

V I T A E



1967 – 2017

# VITAE

THE MAGAZINE OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

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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 College provides equal opportunity for educational opportunities and employment to all. Contact the Office of Human Resources and Diversity for information.

Valencia is a member of the Florida College System.

VALENCIA COLLEGE

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## Brain Bowl Team Bags Championships at National and State Level

On Feb. 25, Valencia College's Brain Bowl team emerged victorious at the Community College Championship Tournament in Minneapolis.

Participating in the National Academic Quiz Tournaments event, Valencia's Red team edged cross-state rival Chipola College in the bonus round by correctly answering a question about Norse mythology.

Chris Borglum, an English professor at the Winter Park Campus, has coached the college's Brain Bowl team for 24 years and is assisted by Valencia math professor Damion Hammock, a former Valencia Brain Bowl player.

Adding to the team's laurels in March, Valencia won the Florida College System

Activities Association (FCSAA) state title, a more comprehensive game format that, unlike the national tournament, includes math questions. "Fortunately we had a dual-enrolled high school student named Arjun Singh who crushed the math questions," said Borglum. "That was our first win at FCSAA State since 2007. We'd been runners-up five times in that span! It was good to break through."



Every year, Valencia's Brain Bowl team competes in various tournaments across the nation, racking up a number of trophies for their victories. From left to right: Elena Torres-Ponce, Joseph Pajuelo, Calice Newkirk, Chris Borglum, Melisa Nicolas, Jack Ogozaly, Arjun Singh, Damion Hammock and Suzi Kim.



[valenciacollege.edu/brain-bowl](http://valenciacollege.edu/brain-bowl)

## Valencia joins UCF in Groundbreaking of Downtown Campus



Valencia officials joined Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, UCF officials and Florida state representatives at the groundbreaking for the new UCF/Valencia Downtown Campus.

On May 11, Valencia College and University of Central Florida broke ground on the new downtown campus to be located in the Creative Village, the mixed-use development adjacent to Orlando's Parramore and Callahan neighborhoods. The Dr. Phillips Academic Commons Building, a \$60 million multi-use facility now under construction, will house programs from both institutions. The goal is to provide a seamless educational experience for students attending the downtown campus.

West Campus President Dr. Falecia Williams describes the future downtown campus as

"a comprehensive educational ecosystem." Valencia will handle the large majority of the general studies courses downtown, including those taken by UCF students in the Academic Commons Building.

Valencia will also relocate its Walt Disney School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts to downtown, while offering accelerated skills training in manufacturing, construction, information technology coding and health care.

The hospitality programs will move into a building featuring four floors of learning space, several floors of student housing and a ground floor hosting a variety of retail shops and businesses.

[valenciacollege.edu/groundbreaking](http://valenciacollege.edu/groundbreaking)

## President Sandy Shugart Awarded McGraw Prize in Education

In early April, the McGraw-Hill Research Foundation awarded the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education to Valencia College President Sandy Shugart for his exemplary work in higher education.

The prize, which the 100-year-old publishing company awards in partnership with Arizona State University, recognizes demonstrated success in the following areas: transformational leadership, implementation of innovative practices and thinking, impact made on lives through education, and earned respect from peers.

The jury selects successful educators from three distinct categories: K-12, Higher Education and International Education. The McGraw Prizes' Higher Education

jury consists of administrators and faculty from universities across the nation, as well as Jeff Selingo, best-selling author and award-winning columnist from the Washington Post. President Shugart shares the 2017 McGraw prize with Chris Anderson, curator at TED, which is the non-profit famous for its symposium-style "Talks," and Christine Cunningham, founder and director of Engineering is Elementary, a STEM curriculum developer working with the Museum of Science in Boston.

President Shugart will receive \$50,000 for the prize. He was honored at the 8th Annual ASU Global Silicon Valley Summit, which took place at the Grand American Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah on May 9.



## Osceola Campus Gets Funding Approval for Accelerated Training



Loren Bender, Valencia's vice president of business operations and finance, explains plans for the new Osceola Campus buildings.

At the April 26 Board of Trustees meeting, Valencia College approved funding for a two-phase project to expand the Osceola campus.

Phase I, costing approximately \$4.5 million, will construct the Center for Accelerated Training (CAT) to

support training provided by technical job growth programs, such as the heavy equipment operator program which prepares students for work in construction, infrastructure building and land development.

Because Osceola County's median family income is 14 percent lower than the family income in Orange County, Valencia hopes to provide more career training at the Kissimmee campus.

Modeled after a facility already being constructed at the Poinciana campus, the building will be able to alternate program offerings with Poinciana based on demand at each campus.

The Phase I building will also feature extra classroom space for intensive English programs. Enrollment in English-language programs at Valencia's Osceola

Campus has more than tripled since the 2014-2015 academic year, growing from less than 500 students to approximately 1600 students in 2016-2017. The phase I building is expected to open by summer 2018.

Phase II of the project will construct a separate building adjacent to the CAT facility. Outfitted with lab and classroom spaces, this 35,000 sq. ft. building will house new A.S. degree programs in property management, hospitality, engineering and nursing. Estimated to cost \$13-14 million, this building is expected to be open to students by fall 2019.



Photograph by Mark Taulbee

# A Legacy of Leadership

//BY KATHARINE ZIMMERMAN



Foundation Board Chair, Sue Foreman, has supported Valencia students for more than 30 years.

Sue Foreman is a connector. She connects people, organizations, causes—and especially, ideas. For Sue, along with her husband Steve, philanthropy is a family affair that includes collaboration with their children. Through the years, their family has made generous donations for scholarships, endowed a faculty chair and helped steward financial gifts from other donors. She is a dedicated volunteer with Valencia College, and serves as a director and board chair for the Valencia Foundation. Her contributions to students, staff and faculty, and the Central Florida community have transformed lives.

A lifelong learner and a former middle school teacher, Sue knows first-hand that a quality education

opens doors and creates opportunities for success and growth, especially for those who lack access, are marginalized or at risk. She believes that everyone wants to experience peace, a sense of safety, justice and self-determination. With access to knowledge, skills and wisdom, Sue explains, people can attain equality, personal fulfillment and thriving communities.

Because learning is critical to advancing individuals, communities and the world, Sue’s goal is to make a college degree possible for everyone in Central Florida. With this purpose in mind, she has volunteered with Valencia College for more than 30 years, not only providing insight and financial resources, but also engaging with students and encouraging faculty

and staff. “My favorite thing about Valencia”, she says, “is the absolute conviction that anybody can learn anything in the right environment.”

Valencia College is honored and grateful for the countless contributions Sue Foreman has joyfully and humbly provided. “She is a dedicated volunteer and advocate for Valencia College,” Dr. Sandy Shugart explains. “Her leadership and strong financial support have created pathways of real opportunity for our students.”

Whether it is policy or structure change, the environment, basic human needs, technology, or new ways of accessing knowledge, Sue is passionate about learning and service. She could easily retire from her volunteer activities at

Valencia with an extensive list of accomplishments, but Sue has an enduring commitment to serve and be an agent for change. As she begins her fourth decade of philanthropy with our college, Sue Foreman is pursuing new ways to provide education and learning, with the ultimate purpose to endow peace, justice and equality for all members of our community.

Her recommendation to those who are seeking a way to share their own talents and gifts for a better life and world, “Ask yourself,” she says, “where can your efforts have the greatest leverage?”

# Center of Attention

Valencia's new Poinciana Campus will change lives and a community.

//BY LORAIN O'CONNELL



Seniors at Poinciana High were surprised by the announcement that Valencia would give each of them a \$500 scholarship for enrolling at the new campus.

