those that don't would see a 10 percent cut in their state funding.

To remain affordable, Florida state colleges would tie tuition increases to rises in the cost of living—so tuition increases would not outpace the rate of inflation.

"We think in Florida we have an opportunity to establish ourselves as the best college system in the country," said Shugart. "We're very close now." Half of the state's two-year colleges were among the 120 colleges in the running for the 2013 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence—and two, Santa Fe College in Gainesville and Broward College in Fort Lauderdale—are finalists. Valencia won the inaugural Aspen Prize in 2011.

Florida's two-year colleges already have a three-year graduation rate that's nearly double the national average. In Florida, 38.2 percent of community college students earn

their associate degrees in three years, while nationally, only 20.4 percent of community college students graduate in three years, according to the U.S. Department of Education.



For updates throughout the legislative session, go to valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel.

LAKE NONA CAMPUS



Whoever wants to see Valencia's future should visit the new Lake Nona Campus at Medical City. Strategically placed with Lake Nona High School, UCF, and hospital and medical research facilities all in close proximity, the new campus is already making the most of those connections. Academic programs are focused on science and math—disciplines with the most promising paths to the workforce. And, as part of Valencia's climate commitment, the campus is a model of energy efficiency, earning a Level 3 Green Globes Certification which aligns most closely with federal sustainability standards.



Professor Ada Kane with students in a biology lab



To encourage bicycling to school and work, private restrooms with showers are provided



Students study together in a loft-style library



Duartes Make Music a Brother Act

By Roger Moore

Sergio Duarte picks up his guitar and begins to play a flamenco piece he composed himself. His brother Oscar joins in, effortlessly keeping time on the bongos, a fluid blending of guitar and drums that requires no words, no prompting from one brother to the other.

The Duartes are Valencia students who have been playing together since they were kids, growing up in Bogota, Colombia. Both Oscar, 21, and Sergio, 23, do gigs at weddings and clubs as solo acts, or with other players.

“But playing with my brother, it’s perfect,” says Oscar. “I’ve known him since he didn’t know how to play that well, and now that he does, I know what he’s going to do, where he’s going with a song.”

“We don’t even have to rehearse any more,” Sergio says.

The only conflicts in this brother act are over bookings. With each in demand on his own, playing together can be tricky. On any given weekend, you might hear them at Blue Martini, Cuba Libre, or at Bongos at Downtown Disney, or various clubs and restaurants in Tampa.

Both have studied music at Valencia, with Sergio expanding the flamenco repertoire he first learned to jazz and classical. He segues from flamenco to the Latin jazz classic “Girl from Ipanema.” Oscar joins in, literally without missing a beat.

But this brother act won’t be around forever. Sergio has sampled a little of the hyper-competitive music business in Los Angeles. That’s why he’s taking classes at Valencia with an eye toward a business degree at the University of Central Florida.

“I love that neither of us have ever had to work in minimum wage jobs, even while we’re going to school,” Sergio says. “But I see I need a degree in business. It’s very hard to make a living as a musician.”

Oscar is still the optimist.

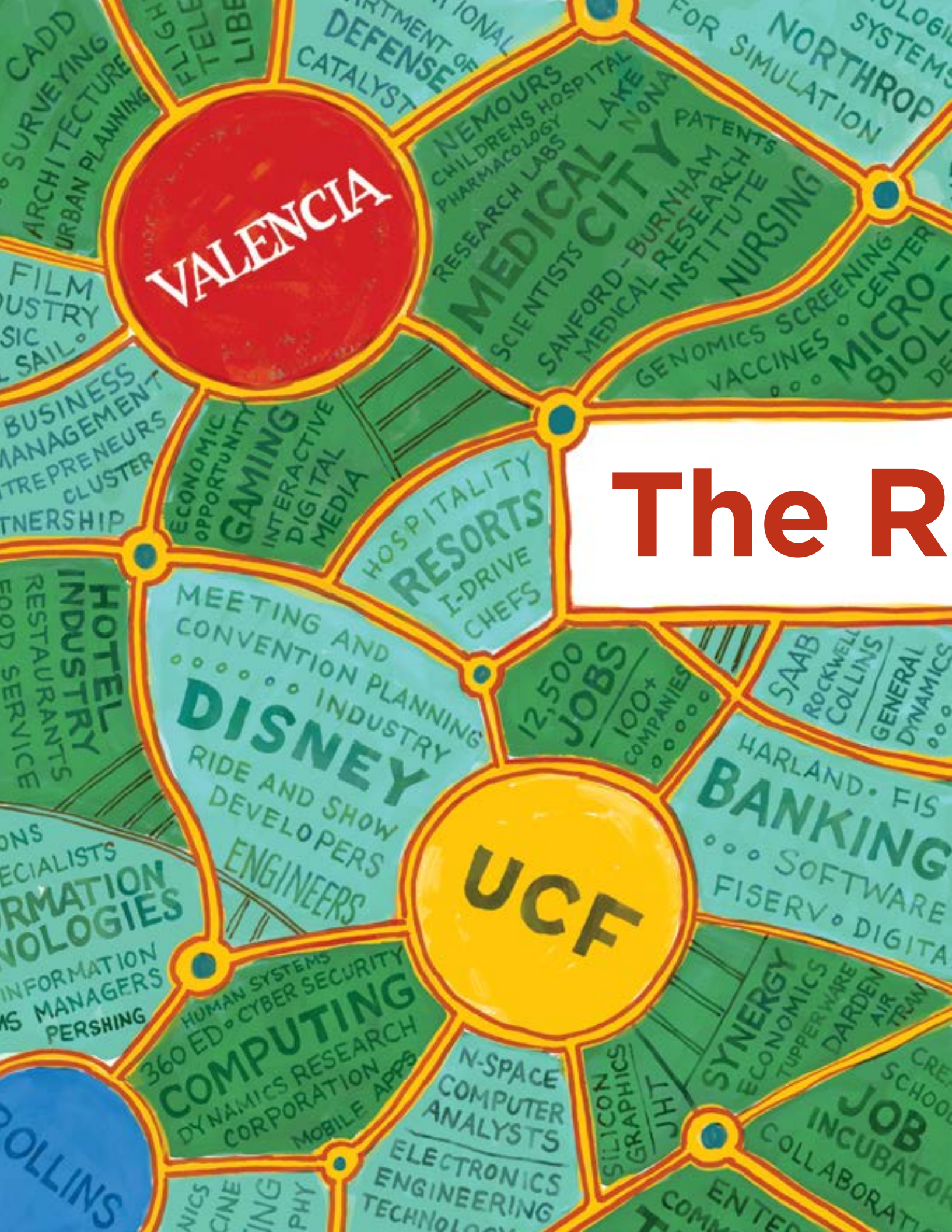
“I know I could make a living at this, maybe even make a lot of money. If you stick with it, if you get good enough, you can make it. So I’m still studying music because I want to take this to the highest point I can get.”



