

V I T A E

WINTER 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF
VALENCIA COLLEGE



MACHINE
WHISPERER



Master the means of fixing machines
in mechatronics.



26

IN PICTURES

Students celebrate the start of a new semester during Welcome Week on West Campus.

VITAE

THE MAGAZINE OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

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Vitae is published biannually by Valencia College's Marketing Department in coordination with Alumni Relations for approximately 77 cents an issue. Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the official position of Valencia College or the Valencia Alumni Association.

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

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

Valencia College is a member of the Florida College System.

VALENCIACOLLEGE

CONTENTS



2 / **NEWS**
Be in the know—from community partnership work to college announcements.

4 / **FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT**
Breaking barriers from the classroom to a career in engineering.

6 / **COVER STORY: KICK IT INTO HIGH GEAR**
Mechatronics grads share their stories about becoming the newest machine whisperers.

12 / **EVENTS**
Whether you're into the arts or campus gatherings, we have you covered.

14 / **CAMPUS NOOKS WITH MORE THAN TEXTBOOKS**
Inside stranger spaces that students love.

19 / **UP CLOSE**
Discover downtown, like the height of UnionWest compared to Cinderella's Castle.

20 / **EXPERT SPOTLIGHT**
Find out who's cooking up future chefs that'll make O-Town the next food town.



23 / **ARTS SPOTLIGHT**
Extending a love for creativity beyond the classroom through the language of art.

26 / **IN PICTURES**
Check out everything this summer and fall had to offer around our campuses.

30 / **CLASS NOTES**
Alumni news—from national recognitions and local involvement to future plans.

33 / **HOW TO**
Discover the ways small gestures make a big impact on our community.



Disney Will Cover Tuition for Employees Attending Valencia College Through Disney Aspire

Beginning January 2019, The Walt Disney Company will pay 100 percent of tuition for all eligible hourly employees enrolling at Valencia College through Disney Aspire. The entertainment company launched Disney Aspire in September, pledging to invest up to \$150 million in the first five years of the education benefit program

for more than 80,000 of its “cast members” in the United States.

Denver-based company Guild Education will administer the enrollment process for Disney employees pursuing select undergraduate degrees and certificates. Students enrolling at Valencia College through Disney Aspire will have the option to take classes online or in person. Full-time and part-time U.S.-based hourly employees become eligible after 90 days with the company. They are not required to pursue a degree or certificate related to their current role at Disney.



©Disney

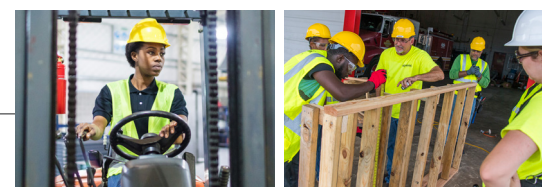
Two New Career Training Buildings Coming to Osceola Campus

In January 2019, Valencia College will open the first of two new career training buildings on its Osceola Campus in Kissimmee. The Center for Accelerated Training (CAT) will house short-term programs in construction, transportation logistics/warehouse packaging, clinical medical assistance and residential apartment service maintenance. The 14,700 square-foot building will also be home to the campus’s continuing education language programs, including English for speakers of other languages and intensive English,

as well as Spanish and Portuguese. Modeled after the single-story structure on the new Poinciana Campus, it will become the college’s third CAT building (a fourth is set to open in downtown Orlando in spring of 2019).

The Careers in Industry and Technology (CIT) building, the second new addition to Osceola Campus, will provide classrooms and lab space to support more two-year A.S. degrees, including residential property management, hospitality and tourism, and engineering technology. The

53,000-square-foot building will also provide lab space for the advanced manufacturing mechatronics program and the certificate in supply chain automation. The CIT building is slated to open in January 2020.



Kathleen Plinske Named Executive Vice President and Provost



Valencia College President Sandy Shugart has publicly announced the appointment of Dr. Kathleen Plinske to the newly created role of executive vice president and provost.

In her new role, Plinske will lead Valencia College's planning process and provide leadership to the college's academic affairs, student affairs, educational partnerships and analytics teams. She will also be charged with building relationships in the community, as well as with state and national organizations.

Since joining the college in 2010, Plinske has worked diligently to increase access to higher education in the region: overseeing construction of the Valencia College Lake Nona Campus in 2012; launching the "Got College?" campaign in 2013, a community wide initiative that increased Osceola County's college-going rate by more than 20 percent; and mobilizing community and legislative support for the Poinciana Campus, which opened in 2017.

A native of Crystal Lake, Ill., Plinske earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish and physics from Indiana University, a master's degree in Spanish from Roosevelt University in Chicago, a master's degree in business administration from the University of Florida and a doctorate in education from Pepperdine University in California. In her spare time, Plinske is an avid golfer and a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan.

CareerSource Taps Valencia College to Provide English Courses to Displaced Citizens

Through a federal grant awarded to CareerSource Central Florida (CSCF), Valencia College will provide English language courses to citizens displaced by Hurricanes Maria and Irma.

CareerSource will allocate \$6 million from the National Dislocated Worker Grant to fund a variety of community orientation resources provided by local institutions. These services include: individual career consultation; job placement support; financial advice; and increased access to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes.

Since signing an agreement with CareerSource in July 2018, Valencia College's Continuing Education

division has provided orientation workshops and English language instruction to dozens of individuals, many of whom have relocated from Puerto Rico. Students enrolled in language courses receive scholarships to cover tuition and book fees for two terms in Valencia College's Intensive English Program (IEP), and they are eligible to reapply for this aid for the duration of this program, which is expected to run through December 2019.