## POINCIANA CAMPUS IN A SNAPSHOT

When the \$27 million Poinciana Campus opens this August, students will have access to state-of-the-art facilities, including 12 classrooms, a science lab, two computer labs, a teaching kitchen for the culinary program, a library and a tutoring center.

- The campus is expected to serve approximately 1,500 degree-seeking students and 250 students who want job training.
- Students planning to earn a bachelor's degree can choose from four program pathways: General Studies, Health Sciences, Biomed/Premed/Biology, or Math/Engineering.
- For students who plan to enter the workforce, the Poinciana Campus will offer several Associate in Science degrees.
- Valencia's Poinciana Campus will also house the Center for Accelerated Training.
- Campus amenities include an indoor/outdoor café, WiFi access throughout the campus—and an expected 15-minute commute for many students.

On April 11, Jovan Fernandez-Mestre was surprised with a \$500 scholarship for being the first student to enroll at Valencia College's new Poinciana Campus. That moment—and the expression on his face—was a perfect reflection of Valencia's 50-year tradition of providing educational opportunities in Orange and Osceola counties.

"I felt so shocked to be the first student of the new Valencia campus," Fernandez-Mestre says. "You don't understand how amazing it is to have this opportunity."

Valencia leaders do understand, which is why the college is offering a \$500 scholarship to every full-time student who enrolls in classes at Poinciana by the registration deadline of August 11.

Located on 19 acres of land donated by Osceola County, the Poinciana Campus will primarily serve students who graduate from Liberty and Poinciana high schools. Because of the community's remote location and minimal infrastructure, getting a college education has been a challenge. Students have had to travel 45 minutes by car to Valencia's Osceola Campus in Kissimmee or endure a bus commute that can take two and a half hours.

"We identified that the Osceola County high schools with the lowest college-going rates are

in Poinciana," says Kathleen Plinske, president of Valencia's Osceola, Lake Nona and Poinciana campuses. "Our hypothesis is that this has everything to do with lack of access to higher education. If you have to work or if you're taking care of your family, it's really difficult to spend five hours on a commute."

"Imagine how different the future will be when students from Poinciana only have to spend 15 minutes on the bus, instead of five hours," Plinske says. "Imagine how many more of our students will be able to pursue a college education when a campus is in their backyard."

Valencia student Stacy Bernabel has been driving 45 minutes to the Osceola Campus and an hour and a half to the West Campus for her hospitality classes, with a car that broke down several times. Poinciana, she says, will change all of that for future Valencia students.

"Our parents will be able to go to college, and we can go to college," Bernabel says. "Now there's no excuse for us to say we can't go to school."

The Poinciana Campus, which Valencia President Sandy Shugart has called "a game changer," is more than a building; it's an event for the entire community.

[valenciacollege.edu/poinciana-scholarship](http://valenciacollege.edu/poinciana-scholarship)







Valencia's founders faced  
closed doors and closed minds, but  
persevered to create a college for the community.



# *YEARS OF OPENING DOORS & CHANGING LIVES*

// BY LINDA SHRIEVES BEATY

When Valencia Junior College opened its doors in 1967, in 20 portable classrooms set in a field behind Mid-Florida Tech, not many would have bet on its future.

From the moment that legislators in Tallahassee began drawing up plans for a network of community colleges across the state, Orlando's power brokers strongly opposed the idea of a public community college in their backyard. And while other community colleges began popping up—and were straining from their growing enrollments—Orlando had none.

There was no need for a community college, said Valencia's opponents, led by Martin Andersen, publisher of the Orlando Morning Sentinel and the Orlando Evening Star newspapers. Andersen and others objected to a new community college, preferred to support Orlando Junior College (OJC), an existing private college (located on the grounds of what is now Lake Highland Preparatory

School) that was only open “for white Christians.” Andersen and his supporters also argued that a new community college might siphon state funds away from a proposed state university in Orlando—which would become the University of Central Florida.

But the times—and Central Florida—were changing. While debate about a community college raged—one that would be open to students of any race or religion—Orlando was poised at an intersection, about to embark on a decade of great change.



Once a sleepy citrus town, Orlando had begun to buzz with activity. In 1957, the Glenn L. Martin Company opened a missiles factory in Orlando, to fuel the space race at Kennedy Space Center, and soon dozens of subcontractors set up shop in Central Florida. In 1965, Walt Disney announced that he was planning to build Walt Disney World® on the outskirts of Orlando, and the stage was set for a growth trajectory that today’s urban planners could only dream about.

Orlando’s booming population—along with massive growth throughout the state—created both challenges and opportunities. With large numbers of Baby Boomers prepared to enroll in college, Florida’s state universities could not handle the swelling tide of freshmen and raised admission standards. Suddenly, many prospective college students couldn’t get in the front door of their state universities.

To cope with this growth, more than a dozen community colleges opened across Florida in the 1960s—yet Valencia was among the last to open because many of Orlando’s power brokers objected to a junior college that was open to all students, regardless of race or religion.

For more than six years, from 1961 to 1967, a political battle ensued—as the newspaper publisher and school board faced off against a handful of community members who believed Orlando needed a public community college. Those backing the new college included Martin Company officials and the owner and general manager of WFTV, Joseph Brechner.

Brechner waged a six-year campaign for a community college in Orlando, often reading editorials on the air and urging viewers to start a letter-writing campaign to the governor and state legislators.

“

*When it finally came into being, it came as one of the best-planned and finest community colleges in the country.”*

Meanwhile, in Tallahassee, state education officials were exasperated by the logjam in Orlando, which they blamed on “local politics, short-sighted business leaders and a local newspaper.” While the power brokers in Orlando remained at an impasse, Brevard, Volusia and Lake counties had already started community colleges—and, statewide, community colleges were growing dramatically.

As the debate about Valencia raged, Martin Company officials grew frustrated. Aside from the engineering jobs—which often went to engineers trained out of state—Martin was forced to hire technicians from outside the Orlando area too,

because there was no technical training available locally. At one point, Martin offered Orlando Junior College \$1 million to add technical training classes—and open its college to the black and Jewish students. The OJC board refused.

Several factors finally broke the stalemate. When the Civil Rights Act of 1965 passed, OJC still refused to open its doors to minorities—and lost its eligibility to receive federal financial aid. Shortly after that, the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce endorsed the idea of a public community college. When new UCF President Charles Millican vocally supported a community college for Orange County—and Sentinel publisher Andersen sold the newspapers—the local school board finally acquiesced.

Finally, in December 1966, the Orange County School Board voted unanimously to open a public junior college in the fall of 1967.

“Valencia Community College had the longest gestation period of any of Florida’s public community colleges,” recalled Lee Henderson of the Florida Department of Education. “But I’ve often thought that maybe that wasn’t all bad, because when it finally came into being, it came as one of the best-planned and finest community colleges in the country.”



Valencia College opened its doors in a series of portables in 1967, opening the door to higher education for minority students. Orlando was changing dramatically at the time, thanks to the space race, the Martin Company, and the announcement that Walt Disney was building a theme park on the outskirts of Orlando.



## OPENING THE DOOR FOR MINORITIES



Until Valencia opened its doors in 1967, blacks who couldn't afford to move to Tallahassee to attend Florida A&M University or to Daytona Beach to attend Bethune-Cookman College, both historically black colleges and universities, had little choice at home.

But many blacks in Orlando didn't earn enough money to go away to school.

"There weren't a lot of jobs for blacks in Orlando at that time. You worked for the post office or the military, but a number of (black) people worked for these families that were in power—and so you would hear the conversations at dinner. And it was no dark secret that there were those in leadership who did not want to see Valencia open," recalled Reggie McGill, who began attending classes at Valencia in 1973. "That's why the historically black colleges played such a major role. FAMU and Bethune-Cookman were the avenue to higher education in the early '60s and before."