valenciacollege.edu/duarte to see a video of Oscar and Sergio



Oscar and Sergio Duarte



VALENCIA

MEDICAL CITY

RESORTS

DISNEY

UCF

BANKING

COMPUTING

JOB INCUBATOR

The R

POLLINS

CADD SURVEYING ARCHITECTURE URBAN PLANNING

FILM INDUSTRY MUSIC SAIL

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ENTREPRENEURS CLUSTER PARTNERSHIP

HOTEL INDUSTRY RESTAURANTS FOOD SERVICE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES SPECIALISTS MANAGERS PERSHING

WICS SCIENCE ENGINEERING PHY

LIBRARY TELEVISION

DEFENSE CATALYST

RESEARCH LABS NEMOURS CHILDRENS HOSPITAL PHARMACOLOGY

LAKE NONA PATENTS SANFORD-BURNHAM MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NORTHROP FOR SIMULATION

LOGICAL SYSTEMS

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY GAMING INTERACTIVE DIGITAL MEDIA

HOSPITALITY RESORTS I-DRIVE CHEFS

MEETING AND CONVENTION PLANNING INDUSTRY RIDE AND SHOW DEVELOPERS ENGINEERS 12,500 JOBS 100+ COMPANIES

SAAB ROCKWELL COLLINS GENERAL DYNAMICS

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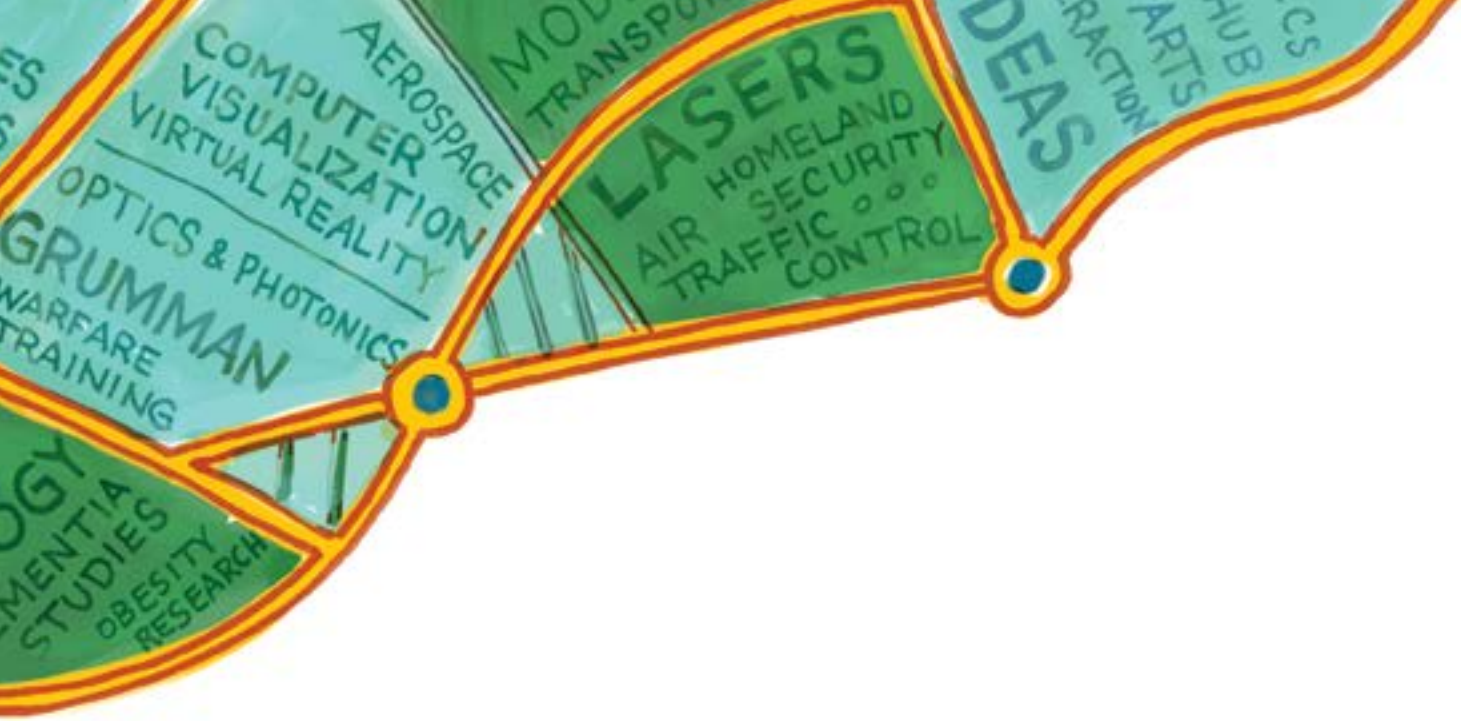
HUMAN SYSTEMS CYBER SECURITY 360 ED CORPORATION MOBILE APPS

N-SPACE COMPUTER ANALYSTS ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

SILICON GRAPHICS JHT

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ROUTE to PROSPERITY

Higher Education's Role in Shaping our Region's Evolving Economy

By Linda Shrieves Beaty

If you have any doubts about how higher education impacts a community, look at Silicon Valley. In 1938, a Stanford University professor urged one of his graduate students, Bill Hewlett, to start a company based on the ideas he'd presented in a research paper. That was the beginning of Hewlett-Packard—the first university spin-off firm in history and the company that became the driving force behind Silicon Valley.

Likewise, growth in Massachusetts' Route 128 High Tech Corridor has been fueled by more than 150 companies founded by faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology—and in recent years, there's been an explosion in the number of biotechnology firms coming out of MIT.

With the growth of Orlando's computer simulation industry and the emergence of Lake Nona's Medical City as a biotech hub, Orlando is still a newcomer in this arena, but local business leaders, college and university presidents and economists say the region may have just the right stuff to make that kind of magic happen here.

And the critical ingredient, they say, is education.