Before Valencia opened in 1967, McGill recalled, his older sister wanted to attend nursing school. As a light-skinned African-American woman, she applied to Orlando Junior College, hoping the registrar wouldn't realize she was black. But she was turned down—and instead had to drive to Brevard Community College every day.

For whites, Orlando Junior College may have been convenient, but it wasn't cheap. In 1961, tuition was \$450 a year, which state officials noted was four times the cost of Florida's public

community colleges. As a result, many white students were shut out too.

Although Valencia opened its classrooms to minorities from its first day, August 21, 1967, the new community college struggled to attract African-American students at first. Orange County Public Schools hadn't even fully integrated by that time—and many black students opted to go to college elsewhere.

"Those were really just the early days of integration," recalls Don Shaw, former superintendent of Orange County schools, who grew up in Central Florida and later taught at Evans High School.

"I'm not sure how welcome (black students) may have felt in a school with all white students," Shaw said. "They were transitioning through many, many decades of history. I'm sure many of them felt, 'They say I'm welcome here, but I'm not sure I really am.'"

Indeed, in Valencia's early years, many black college-bound students bypassed Valencia for Florida A&M University or Bethune-Cookman College.

But by 1970, black students formed Valencia's Black Student Union. The college also offered a limited "Black Studies program," including two classes on Afro-American history taught by Mrs. Fannie Butler. Almost 80 students signed up for the classes; the majority were white students.

And in 1971, the Black Advisory Committee held a community meeting at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church to teach minority students and their families about Valencia's programs and degrees. More than 600 people attended.

Valencia continued to court black students, however, and hired several staffers to conduct outreach in the black community. In 1983, Geraldine Thompson launched Valencia's College Reach Out Program to motivate minority students to plan for college. Former state representative Alzo Reddick was also hired during that time to focus on recruitment and retention of African-American students.

Valencia launched several programs in 1970s and 1980s to recruit and retain minority students.





## ASSEMBLING THE DREAM TEAM

At Valencia, there were many uphill battles. And in the beginning, even choosing a name for the college was tough.

Naming it Orlando Community College was out of the question, wrote Orville Davis, former superintendent of Orange County Schools, in his book, “Orange County’s Good Fortune: Fifty+ Years of Junior College.”

“The idea of naming it for a type of orange was tested. Parson Brown, Hamlin or Pineapple did not seem quite appropriate, but Valencia quickly fell into place,” Davis wrote. “I scanned rosters of colleges in the United States and found none by that name. We were all pleased with this selection for the motif and the spirit that could be developed around the name ‘Valencia.’”

Meanwhile the school board interviewed candidates to be president of Valencia Junior College—but none impressed them like Dr. Albert Craig, then executive vice president of St. Petersburg Junior College. Before the interview, Craig had already assembled a “dream team” of administrators from St. Petersburg Junior College—people who could hit the ground running and help him build a community college in six months.

The small team of administrators—who still had families and houses in St. Petersburg—rented an apartment on Colonial Drive and spent many evenings planning the college around the small kitchen table. Among them was Jim Gollattscheck, who started as vice president of academic affairs and, in 1970, became Valencia’s second president.

“We took catalogs from junior colleges around the state and would see who had the best description of a class—and used that. We copied and pasted and put together Valencia’s first catalog,” Gollattscheck recalls.

With only months before classes were scheduled to start, and no time to build a campus, Valencia officials borrowed an idea from Brevard Community College—and bought 20 new, air-conditioned portables, which were placed on the property of Mid-Florida Tech.

Faculty members laughingly called it “Shoebox U,” says retired counselor Eugene Simmons.

Students and faculty didn’t mind the portables, but griped frequently about the parking lot—which was never paved. After a heavy rainstorm, it turned a swampy, muddy mess.

Valencia’s trustees, led by Raymer Maguire Jr. (right), hired a “dream team” of leaders from St. Petersburg Junior College, including first president Al Craig (center) and Jim Gollattscheck, who would later be named Valencia’s second president.

In the classroom, some of the professors weren’t much older than the students.

“I was just a young whippersnapper. I was 23. Some of the students were older than I was,” recalled Professor Stanley Melnick, who’d earned his master’s degree from Florida State University and worked for the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va., before getting hired at Valencia in 1968. “I wanted to look older, so I grew a beard to look older.” (See page 20 for more on Stanley)

Many of the faculty members had been recruited from master’s degree programs throughout the state—or were established teachers at Orange County high schools. “I was part of a caravan of graduate students from FSU who went visiting the new colleges and universities throughout the state. We visited Valencia and UCF, which had just opened, and the New College in Sarasota,” recalls Julia Ribley, who was hired in 1969 to join Valencia’s counseling department.



## AN EXPERIMENT FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

When Valencia opened in August 1967, many students were unaware of the political tensions that had been simmering behind the scenes. Dick Batchelor had grown up in Orlando and attended Evans High School. When he returned to Orlando in 1968 after serving with the Marines in Vietnam, he went to enroll at OJC with his G.I. Bill benefits. But when he learned the college didn't admit blacks, he walked out.

At Valencia, he—like many students—found his voice. Batchelor, who'd grown up in a poor Orlo Vista family, began to explore politics and student government. "My family wasn't politically active. My first interest in politics was sparked at Valencia," says Batchelor.

For others, Valencia provided a taste of culture. During the first few years, the college gave students tickets to traveling Broadway shows—and, in 1969, the college paid a Boston-based opera group to come to Orlando to perform "La Traviata" at the Orlando Municipal Auditorium and opened the event to the community. "Students served as ushers," recalled Simmons, who was head of the counseling department. "And many of them had never seen an opera or been to the theater."

With no real campus, sports teams played and practiced all over Orlando. Baseball games were held at Tinker Field in downtown Orlando; basketball games were played at Evans High School and other nearby schools. Students took golf lessons at a golf course on Oak Ridge Road; students taking bowling classes met at a bowling alley on Orange Blossom Trail; and archery was taught in the college parking lot.

For early faculty members, and the first students, the community college was an experiment. But for the generations of students who have come since, Valencia has been a pioneering college—dedicated to serving students.

"Valencia gives students an opportunity to get a quality education close to home," says Melnick, who started teaching in 1968 and retired in 2004—and still teaches as an adjunct. "I still believe that the professors here at the college were just as good or better at teaching—or teaching in the classroom—than going off to a university and getting graduate students teaching. It's a quality education."

In 2001, Time Magazine named Valencia one of the nation's best schools at helping first-year students excel. In 2007, the New York Times named Valencia one of the best community colleges in the nation. And in 2011, Valencia was the first to win the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

Today the college continues to be a champion of innovation, just as it was in the beginning.

"Great institutions don't just happen; they are intentionally and carefully built," says Sandy Shugart, who has served as Valencia's president since 2000. "I am continually moved by the importance of the individual contributions of many, many people to founding, building and nourishing Valencia. None of the founders had anything to gain personally from the creation of Valencia, but they were willing to suffer public controversy and invest thousands of hours of personal time to bring the vision to fruition." ❖

[valenciacollege.edu/opening-doors](http://valenciacollege.edu/opening-doors)



Student life at Valencia included student government and sports teams, including basketball and baseball.



*I am continually moved by the importance of the individual contributions of many, many people to founding, building and nourishing Valencia.*

Jim Gollattscheck, who served as Valencia's president from 1970 to 1984, reminisces with Valencia's current president, Sandy Shugart.



## EVENTS

### JUNE

#### Janet Onofrey: Paintings

June 8 – Aug. 3, 2017

Opening Reception –

Thursday, June 8, 2017 from 6 - 8 p.m.

Anita S. Wooten Gallery

Exhibit by artist whose work captures South Florida's changing landscapes.