Dick Batchelor, whose family moved to Orlando from North Carolina when he was 10 years old, has seen firsthand how colleges and universities can transform a "sleepy little town" to a bustling city.

Batchelor, who served in the Vietnam War, came home to Orlando in 1968 and attended Valencia when the campus was still operating out of portables on Oak Ridge

Road. After graduating, he headed to UCF, where he finished his studies in 1971.

"At the time, UCF was in the middle of nowhere," recalls Batchelor. "It was designed as a tech-training center for people at the Space Center and Martin Marietta," which opened a plant in Orlando in 1957 and moved hundreds of engineers to the Orlando area.

And though the tourism industry brought many visitors and many jobs, the city blossomed, in large part because of the diversity of jobs and opportunities that stemmed from Valencia and UCF and other colleges.

"Without the colleges and universities here, Orlando would be nothing like it is today—nor would we have the high-paying jobs that we have here," says Batchelor, a

former Florida representative who believes in the power of education to transform a community. In 2002, Batchelor successfully spearheaded an effort to pass a half-penny sales tax to fund construction for Orange County Public Schools.

Today, Orlando has become a hub for a number of industries—including banking software, laser photonics and computer simulation. Medical City, which has attracted the Sanford-Burnham Research Institute, along with the UCF College of Medicine, the Nemours Children’s Hospital, the new Veterans Administration hospital and Valencia’s new Lake Nona Campus, has pushed the region in a new direction: biotech and medicine.

For the leaders of Valencia and UCF, the community’s evolving job scenario demands planning—and attention to the region’s goals. One of the greatest challenges before them is this: How can our colleges and universities prepare students to become the workforce of the future? And equally important, how can we contribute to creating a region where there’s a vibrant economy with good-paying jobs?

The answer, say many, will mean well-educated workers—and colleges and universities working in partnership with businesses to make sure that students graduate with the skills they need. Getting a job—and staying employed—will also mean lifelong education, updating one’s skills regularly.

“I think our standard of living in this country is going to be heavily dependent on education and training,” says Dr. Sean Snaith, a nationally-known economist and director of UCF’s Center for Competitiveness. “There are a lot of smart people in India and China who will do our jobs for a lower rate of pay. The only way to keep up our standard of living is to keep up our productivity edge. And part of that is education. It’s K-12, community colleges, universities, trade schools—all of these things are important to an educated and dynamic workforce.”

One of the challenges to creating that kind of workforce, says Valencia College President Sandy Shugart, is that many of the workers joining the workforce in the coming decades will be the first in their families to go to college—and though they may start college, many will struggle to graduate.

If the United States is to maintain—and grow—its college educated workforce, colleges and universities have to do a better job at educating minorities, experts say. At the University of Texas, for instance, black and Hispanic freshmen now outnumber whites, but their graduation rates are lagging behind. To remain competitive globally, the U.S. educational system needs to figure out how to do a better job educating these students.

“What we need,” Shugart says, “is an affordable model for effectively teaching those first-generation college students. That would be a challenge for the state’s four-year universities, but it’s right in our wheelhouse. It’s what we do.”

The good news for Florida is this: No state is better poised for this changing workforce—and meeting its educational needs—than Florida. “Florida is the best in the country at this,” Shugart says. “That’s why half of the [community] colleges in Florida are on the list of finalists for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.”

Yet there’s more work to be done. Shugart believes that it’s imperative to get students excited and invested in their own education. To do that, he wants colleges and employers to create more intensive internships and co-op work opportunities—much like the ones that Valencia’s nursing and health students

participate in—so students can work at their future professions while learning.

“I believe that most students would benefit from having a structured work experience to buttress their studies,” says Shugart. “Nursing is a great case study. They start with their classroom work and they have five semesters in which they’re doing clinical rotations. And they discover very often after the first semester, often in Nursing 1, that they don’t like nursing. That’s the right time to find out; you don’t want to find out in your last semester.”

“K-12, community colleges, universities, trade schools—all of these are important to an educated and dynamic workforce.”

—Dr. Sean Snaith



Dick Batchelor, former state legislator and lobbyist, says Valencia and UCF helped transform Orlando and continue to shape its ever-brightening future.

In addition to helping students learn about the kinds of jobs they’d like, he says work experience provides an incentive and motivation to continue their education. “Work experience serves a lot of purposes, but motivation is the big one,” says Shugart. “And it brings business partners to colleges, to help us learn if what we’re teaching in the classroom is what the students need to succeed in the workforce. They help us tailor our curriculum.”

Where the jobs are

There’s a powerful incentive for local business leaders to work with college and university presidents and map out a vision for their cities. The future of many regions will depend on the kind of degrees and graduates that the colleges are turning out.

“The story of the next decade or two is going to be skilled workforce shortages,” says Shugart. “The places that are able to create surpluses of highly educated people are going to win the contest for the expansion of these businesses and the jobs they bring.”

Studying demographics tells us how many new nurses we'll need. Compute how many nurses are expected to retire in the next five years—and how the population of senior citizens is expected to grow—and you can estimate how many new nursing graduates a region will need. Statewide, for instance, almost 30,000 nurses will be needed to fill jobs this year, according to a study by the Florida Center for Nursing.

But it's not always that easy, particularly for emerging industries. "In Orlando, we hear stories of high value jobs that are almost impossible to fill, even with high unemployment. But they're hard to quantify," says Shugart. To remedy that, Valencia officials are meeting with some of Central Florida's largest temporary employment agencies to find out what jobs are hard to fill and why. "They will become a source of intelligence for us," says Shugart.

Already, it's clear that many of the hard-to-fill jobs come in certain areas: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Software developers are badly

needed, thanks to the explosion of apps. But not all the new jobs will be in STEM areas: Employers are also hard-pressed to find accountants and others in advanced business fields, including human resource administrators.

Not a one-mouse town

But how does Orlando change its future—from a one-mouse town to a city that's part of the nation's high-tech, innovation economy? The answer, say experts, lies in education. Today, in addition to looking at amenities such as airports, business leaders look at schools—from kindergarten through college—when they're thinking about relocating to a region. It's one of the most important factors for business executives, says Snaith.

"A dynamic educated labor force is a powerful attractant for business and for retaining a business," Snaith says. "If you can't get qualified employees in a region, businesses are going to look elsewhere, whether it's to another region in the U.S. or overseas."