*Admission is free.*

### JULY

#### Valencia Dance Summer Repertory Concert

July 14 and 15, 2017 at 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

*Tickets: \$12 general admission; \$10 for students, faculty/staff, alumni and seniors; \$6 for children 12 and under.*

*For more info, contact*

*Theater Box Office: 407-582-2900*

### AUGUST

#### Hye Shin

Aug. 24 – Oct. 17, 2017

Reception – Thursday

Sept. 7, 2017 from 5 – 7 p.m.

Anita S. Wooten Gallery, East Campus

*Visual Arts Department*

*For more info, contact: 407-582-2298*



The "Royal Saxon" painting, Oil on Linen by Janet Onofrey

### OCTOBER

#### Symphonic Band Halloween Concert

Oct. 31, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

East Campus Mall Area

Scary and heroic music from films such as Star Wars, Batman, and Dracula, performed by band members in Halloween costumes.

*Music Department*

*For more info, contact: 407-582-2332*

#### Humanities Speaker Series 2017-2018: Jefferson Pinder

Oct. 23 - 26, 2017

Anita S. Wooten Gallery, East Campus

*Visual Arts Department*

*For more info, contact: 407-582-2298*

We have an exciting musical coming to the stage this October. Stay tuned for more details, updates and ticket information by visiting [valenciacollege.edu/arts](http://valenciacollege.edu/arts)

## NOVEMBER

### Humanities Speaker Series 2017-2018: Dr. Stephon Alexander

Nov. 2, 2017  
Performing Arts Center, East Campus

Professor and author ("The Jazz of Physics") will perform and speak about his musical and scientific life.

### House Band Concert

Nov. 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
Black Box Theater

*Music Department*  
For more info, contact: 407-582-2332

### Valencia Alumni Anniversary Exhibition

Nov. 9 - Dec. 21, 2017  
Opening Reception - Thursday,  
Nov. 9, 2017 from 5 - 7 p.m.  
Anita S. Wooten Gallery, East Campus

*Visual Arts Department*  
For more info, contact: 407-582-2298

### Choreographers' Showcase

Nov. 17 and 18, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

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

### Winter Choral Concert

Nov. 29, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

*Music Department*  
For more info, contact: 407-582-2332



## APRIL 2018

### Spring Jazz Concert

April 5, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

### Spring Opera Theatre Workshop

April 20 and 21, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.  
April 21, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.  
Black Box Theater

*Music Department*  
For more info, contact: 407-582-2332

For all arts and entertainment events, visit [valenciacollege.edu/arts](http://valenciacollege.edu/arts)



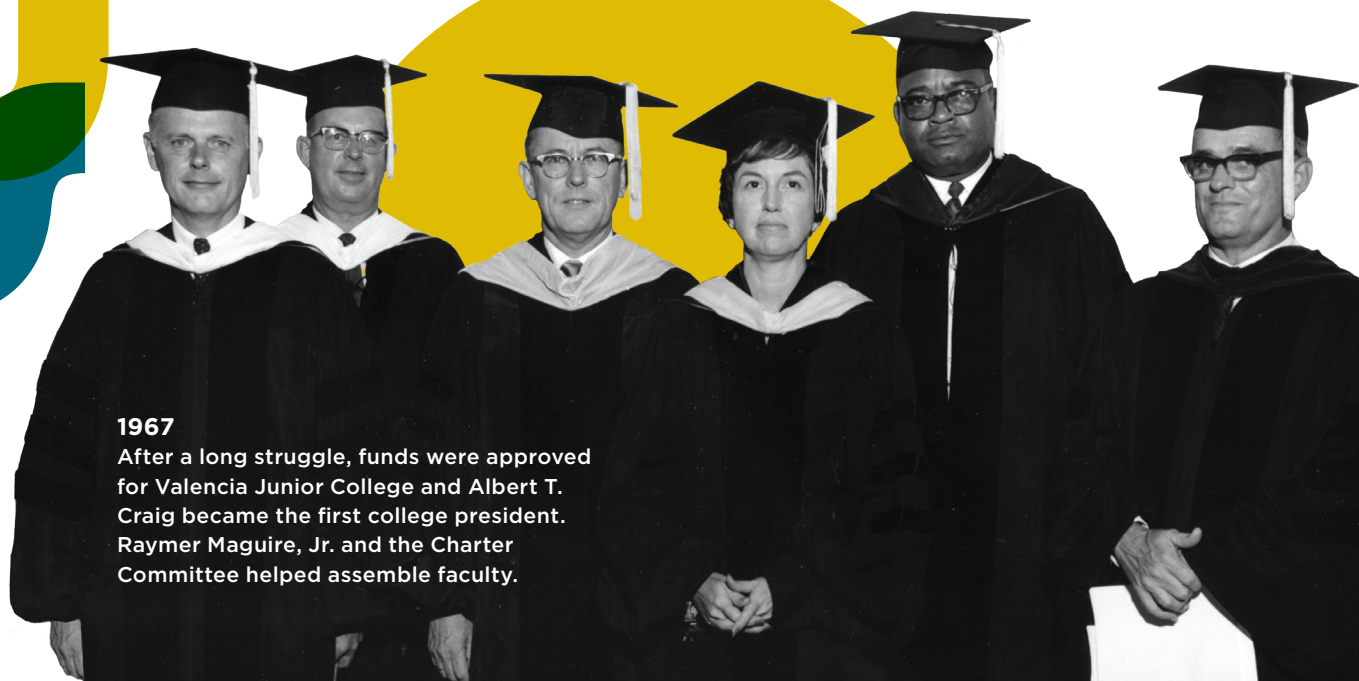
LOOKING  
BACK ON

50

YEARS

1967 - 2017

//BY JIMMY SHERFEY



**1967**

After a long struggle, funds were approved for Valencia Junior College and Albert T. Craig became the first college president. Raymer Maguire, Jr. and the Charter Committee helped assemble faculty.

**1967**

VJC opens for class at Mid-Florida Tech on Oak Ridge Road, where it was often affectionately referred to by students as “Shoebox U,” for its portable classrooms.



**1967 - 69**

Valencia leadership used student activity fees to host traveling cultural events like the opera, La Traviata, which was held at the Orlando Municipal Auditorium (present-day Bob Carr Theater) in 1969.

**1968 - 69**

Valencia’s first sports teams suit up for competition. Basketball squad earns a 16 - 12 record.

**1969**

First Commencement held downtown at the First United Methodist Church of Orlando.



**1970**

James Gollattscheck is appointed as the college's second president, and college leadership attend groundbreaking of West Campus. To replace the citrus trees uprooted during the construction of the new permanent campus, members of the Orlando Garden Club donated various species of trees to adorn Valencia's new home.



**1970**

Thelma Dudley forms the Black Advisory Committee to serve as a liaison between Valencia College and Orlando's black community, providing advice and direction to Valencia's Board of Trustees and President.

**1971**

West Campus opens for classes. Biology Professor Charlie Jean Salter gives students instruction on a procedure.



**1975**

East Campus opens on Econlockhatchee Trail in Orange County, becoming the college's second permanent site. Initially, people referred to the campus as "Gollattscheck's Folly" as it was located in, what many regarded at the time, a far-flung area of the county. Today, East Campus has the highest enrollment of all five Valencia campuses.

**1977**

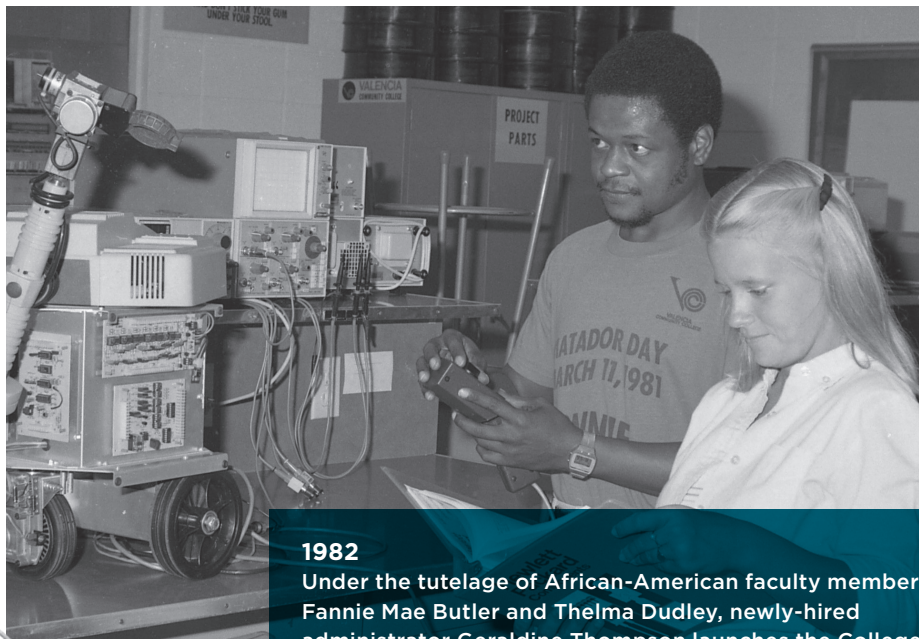
Valencia Matadors baseball team wins the state championship.





### 1980s

Early intramural activities thrived throughout the decade with groups for archery, racquetball and volleyball.



### 1982

Under the tutelage of African-American faculty members, Fannie Mae Butler and Thelma Dudley, newly-hired administrator Geraldine Thompson launches the College Reach Out Program (CROP) enrolling a more diverse student body. The program was a precursor to the popular Bridges to Success program.



### 1984

Paul Gianini is appointed as the third college president. During his tenure, Valencia pushes for more engagement with growing industry and expanding innovation in Central Florida.



**1990**

African American Cultural Society continues to grow, and in 1990, the student group hosts Rosa Parks, who delivered a speech at St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church.



**1996**  
First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Microsoft founder Bill Gates visit on separate occasions to speak with Valencia students and faculty.



**1997**

Permanent Osceola campus opens on Denn John Lane near downtown Kissimmee. With a design founded on "classical-age geometry," the campus's 45- and 90-degree angles create open spaces for students looking to congregate in between classes and at events.



**1998**

The Winter Park Campus is established on Morse Boulevard, moving from a series of office buildings on US Highway 17-92.



**2000**  
 Dr. Sandy Shugart is appointed as Valencia's fourth College President.



**2002**  
 Walt Disney World Center for Hospitality and Culinary Arts opens on West Campus.



**2006**  
 President Shugart and UCF President John Hitt collaborate to establish a groundbreaking, guaranteed transfer agreement, known as DirectConnect, strengthening the 2+2 model and adding to the success and diversity of UCF. In 2014 - 2015, 30 percent of UCF's minority grads came from Valencia.



**2009**  
 President Shugart signs the American College & University President's Climate Commitment. Since then, through carbon emissions accounting and goal setting, Valencia has reduced energy usage by 47 percent while increasing square footage of its buildings by 25 percent.

## 2011

Valencia College becomes the first recipient of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, receives recognition from longtime community college instructor, Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden. Valencia was chosen based on the strength of its graduation and transfer rates, as well as the high job placement rates of its workforce training programs.



## 2012

Valencia's permanent Lake Nona Campus opens in Medical City, enrolling more than 1,600 students in the first semester.

## 2015

According to Community College Week, Valencia College ranked 4th in the nation in associate's degrees awarded. Carrying on the legacy and vision of the college's early leadership, 51 percent of degrees go to minority students.



## 2014

President Barack Obama visits West Campus to discuss healthcare and income equality for women.



## 2015

Basic construction program launches in Osceola to meet growth in Central Florida, while providing alternative education pathways to non-traditional students including ex-convicts looking to avoid recidivism.

## 2016

Advanced Manufacturing Training Center opens offering a talent pipeline for corporations specializing in industrial innovation, such as Lockheed Martin, a frequent collaborator with Valencia since the junior college days.

## 2016

Valencia breaks ground on Poinciana Campus in West Osceola County. At the same time, East Campus in Orange County breaks ground on its 30,705 square-foot Film, Sound and Music Tech Building.

## Spring 2017

Valencia breaks ground on its joint downtown campus with UCF. Located in the Creative Village, Valencia will play a crucial role in providing affordable and accessible higher education to more of the public—just as the college did when it opened a temporary campus on Oak Ridge Road.





Professor Stanley Melnick was hired to teach at Valencia (then Valencia Junior College) in 1968.

Hired  
1968  
Retired  
2005



# Stanley Melnick

## A ‘whippersnapper’ recalls the college’s early years.

//BY LINDA SHRIEVES BEATY

When the first students signed up for classes at Valencia’s portable campus on Oak Ridge Road, they knew they were in for an adventure.

And so too, was the faculty.

Many of them were fresh out of graduate school, eager for jobs and the opportunity to teach—even if they were teaching in portable classrooms stuck in a field behind a technical school.

“In the Christmas of 1967, Valencia was in the middle of its first year, and I walked into the campus on Oak Ridge Road and told them I’m looking for a job in the next academic year,” says Stanley Melnick. “Here’s my resume and I had a letter from my commanding officer, who was a general at the time.”

Melnick was hired in fall of 1968 and retired from Valencia in 2005. Today, he teaches political science as an adjunct on Valencia’s West Campus.

Melnick, who had earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Florida State University, didn’t come directly to Valencia from FSU. Instead, he got drafted to serve in the Marine Corps. But he never went abroad—instead, the Marines’ brass sent Melnick, who’d flunked out of Officer Candidate

School, to Quantico, Va., where he was assigned to the Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

“I was in charge of running the audio-visual section for all the officers who were the instructors,” recalls Melnick. “We would have ambassadors come in, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, all the people who would give presentations. I was in charge of making sure that all the slides and films went on as they were supposed to. It was a neat job.”

At one point, his superiors offered him the chance to go back to Officer Candidate School. Melnick declined the offer.

“The only time I shot a weapon,” he notes, “was in training.”

After serving for his required two years, Melnick applied for teaching jobs at community colleges throughout Florida. He landed a job at Daytona State Community College in early 1968 and, after a few months, Valencia called with a job offer.

Melnick, who’d majored in political science and minored in sociology, first began teaching sociology.

“I was just a young whippersnapper. I was 23,” he said. “Some of the students were older than I was. I wanted to look older, so I grew a beard to look older.”

He quickly bonded with the other faculty members – who came from a variety of backgrounds. Some, like Julia Ribley, had just earned their master’s degrees and had been job hunting at the 26 new community colleges throughout the state; others were veteran teachers from Orlando Junior College and local high schools. “It was fun back there. You were starting something unique,” he says. “Everybody was gung ho.”

So when Valencia began building its first campus on Kirkman Road, the faculty and staff were thrilled.

“It was out in the boondocks in the beginning. Kirkman was just a two-lane road, built specifically to get workers to the Martin Plant from Pine Hills. But south of Winter Garden Road, there was nothing,” recalled Melnick.

When the West Campus opened for classes in 1971, Building 1 housed the library, labs and administrative offices. The classrooms were in portables.

Melnick and his wife bought a house in Pine Hills and raised their kids there. In the 1970s, he earned his doctorate through a program offered to community college professors through NOVA Southeastern University. “It took me four years



to do it, but it was one of the best decisions I ever made,” he notes. “So I have a feeling for what students who are working part-time or full-time go through as they try to earn a degree.”