Just as Kirchman Corporation, an Altamonte Springs company that was a pioneer in the banking software industry in the 1970s, lured more than 20 other banking software businesses to the Orlando area, Central Florida's growing computer simulation industry got its start in the 1970s and 1980s with the region's defense contractors, including Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics and others. In 1982, UCF created its Institute of Simulation and Training to provide research for the budding industry. Today, Orlando is home to one of the nation's biggest clusters for computer simulation and modeling, involving more than 150 companies that employ 12,000 people.

And there can be a snowball effect, says Ray Gilley, former president of the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission. If one company has found that a city or region has enough engineering graduates or computer science graduates to fuel its growth, other companies—even competitors—may move there as well because they know they can also tap into that pool of talent.

Business executives also look at local colleges and universities for future employees. "They're looking for the existence of a good workforce that they can tap into, not just in the short term, but over a five- to 10- to 20-year life cycle," adds Gilley. "So they'd like to see a good workforce that's ready to go, as well as a pipeline of future talent or future employees that can only come through a very good education and training system."

For instance, UCF's investment in laser photonics (through its College of Optics & Photonics) and the Laser Photonics Academy, which is a partnership between Orange County Public Schools, Northrop Grumman and Valencia College, has spurred a steady supply of engineers and laser technicians for this industry.

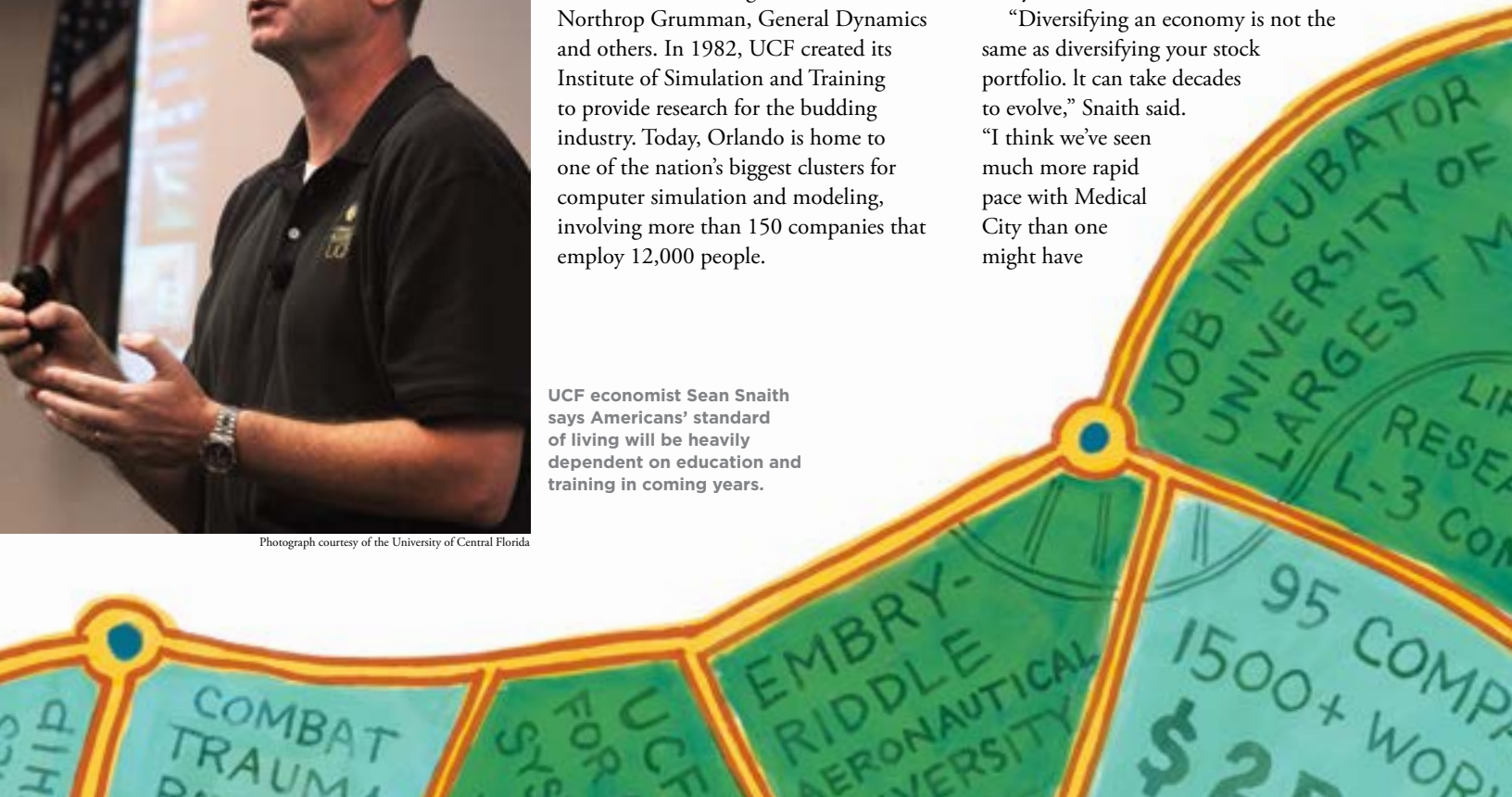
Putting together those kinds of partnerships takes time—and long-range planning, says Snaith. But that's the kind of vision and carefully crafted plans needed to attract the industries that Orlando, and many other cities, are after.

"Diversifying an economy is not the same as diversifying your stock portfolio. It can take decades to evolve," Snaith said. "I think we've seen much more rapid pace with Medical City than one might have



UCF economist Sean Snaith says Americans' standard of living will be heavily dependent on education and training in coming years.

Photograph courtesy of the University of Central Florida



“You cannot have great prosperity without a great education system.”

—Ray Gilley

expected... and probably more than we should expect in other sectors.”

Look at the Research Triangle in North Carolina and the Tech Corridor in Massachusetts as examples, says Snaith, and you’ll find “these clusters formed not randomly, but because there was the educational foundation that helps to foster that kind of entrepreneurship... that helps to foster partnerships between higher education and business so that they feed on each other.”

Snaith sees the seeds of those kinds of partnerships at work here, in the region’s computer simulation industry and emerging bioscience fields. “I think we have the basis

of some of that here already,” Snaith says. “We’re not a Research Triangle yet, but there’s a possibility that may evolve.”

Now the region’s leaders are looking toward Medical City for jobs.

Already, Lake Nona’s mushrooming medical complex—combined with the region’s tourism industry—is attracting other businesses. Because Orlando’s airport has so many national routes, the city is attracting pharmaceutical companies such as CuraScript, which package specialty drugs not found in most neighborhood pharmacies and send them out via overnight mail.

The next likely development in the region’s economy, says Shugart, will be businesses that supply medical textiles to hospitals and firms that specialize in medical recycling—cleaning and sterilizing medical materials and repackaging them to be sold abroad. Those are natural outgrowths of the region’s burgeoning hospital-medical complex.

Although a number of Medical City employers, including Sanford-Burnham Research Institute and Nemours Children’s Hospital, imported much of the top talent—from senior executives to

scientists—when they opened their doors, Central Florida leaders hope the next wave of hires will include many locals.

And given that Medical City is expected to generate 30,000 jobs within the next decade, business and education leaders are preparing to train workers for the bustling bioscience industry and the growing medical field.

At Valencia, college officials have laid the groundwork to train students who might go on to become nurses, hospital workers, or technicians or lab assistants in research labs, while UCF is training doctors and potential research scientists. “And we at Valencia contribute to that,” says Shugart. “Almost a quarter of UCF grads come from Valencia—and many of them go on to earn advanced degrees.”

Today, 49 years after UCF was established and 45 years after Valencia opened its doors, the two institutions remain critical to the region’s success.

Says Gilley: “I think our business and government leaders and our education partners understand that... You cannot have great prosperity without a great education system.” ■



Scientists at Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute in Lake Nona are studying possible treatments for diabetes and obesity



Photographs courtesy of the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute

From the Southwest to the Sunshine State: Introducing Valencia's Two New Leaders



Dr. Susan Ledlow

Valencia's new vice president of academic affairs, Dr. Susan Ledlow, arrived at the college in late August. A native of Alabama, Ledlow spent more than two decades in Arizona.

What took you to Arizona in the first place, as an undergraduate?

I thought I was going to be an archaeologist. I quickly found that I was way more interested in cultural anthropology than I was in archaeology... Later, I got really interested in culture and learning and achievement and inclusion. As part of that, I got really interested in cooperative learning [in which students learn by working in small groups] and the use of it as a strategy for Native American students.

You did a lot of training sessions at Valencia on cooperative learning over the past decade. What led you to apply for a job here?

I loved the atmosphere. I loved that student learning came first. Other people talk about it, but Valencia works it. When the position came up, it just seemed like it was too intriguing an opportunity to not go for it.

How are you adjusting to Orlando?

The day I left Phoenix, it was 117 degrees. This is like a picnic... I'm renting a house in College Park and I'm loving it. On weekends, I'm out walking my dog. I walk to the hardware store. I walk to Einstein's for bagels on Sunday morning. And there's a good art scene here. I went to the Shakespeare Theater, I got tickets for the ballet and I'm enjoying all the arts at East Campus.

How does Orlando compare to Phoenix?

Orlando is smaller than Phoenix; it's about half the size. But it's a vibrant community and it seems like there's a lot to do. And everybody loves Orlando! I talk to people and say I'm new here and they say, "Don't you love it here?" Phoenix is informal but Orlando seems very friendly. It has a small-town feel, even though it's a big city.



Dr. Stacey Johnson

Meet Dr. Stacey Johnson, the new president of Valencia's East and Winter Park campuses. Dr. Johnson came to Valencia from Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Tex., where she was vice president of academic affairs. But whatever you do, don't challenge her to a duel: Dr. Johnson was a champion collegiate fencer and a member of the 1980 Olympic team.

How are you adjusting to the new job?

I'm really enjoying the work. The first week I was here, I started on a "listening tour." I've completed already 36 interviews and I'm only halfway there.

Are there any things that you've already changed?

One of the things I observed is: The 'welcome back' event is structured so it's only for the faculty and not the staff. That seems foreign to me because we're all in this together. Next year, we're going to have a 'welcome back' for everybody.

What do you do to relax?

When I get home from work, my husband and I take our two dogs for a walk. I love looking at all the trees, all the different gardens here. It's so much more lush than where I came from. I also go to a yoga class on Wednesday nights. And on weekends, we're doing lots

of little home repairs to the house we bought in College Park, putting our own stamp on it.

Do you still fence?

I don't fence anymore. I had a big knee injury in 1982, so I don't do anything that has a lot of hard pounding on the knee. That's why I turned to yoga.

What has surprised you about Orlando?

One of the things that is really both exciting and interesting is Orlando's diversity. People talk about San Antonio's diversity. But the Hispanic community in San Antonio is in large part Mexican-American. The diversity here in Orlando is much wider. I can remember being downtown, walking and hearing several different languages: Portuguese, Spanish and French... That's been fantastic.



From Mentee to Manager

Kwame Walker '09

By Melissa Tchen

“Demonstrated ability to lead and motivate others, a distinct drive for success, ability to be a self starter”—the qualifications for the Burger King Corporation operations management trainee position could just as easily read as a list of character traits for Kwame Walker.

The Valencia College alumnus and 2012 University of Central Florida graduate has a knack for taking on multiple projects and leadership roles. He boasts dual degrees in marketing and management with a focus on entrepreneurship. He spent his college tenure filling his resume with titles such as vice president, marketing director and committee chair for a host of student and professional organizations and events. In his spare time, he gives motivational speeches to Orange County public high school students.

It's no wonder that by the time he graduated college, Walker had his pick of job offers from several well-known companies. He opted for the Burger King Corporation position over the others because of the long-term opportunities it provides. Once he completes the year-long training program, which consists of a rotation through operations and management roles within the restaurant chain, he'll earn a position as either a district manager or a regional sales profit operations coach.

While Walker now has a successful future ahead of him, that wasn't always the case. There was a time when no one, including Walker himself, would have predicted that he'd be on the path to a leadership role within an international corporation. In fact, he wasn't even on a path to graduate high school. His GPA was an anemic 0.9 and without a positive outlet, his

There was a time when no one, including Walker himself, would have predicted that he'd be on the path to a leadership role within an international corporation.

natural-born entrepreneurial skills weren't being put to the best use.

“Growing up in inner-city Orlando, I came from the groupthink of my environment—that was hustling, standing out on the neighborhood corners, selling drugs, doing whatever I could to make money,” said Walker.