For Melnick, just as the students, Valencia represented opportunity. Over the years, he has traveled to Europe, Russia, Eastern Europe, China and Costa Rica, to study international politics. But one of his most memorable experiences came in 1980, when he participated in a faculty exchange with Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada—and taught sociology.

“I traveled up with my wife and my kids and I taught sociology classes,” recalls Melnick. It was a wonderful opportunity. My kids learned French; they learned how to ski. I basically became a Canadian. I took up curling. I went hiking every day in the Canadian Rockies.”

He was having so much fun that he extended the exchange for another year. “Valencia auditors called me up in Canada and said, ‘Are you really there?’”

Over time, Valencia’s student body has changed, but the college’s mission remains the same, says Melnick. “It’s an opportunity for students to get

a quality education close to home,” he says, “and I still believe that the professors here at the college were just as good or better at teaching—or teaching in the classroom—than going off to university and getting graduate students teaching.

“Everybody has an opportunity to do well. That’s what Valencia offers, it doesn’t mean everyone’s going to do well,” he says. “Valencia is wonderful; it hasn’t changed.”

[valenciacollege.edu/stanley-melnick](http://valenciacollege.edu/stanley-melnick)



**Some of the students were older than I was. I wanted to look older, so I grew a beard to look older.”**


Professor Stanley Melnick started teaching at Valencia in 1968, one year after the college opened.



Melnick helps a student prepare for her “Melville” presentation. (top left)



Melnick, who teaches state and local government, encourages students to dive into the subject by creating their own versions of the fictional town of “Melville.”


 A photograph of Eric Fleming, a man with grey hair wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue and white checkered shirt, smiling and looking towards the right. Next to him is a woman with dark hair, also smiling and looking towards the right. They are standing in front of a large, colorful abstract mural. In the foreground, a professional RED DRAGON camera is visible, with its lens and various attachments. The camera has 'RED DRAGON' printed on it. The lighting is dramatic, with strong red and blue tones.
 

# Eric Fleming Teaches Students the Art of the Reel—in the Real World

// BY LINDA SHRIEVES BEATY

To teach dreamers hoping to break into one of the world's most exclusive professions, you have to be honest.

And Eric Fleming, chair of Valencia's film production technology program, has plenty of stories to share. A 20-year Hollywood veteran who maintains his Writers Guild of America membership, he currently has four projects in development, including a

TV series he's working on with actor Michael Keaton called "Turnpike Gypsies" that's in pre-production.

"Turnpike Gypsies has been six years in development—SIX YEARS," Fleming marvels. "I tell the students, 'This is the life of a creative project in Hollywood.' I show them six-year-old notes from Keaton about it, the many rewrites... all of it."

For students in Valencia's film program, working with Fleming gives them a chance to work on the many types of projects that he's involved in. "All of these things I try to involve the school in," says Fleming. "That's part of the excitement and makes it more fulfilling—it gives the students teaching moments."

A Florida State film school alumnus, Fleming went to Hollywood with a seven-minute, comic “mockumentary” called “Fallen Arches,” (now on Youtube) about a boozy, washed-up Ronald McDonald. The short film earned him Hollywood attention and a front-page story on the pages of “Variety.”

What followed next was six years of working in a variety of industry jobs, doing rewrites for Paramount, creating TV shows for networks, and working on original screenplays. In 2004, Fleming made his first feature film, “The Almost Guys.”

“Funny characters, funny dialogue and funny situations,” the Minneapolis Star-Tribune enthused about Fleming’s repo man kidnapping comedy, which premiered at HBO’s U.S. Comedy Festival in Aspen.

Along the way, he learned many lessons about life and work in Hollywood.

“I’m really honest with the students because I think it helps them,” says Fleming. “I tell them about script changes I had to make, ones I shouldn’t have agreed to. I tell them, ‘You have to be hopeful and positive, but realistic at the same time.’”

Valencia’s 65 film students—up from 41 when Fleming took over for the program’s founder, the late

Ralph Clemente, in 2015—learn screenwriting and the technical trades associated with film production. They work on independent movies and TV shows in which Valencia provides gear and student labor, producers provide financing, script, talent and hire Hollywood pros who mentor students, who experience “crazy hours” and absorb the vibe of a working film set. Over the years, they’ve been exposed to directors both calm and manic, and mastered how

to handle legends (Ruby Dee, Julie Harris), rising stars (Kat Dennings) and divas (Corey Feldman).

That isn’t changing. Indeed, this summer, the film students and the iconic Valencia Film trucks will travel to Oklahoma to help shoot a feature film (tentatively titled “Rancher”) being financed by the Chickasaw Nation. “This may be the biggest project we’ve ever worked on,” says Fleming, who notes that the big-budget film will feature a wide

In Valencia’s film program, students gain experience using digital film cameras, and setting up lighting and sound for filmmakers. Students also learn to work as grips, editors and set builders.





Valencia film students will drive the film trucks to Oklahoma this semester to help film a big-budget Western.



**The demand for content—in films, on TV, streaming—is soaring. There’s a greater chance for diverse voices to be heard.”**

variety of opportunities for students and will include great Western scenes, including a cattle stampede.

But the emphasis of Valencia’s film program is evolving, just as the TV and film industry are evolving.

“We’ve got to meet the needs of a shifting industry, so we’re going to put more emphasis in training people in the post-production trades. Every movie, or ABC, HBO, Netflix or Apple series needs post-production colorists, sound mixers, et cetera,” says Fleming. Films also need production managers, another career avenue for a Valencia graduate.

Then there’s the salesmanship it takes to land financing to get what you’ve had a hand in creating filmed—“pitching.”

“You’ve got to get in a room and tell your story in a way that gets

someone to buy it,” Fleming says. “I’ve done a LOT of that over the years.” Learning to pitch “empowers students and lets them be the architect of their own careers.”

After working for more than two decades in Hollywood, the 40-something Fleming was drawn to Valencia’s unique program, which operates “like a small independent film studio” and the opportunities that the changing entertainment business offers for filmmakers from all backgrounds.

“You don’t need to be a ‘trust fund kid’ to get your movie or TV show made anymore,” he says, “You don’t need to go through a studio or network. The demand for content—in films, on TV, streaming—is soaring. There’s a greater chance for diverse voices to be heard.”

And with the new Film, Sound and Music Technology Building opening this summer, “We’ll be set up to shoot movies, mix music and soundtracks” all in one place. Fleming is currently arranging for the film students to shoot a TV pilot—with plans to shoot an entire TV series using the student program.

The new building’s sound stage and the Dolby certified mixing stage will also attract more industry partners who want to bring their productions to Valencia.

The Dolby certified mixing stage is one of the primary reasons. “I think we’re one of the only educational institutions in the country with that kind of facility,” he says, noting that “it allows us to create a project from start-to-finish in house. We can offer the chance for an industry partner to do an entire film with us, all the way through post-production, in our building with our students.