Then one day he got a wake-up call. Walker's principal, Lorenzo Phillips, pulled him aside and told him that if he continued down the path he was on, he would wind up in one of two places, either dead or in jail. Then, he gave Walker the opportunity to change his path by enrolling in the COMPACT mentoring program. With motivation from his mentor, Charles “Kim” Barley, Walker began to focus on school and hold himself to a higher standard. In 2007, he graduated from Jones High School with a 3.0 GPA.

Walker was the first person in his family to graduate from high school and he didn't want to stop there. With a newfound focus on education, he set his sights on Valencia College and its Bridges to Success program, which provides support and financial aid to disadvantaged high school graduates looking to make the transition to college.

“Stepping on campus, I had tears in my eyes,” said Walker. “I knew I had to be there. I had to come to



Valencia because it offered the opportunity for me to grow and make it out of my environment.”

Through Bridges to Success, Walker received mentoring, academic counseling, a support network and a college scholarship, but it was up to him to make the most of it all. It wasn't an easy start. Walker wasn't ready for a full load of college-level courses and was placed into remedial reading and writing courses.

“Coming in at a low level, my self-esteem was down, my motivation was down,” said Walker. But, with encouragement and mentorship from John Stover, the program's director, and his academic advisor, Sylvester Robinson, Walker found the motivation to persevere. “Both of them pulled me aside and let me know I could do it, that I wasn't going to stop—because I wanted better in life. Through any downfalls, whether exams or the time it took me to study, or following the rules to receive my scholarship, they were there for me at every moment.”

It was also through the Bridges program that Walker gained his work ethic and a foundation in leadership. As part of his scholarship requirement, he had to attend leadership workshops and community service activities. Then, he began to join student clubs and professional organizations on his own accord. Each time, he

challenged himself to take on an executive role.

By the time he transferred to UCF, Walker was a motivated, hard-working leader in the making. Not only did he juggle two majors and a slew of extracurricular clubs and activities, he became a popular speaker for COMPACT, the high school mentoring program that first pointed him in the right direction.

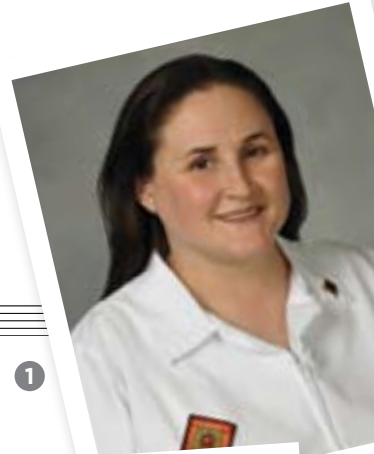
Now, he'll have the opportunity to extend his talents for motivating others to his career. And, while Walker is excited about his prospects with Burger King Corporation, his goals for the future don't end there. He is currently studying for the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) and plans to earn his MBA, ideally from Stanford or Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His ultimate goal is to run his own marketing, management or communications consulting company.

As to Walker's secret to success, it's something that each of his mentors emphasized—that hard work pays off.

“I joke that if I were to die today and I didn't have enough money to put my name and date of birth on my tombstone, the one word I would like to have there is ‘perseverance.’”

CLASS NOTES

1



Vanessa (Melendez) Miles '98

Since earning a correctional officer certificate from the Criminal Justice Institute, Vanessa has been employed by Orange County Corrections as an assistant public information officer.

1 Marie Lynn (Dice) Mueller '00, '12

After earning an A.S. in Respiratory Care at Valencia, Marie Lynn went on to earn a B.S. in Cardiopulmonary Science from UCF. She later returned to Valencia and graduated with a Nursing RN degree in 2012 and got her first job on an oncology floor at Osceola Regional Medical Center.

Anthony John Pompa '01

Anthony recently relocated to southern California after changing careers from hotel management to working with middle and high school students as a youth pastor.

2 Angel Luis Ramos '02

Following Valencia, Angel received a B.S. in Liberal Studies from UCF. He went on to become a high school teacher and earned an MBA from Georgia Southwestern State University in 2010. Recently he started a new position with The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University as their data manager.

3 Cherie Lynn Ramirez '02

After graduating from Valencia in 2002, Cherie Lynn went on to earn an Honors A.B. degree in Classical Studies & Biochemistry/Molecular

Biology from Rollins College in 2006. Last May, she earned a doctorate in Experimental Pathology from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. She served as a marshal at Harvard's commencement in recognition of her outstanding service to the Harvard community.

4 Naomi Gonzalez '02

Naomi received the Orange County Public Schools Outstanding Partners in Education Award for the 2011-2012 school year for her contributions to Winter Park Tech's Nails Specialty Program. She has served as a mentor in the program for students and graduates, and as past president of the advisory committee. Her business, Le Petit Nails, is an organic and vegan nail and beauty bar in the heart of downtown Sanford.

David Torre, Esq. '02

In addition to Valencia, David is a graduate of Rollins College and the University of Florida's Levin College of Law. He is currently the associate director of gift planning at Rollins College.

5 Michael A. Ruiz '03

Michael graduated with a master's degree in Information Systems Management with a concentration in Information Security from the Keller Graduate School of Management at DeVry. He has been employed at Lockheed Martin for 11 years.



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6 Noelia Maldonado Rodriguez '05

Congratulations to Noelia, Valencia alumna and employee. Noelia and Neftali Acevedo Hernandez tied the knot in a small ceremony in August.

Robyn D 'Angelo '08

Robyn graduated this year with a B.S.N. from Nova Southeastern University-Orlando and is preparing to start school in November for her nurse practitioner license. "Thank you to Mrs. O'Neal who was my inspiration at Valencia and helped to shape me into the RN that I have become today. It is because of you that I continue to pursue my education. I will never forget you."

Christina M. Bessellieu '10

Christina will graduate from UCF with a B.S. in Psychology in December and will begin her master's in Intelligence Analysis at American Military University.

7 Karina Haywood '11

Karina attends UCF after graduating from Valencia with an A.S. degree in Paralegal Studies and specializations in transactional and paralegal litigation. In August, she was presented with the outstanding volunteer award before a packed house at the Volunteer Recognition Event for the 9th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office by former State Attorney Lawson Lamar. Karina won the award for more than 430 hours of service assisting the Division 23 assistant state attorneys and staff in the State's prosecution of violations of probation.

8 Machel Koonce '11, '13

Machel, 36, was awarded the Valencia Alumni Association's Charlie and Ilona Edwards Memorial Scholarship in June. Machel, who is currently attending Valencia, is employed by the U.S. Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Prisons, and has worked in law enforcement for 17 years.

Nelson J. Rodolfo '11

Nelson started working in the stainless steel fabrication industry as a designer six months prior to graduating from Valencia, thanks to the recommendations of a classmate and one of his Valencia professors. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in the near future.

CLASS NOTES



Dr. Sandy Shugart,
Beena Pirmal, Darryl Pirmal

The Pirmal Family:

Darryl R. Pirmal '12

Beena Pirmal '12, '13

Matthew Pirmal '13

Sunita Pirmal '14

Valencia is a family affair for the Pirmal family. Darryl R. Pirmal began his career with Valencia in 2008 as a part-time security officer. Since then he has become a full-time security officer as well as a graduate of Valencia College. Darryl and his wife, Beena, held hands as they walked across the commencement stage on May 5, 2012. Their four children gazed with amazement as their parents were presented with their diplomas and had their pictures taken with the college president.

Since 2010, three of the six members of the Pirmal family have been enrolled at Valencia. Matthew, 17, has one more semester before graduating with his A.A. and then pursuing his B.S. in Engineering

at UCF. Sunita, 16, is an Honors Program student at Valencia's West Campus and has her eyes set on a psychology degree at UCF. Their mother, Beena, having already graduated in 2012, is currently attending her second semester in Valencia's A.S. Nursing Program and performing her clinicals at Florida Hospital in Altamonte. Not yet Valencia students, Shivani, 10, and Darryl Jr., 8, are both students at Hope Charter School in Ocoee.

Darryl lives by a simple philosophy: "I live my life to greater standards, by providing a better life for the people around

me. I strive to make myself a better person through education and experience. I live by a code of honesty, trust, tactfulness, dedication, honor, courage, and commitment. I set my goals high, as to always be yearning for personal growth and improvement. I live my life with happiness and I attempt to place a smile upon everyone who encounters my unique personality. I think by setting an example as a leader and a motivator, others will follow my example and grow personally and professionally. Smiles are free. Share them with the world."

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VALENCIA

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9 Melvin E. Thompson '12

Last month one of my friends, (Macho Lopez who is now a UCF student), from Valencia's East's Phi Theta Kappa chapter reached out to me and asked if I would like the opportunity to meet President Bill Clinton while he was in town to speak at the Rosen Center and the Orange County Convention Center to campaign for President Obama. I said yes of course, and I had to submit my personal information for a Secret Service background check. The next day I was approved to drive a staff car in President Clinton's motorcade. I met Connie Cooper-Smith and Scott Pollard of the White House, and I also got to hang out with the Secret Service agents. The moment of truth came when I shook President Clinton's hand and had a brief conversation with him during the taking of the photo. Wow! A Valencia education has certainly changed my life in a great way. Oh by the way, I made the Dean's list at Rollins for the summer semester.

10 Rodney M. Hughley '12

Before earning a transfer honors scholarship to Rollins Hamilton-Holt School, Rodney founded a grassroots nonprofit organization, AKause4Kids, Inc., which aims to assist in meeting the unmet needs of local underprivileged and at-risk youth. Rodney's passion for serving others led to his selection as one of 30 promising individuals nominated by Rollins staff and faculty to attend the President's Leadership Council. The leadership symposium featured notable local leaders, former Congressman Lou Frey and Central

Florida businessman and political strategist, Dick Batchelor ('70).

Amanda M. Holt '12

Amanda is majoring in English at the Hamilton-Holt School at Rollins College.

John Erik F. Oliveira '12

John is the IT director for Advanced Marketing International in Mount Dora, Florida.

Marcee Stofflet '12

Marcee is employed with Orange County Public Schools while earning her A.A. degree. She plans to study Medical Office Administration at UCF where one of her two children is also a student.

Nigel Sealy '12

Nigel is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Radio-Television at UCF. Last summer, he had the opportunity to intern at Power 95.3 and to volunteer for the 2012 Jam Session in Orlando.

11 Angela Bardwell-Owens '13

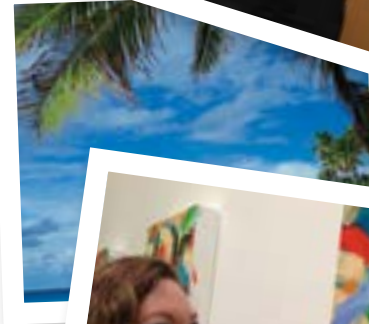
Angela was accepted into the new James M. and Dayle L. Seneff Honors College in the Undergraduate Research Track. She has been involved in research activities at UCF via an independent studies program and recently initiated a new Valencia organization, the East Campus Student Research Community (SRC) to provide an outlet for students, faculty and staff who are interested in collaborating about opportunities in undergraduate research.



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All Class Notes photos courtesy of featured alumni.



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FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR SPOTLIGHT

Jonni Kimberly '79

Jonni Kimberly serves as director of human resources for Rosen Hotels and Resorts, which includes seven properties and more than 3,500 employees.

In 1979, as she prepared to graduate from Valencia with an A.A. degree, Kimberly became a front desk clerk for Quality Inn International, owned by hotelier and philanthropist Harris Rosen. As the company flourished, long-time employees were rewarded with fresh responsibilities. Her career path has included front-office manager at the Quality Inn Plaza (now Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando), and general manager of Rodeway Inn (now the Rosen Inn closest to Universal Studios).

Her route to chief of human resources was unexpected. In the early 1990s, Rosen established a full-fledged human resources department to cover all the properties. However, the role of HR director became a revolving door as the company founder sought the ideal fit for his organization.



Jonni Kimberly and Geraldine Gallagher

It dawned on Kimberly that her experience as general manager, combined with her ability to build strong relationships, made her particularly well suited for the position.

Although at the time Kimberly's resume might have been considered atypical for human resources, she decided to give it a shot. Promoted to human resources director in 1994, she started with a team of four, which has expanded to 30.

In 2007, converging forces led Kimberly to Valencia, where she serves as 2012-14 foundation board chair. At the time, Kimberly was working with Rosen's fledgling employee charity committee to hone its philanthropy and relationships with local nonprofits. Meanwhile, in his role as Valencia Foundation board chair, Alan Helman of HHCP/Architects invited the Rosen organization

to become more involved with Valencia, which was a primary source of its workforce.

Kimberly was the obvious choice.

During her first year on the Valencia Foundation board, Kimberly attended A Taste for Learning. She was inspired by the notion that every single expense is covered, so that every dollar raised is directed to scholarships and then matched by a challenge grant.