“It’s a very exciting time—and we’re excited about all the possibilities.” ▼

[valenciacollege.edu/eric-fleming](http://valenciacollege.edu/eric-fleming)

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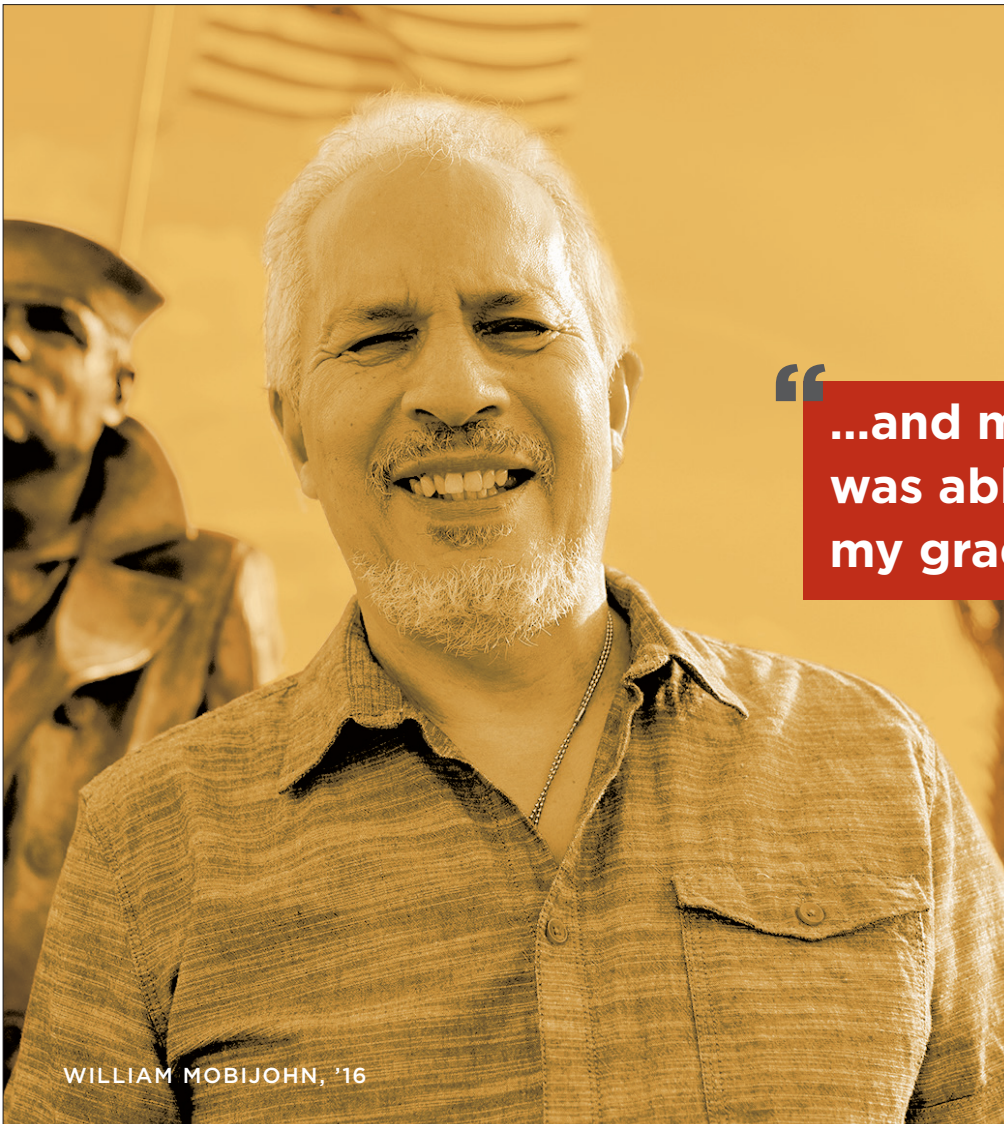
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*Define yourself.*



In the late 1960s, this aspirational billboard was placed beside Lake Pamela, along Kirkman Road, to announce the planned location for Valencia's West Campus.



WILLIAM MOBIJOHN, '16

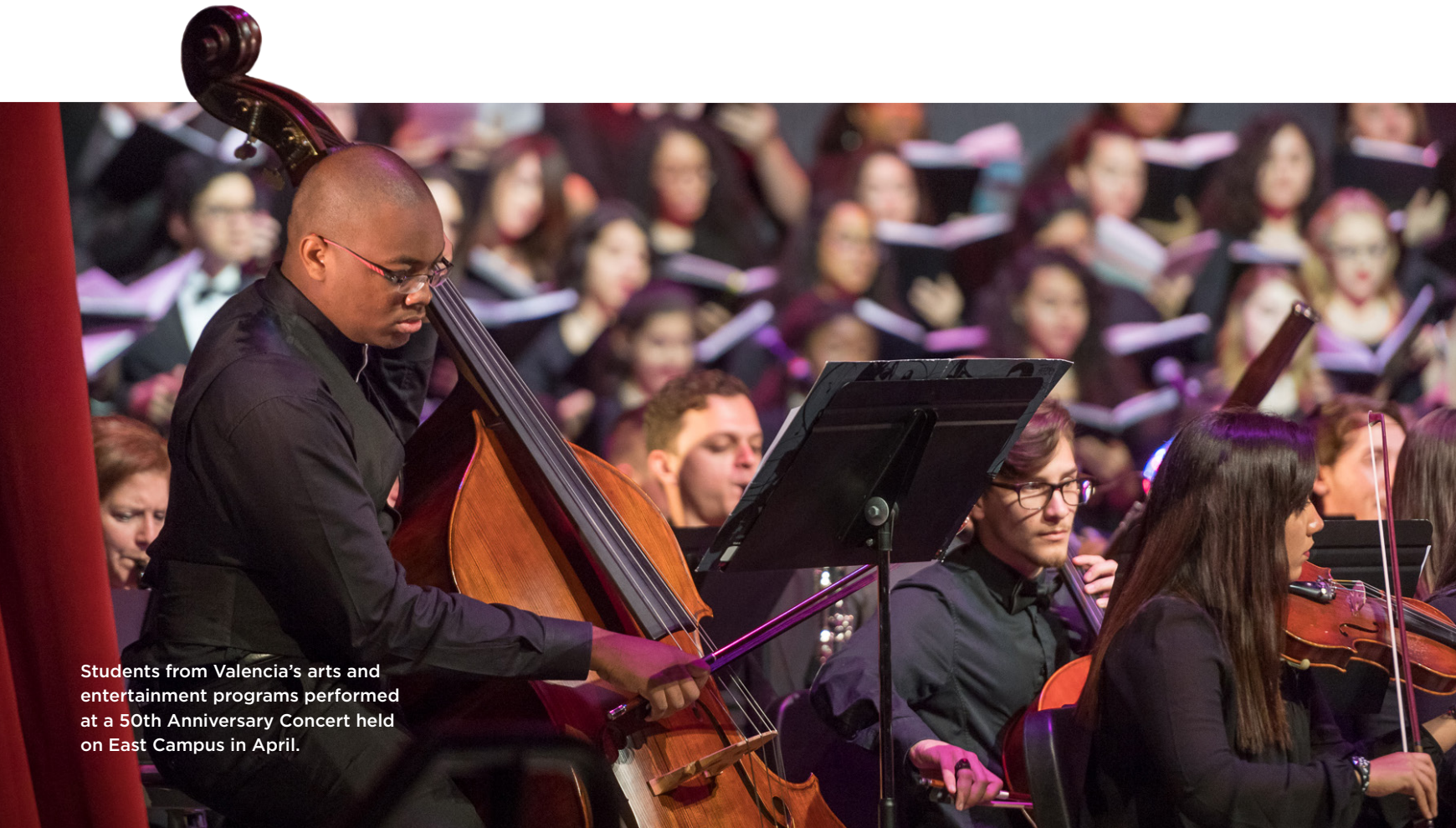
William is a Vietnam veteran.  
 He returned to college and  
 earned his degree at age 68.  
 He never gave up.

“  
**...and my whole family  
 was able to join me at  
 my graduation ceremony.**  
 ”

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**VALENCIA**COLLEGE



Students from Valencia's arts and entertainment programs performed at a 50th Anniversary Concert held on East Campus in April.



Valencia's Distinguished Graduate, Rula Khalaf, addressed her fellow graduates as 1,600 students marched across the stage at the UCF Arena in May at Valencia's 48th Commencement Ceremony.

Handlers from the Central Florida Zoo brought live animals, including this skink, and levity to Winter Park Campus' Earth Day Celebration.



Rep. Darren Soto (left) and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, held a roundtable discussion with Valencia students at the Osceola Campus in January.



In April, Law Enforcement officers from Orlando and Orange County joined Valencia's School of Public Safety to honor Valencia graduates who died in the line of duty.



Mayor Buddy Dyer and West Campus President Falecia Williams joined in the "50 Years, 50 Trees" celebration, which will plant 50 trees on Valencia campuses to commemorate the College's 50th Anniversary.





## Michael Maguire, '95

After graduating from Valencia College, Michael was recognized as a National Hispanic Merit Scholar and was awarded several scholarships to Florida State University. While attending FSU, he headed a 15-member production department for a Tallahassee radio station and was heavily involved with FSU's High Flying Circus as a juggler and trapeze artist. After earning a bachelor's degree in communications, he taught English overseas and spent a year traveling around Europe, living in several cities in Poland and Germany.

Upon returning home, Michael began his production career as a project and talent coordinator for Disney and the Universal Studios Production Group. During his tenure, he worked on several high-profile TV and commercial projects, including 'N Sync's first music video, "I Want You Back," the Backstreet Boys' "As Long As You Love Me," ABC's "Very Merry Christmas Special," and psychic John Edward's television series, "Crossing Over."

Michael then spent five years producing commercials and marketing materials for resort industry clients including Hilton, Marriott, Westgate Resorts, and Disney Vacation Club.

In 2004, Michael and record producer Maurice Starr (who created New Kids on the Block) co-produced several music videos for gospel group Five Young Men, and the pop boy band The Heartbeat Boys.

Pursuing his passion for educational video, Michael accepted a video producer position with Valencia College in 2005 and was later promoted to operations manager for Valencia Productions. After joining Valencia, Michael earned an MBA from Rollins College's Crummer School of Business, graduating summa cum laude. Today, he manages Valencia's video department and works with college faculty to develop educational videos for online learning.

**1 Paul Skinner, '77, '79**

Paul graduated from Valencia with an A.S. in Fire Technology in 1977, and an AA in 1979. Through the years, his VCC degrees helped him advance through the ranks in the Orlando Fire Department, from which he retired in 1996 as an assistant chief. Paul then served as Daytona Beach's fire chief for six years. Paul earned a



bachelor's degree in fire and safety engineering technology from the University of Cincinnati in 1992 and, in 1996, earned a master's degree in public administration from UCF, where he was selected as their outstanding graduate.

**Randy Harvey, '77**

(Not pictured)

Randolf Harvey is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist and was recently recognized with the Alice Magaw Outstanding Clinical Practitioner Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

**Eddie Ruiz, '99**

(Not pictured)

In July 2016, Eddie was selected to serve as the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Equity and Access for the School District of Palm Beach County.

**2 Richard Martin Smith, '00**

Richard is a biological scientist at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Mid-Florida Research and Education

Center in Apopka. Recently, his study on *Humulus lupulus*, the plant that yields the flowers used in beer production, commonly known as hops, challenged long-held beliefs about the ability to grow and produce hops in the Southeast U.S. This research has captured the attention of National Public Radio, the Wall Street Journal,



and the Orlando Sentinel. Richard is also owner of Florida Hops, an organization that seeks to foster the development of the highest quality, locally grown ingredients for home brewers and craft brewers.

**Monica Reyes, '03**

(Not pictured)

Monica is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Cancer Prevention Research Training Program at MD Anderson, studying the late-effects of cancer treatment on the heart in cancer survivors. She recently received an American Association for Cancer Research Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award.

**3 Marcy Porter, '05**

(Not pictured)

Since earning her a bachelor's degree in psychology from UCF and a master's degree in counseling psychology, Marcy has spent the past eight years working as a mental health outpatient therapist. A former president of the Valencia College

Alumni Association, Marcy currently serves on Valencia College's Institutional Review Board (IRB) as a community representative.

someone how setting aside \$25 every month can change their future. Jacqueline lives in Boca Raton.

**Rosanda Williams, '13**

(Not pictured)

After graduating from Valencia, Rosanda worked at Hilton Hotels for three years and participated in the American Culinary Federation's national competition "Cook. Craft. Create." Today, she works as a food stylist and recently finished TV commercial and print ads for Disney, and a photo shoot for Ruth's Chris Steak House.



**4 Carvis Durr, '14**

Carvis earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from UCF, with a minor in Nonprofit Management in 2016. He is a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP). He currently works for Orange County Public Schools as the department lead/program coordinator for Food and Nutrition Services Meal Benefits/Free and Reduced Lunch Program. After obtaining his MBA, he plans on pursuing a doctorate in public health.

**3 Gena Filion, '07**

After earning her bachelor's degree in business administration from UCF, Gena held several roles in banking. Today, she is the Marketing Analyst at Crossman & Company, one of the largest retail leasing, management, and investment sales firms in the Southeast.

**Jacqueline Dheere, '09**

(Not pictured)

Jacqueline is a regional vice president and investment advisor representative with Primerica Advisors and has been repeatedly recognized for her work. One of her greatest joys is showing

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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](mailto:alumni@valenciacollege.edu)



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# Here's to 50 Years, Valencia!

//BY LINDA SHRIEVES BEATY

At a college named for an orange—which also happens to have a terrific culinary school—we could think of only one way to celebrate our 50th year: By creating a bunch of orange-juice cocktails. We enlisted the help of Chef Ken Bourgoïn, of Valencia's culinary program, and the results were intoxicating (well, only if you use liquor). So lift a glass, Valencians, and cheer the college's 50th year! (And be grateful the college wasn't named for a grapefruit.)

## Orange Tower Cocktail

A stand-out cocktail for a college that towers over its competition! (Ok, we like to brag.) But the key to this cocktail may be the type of orange juice you choose. Chef Ken prefers juice made from Honeybell oranges. The original recipe calls for Southern Comfort, but Chef Ken suggests substituting a single malt scotch or whiskey.

### Ingredients

- + Splash of Grenadine
- + 3 ounces (90ml) Orange Juice
- + 1 1/2 ounces (45ml) Southern Comfort
- + 1 1/2 ounces (45ml) Amaretto



## TIPS ON HOW TO GARNISH A COCKTAIL

1. **Use big ice cubes.** Small cubes or crushed ice melt quickly and leave your potent potable watery.
2. **Zest adds a hefty dose of flavor to any drink.** If you don't have a zester, use a vegetable peeler or a microplane.
3. **Chill the glass in advance.** Put cocktail glasses in your fridge three hours before a party.
4. **To really blend flavors, use a muddler.** It helps blend sugar with the pulp and oils of citrus fruits. When choosing a muddler, pick one that has a plastic or wooden bottom, so you don't scratch your glassware while muddling.

## Blood Orange Margarita



### Ingredients

- + Kosher salt
- + Crushed ice
- + 1/2 cup fresh blood orange juice
- + 2 ounces tequila
- + 1 ounce triple sec or 1 ounce Cointreau liqueur
- + Blood orange wedge, for garnish

### Directions

- + Moisten rim of 2 margarita glasses and dip in kosher salt
- + Fill a cocktail shaker with crushed ice
- + Add orange juice, tequila and triple sec
- + Shake well and strain into glasses
- + Garnish with orange wedges, if desired



[valenciacollege.edu/howtorecipes](http://valenciacollege.edu/howtorecipes)

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**Richard Crotty '70**

Principal  
Richard Crotty Consulting Group  
Orlando, Florida  
Valencia Alumni Association Member



YEARS