She proposed to her charity committee the idea of moving the event to Rosen, acknowledging that completely underwriting an event was unprecedented—not to mention inviting other hotels, restaurants and theme parks to join the collaboration on site. But Kimberly was convinced Rosen should lead the partnership with Valencia and ABC Fine Wine and Spirits. "I was impressed with the amount of money that Taste brought in, and the fact that it all goes 100 percent to the purpose. The promise that every penny that would come from Taste would go to scholarships for students was a big seller," she recalls.

That was in 2008, and Rosen's beautiful resort, Rosen Shingle Creek, has been home to Taste ever since.

As foundation chair, Kimberly believes the most important attribute of a board director is a strong commitment to mission. During her tenure, she plans to accomplish three things. She seeks more diversity, so that the board represents the audience Valencia serves; she will explore additional partnerships with vendors; and she will continue the excellent work of past-chair, Linda Landman Gonzalez, and college president, Dr. Sandy Shugart, to elevate the college's profile within the community.

"I would really like for significantly more people to know about the impact of Valencia on Central Florida. Nearly twice as many local high school graduates start college at Valencia than at all state universities combined. We are the local gateway to a bachelor's degree and well-paying jobs," she explains.

"The Aspen Institute named Valencia the No.1 community college in the country for academic excellence, student completion, career placement after graduation, and starting salaries."

The college meets students where they are, Kimberly adds. "We will serve 70,000 students this year. Some will attend the James and Dayle Seneff Honors College after graduating tops in their high school class. Others will enroll for a second chance or to retool for a new job. For many, Valencia is their only option for a college degree. As a graduate, I know the Valencia College experience first hand. Valencia is a compelling story that begs to be told."

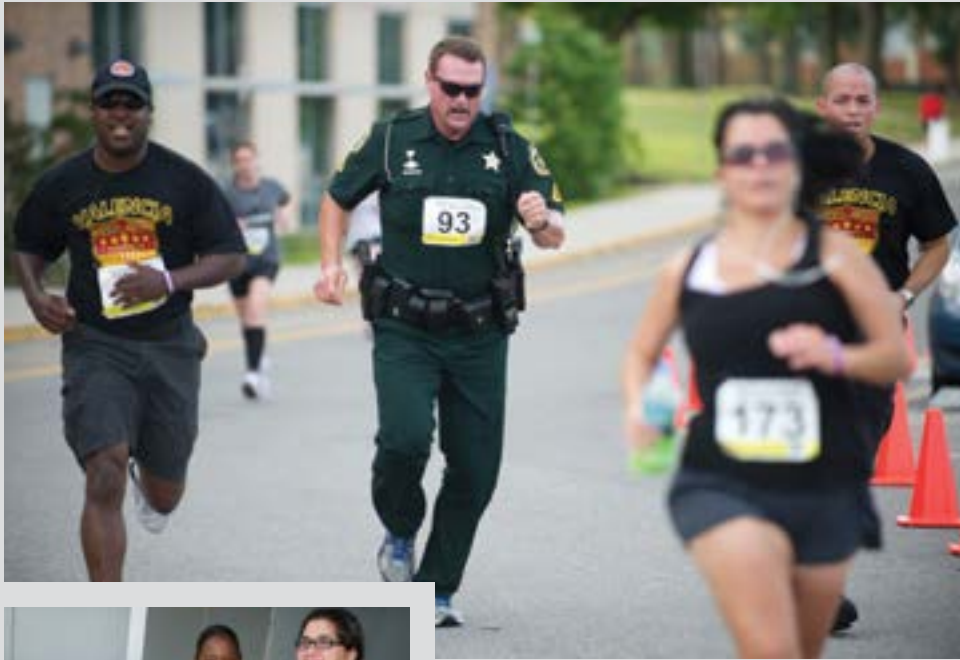
Kimberly and her husband of 23 years, Dennis Byle, have two sons, Bryan and Taylor.

2012 EVENTS SNAPSHOTS

September 11 Memorial

Hundreds gathered at the Osceola Campus to remember the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.





Valencia Alumni 5K - March 31

The 7th annual Run, Walk & Roll 5K raised more than \$7,000 for scholarships, this time to support criminal justice, EMT and paramedic students.



Alumni Achievers Reception - June 5

A night of firsts: a reception recognized Alumni Association scholarship recipients, many of whom were the first in their families to go to college. Outstanding alumni volunteers were also honored for their tireless support.





JOHN PRENDERGAST

Human Rights Activist and Best-Selling Author

January 30, 2013 | 1 p.m.

East Campus Performing Arts Center

“Unlikely Brothers: An Inspirational Story of Mentorship”

At age 20, John Prendergast visited a homeless shelter blocks from the White House in Washington, D.C. While there, he met 7-year-old Michael Mattocks, who was living out of garbage bags and drifting from one homeless shelter to another with his mother and siblings. Prendergast became Michael’s Big Brother—and took him fishing, on road trips, out to eat at cheap restaurants and played basketball with him. Although Prendergast later went to work in Africa as a human-rights activist, he spent the next 27 years as Michael’s Big Brother.

Together, the two of them have chronicled their life’s journeys—both together and apart—in a new book, *Unlikely Brothers* (Random House).

“Through my long relationship with Michael, which endured my living and working in African war zones while Michael was growing up in a different kind of war zone only minutes away from the White House, I learned anyone can make a difference in another’s life if we take a risk and make a commitment.”

– Prendergast

LET EVERYONE KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO!



To be featured in Class Notes visit valenciacollege.edu/alumni/class_notes.cfm and fill in the submission form or mail to: Class Notes Editor, Valencia Alumni Association, 190 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801.



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 formats. Files should be 300dpi resolution at 4"x6" (this would be a file approximately 1mb to 3mb 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, please contact the Alumni Association. Send all suggestions to alumni@valenciacollege.edu.



Stay CONNECTED

*Be part
of the alumni
community.*

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 website at valenciacollege.edu/alumni, or contact us at **407-582-3426**.

Benefits and Services Include:

- Copy of Vitae mailed to you
- 10 percent discount—Valencia continuing education classes & programs
- Discounted Valencia College Theater performances
- Employment services for job seekers & employers
- Discounted Valencia 5K registration

Membership is Free

FULL MEMBER

Has successfully completed a certificate program or earned a degree at Valencia.

STUDENT MEMBER

Has started but not yet completed a certificate program or degree at Valencia.

VALENCIA

Valencia College Alumni Association