"This will be a great service to our growing community," says Nelson Placa, Valencia College's director of continuing international education. "Improving their English skills will help displaced citizens find a job in their area of expertise."



Breaking Barriers

// BY ANGELA MENDOLARO

First-generation students experience a unique set of challenges and barriers to pursuing their dream of a college degree. Without a parent who has navigated college, they are forging their own paths. Many have witnessed their parents struggle in the job market without a degree. They also recognize that they are setting an example for their siblings and generations to come.

Florida's First Generation Matching Grant Program (FGMG) is a need-based grant program available to degree-seeking, state resident, undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need, and whose parents have not earned a bachelor's degree or higher. Available state funds are contingent upon matching contributions from private philanthropic sources. Thanks to the generous donors of Valencia College Foundation, more than \$3.1 million in scholarships has been awarded to more than 3,500 first-generation students since 2007.

"For first-generation students, a college degree not only transforms their lives, but alters the trajectory of their families for generations to come," said Geraldine Gallagher, Valencia College Foundation president and CEO.

This is certainly true for Christian Pinto Rey '08, who emigrated from Colombia to Queens, New York, with his mother and two older brothers when he was around six years old. His mother worked in a jewelry factory, and his brothers started working in a supermarket when they were 15 to help support the family. Christian joined his brothers at the supermarket stocking shelves when he was 12. His brothers each obtained a commercial driver's license (CDL) and earned good livings, first as truck drivers then working their way up to management.



Non-technical/Administrative Data Only. Not subject to EAR or ITAR Export Regulations. Photograph by Carolyn Bacque

For first-generation students, a college degree not only transforms their lives, but alters the trajectory of their families for generations to come."

Christian followed in his brothers' footsteps and obtained his CDL, but he wanted something more for his life. "Even though the income was good, it wasn't the career I wanted," explained Christian. "The industry was changing more than I liked. There was flux in income and job security."

Christian always knew that he wanted to pursue higher education, but didn't think it was possible until a cousin pushed him to apply. His family had relocated to Orlando several years earlier, and at age 25 Christian charted a new course and enrolled at Valencia College. He earned straight A's his first semester.

Living so close to the space industry and Kennedy Space Center inspired Christian to pursue engineering. Thanks to hard work, financial aid and scholarships, Christian was able to complete his associate degree in two years. His stellar grades earned him a four-year recurring summer internship at NASA's Kennedy Space Center where he inspected the interior of the Space Shuttle Atlantis for its final journey to the International Space Station. An added perk of the

internship: NASA paid half of his college tuition, enabling him to enroll full time at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University after completing an associate degree in engineering at Valencia College.

Today, Christian is a test and evaluation engineer at Boeing, where he is working on the Space Launch System for NASA's history-making mission to Mars. He is also pursuing a master's degree in engineering management. Christian's wife Eloisa Centeno is also a first-generation Valencia College alumna who received her associate degree in 2012. The couple has a son who is five years old and a daughter who is 18 months. Immediately after the birth of their son, Eloisa enrolled at University of Alabama in Huntsville where she completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Christian and Eloisa have succeeded in broadening the horizon for their children. Regarding his children, he says, "We can bestow our experiences on our children. If they are smart, they will work hard and keep moving forward."



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WANT TO SPEND WEEKS GETTING
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**Antwyne
Advanced Manufacturing—Mechatronics
Graduates 2018**

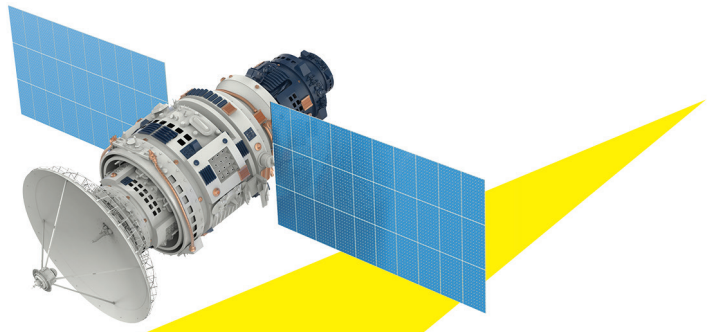
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KICK IT INTO HIGH





// BY LINDA SHRIEVES

GEAR

From artists and nurses to industrial technicians, graduates of Valencia College's mechatronics program are launching new careers.

Savanna Matson knew she needed a new job. Actually, not a new job. She already had two jobs—working 60 or 70 hours a week between her job at an Orlando theme park and another part-time job at a retail store—all to keep her head above water as she juggled car payments, rent and student loan debt. When she had three days off in a six-month period and spent her 21st birthday working at the theme park from the minute the gates opened until they closed 13 hours later, she knew what she really needed was not just another job; she needed a career.

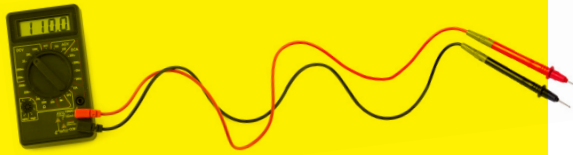
"I did nothing but work. I was exhausted," she says. Even if she wanted to take classes, Matson felt that door was shut. "I didn't have enough money to pay for Wi-Fi, so I couldn't do online classes."





Mechanical electronics

is a relatively new field that combines aspects of mechanical and electrical engineering—along with hands-on troubleshooting.



At Valencia College, mechatronics students learn the basics of hydraulics, electronics, fluid power and maintenance processes—so graduates leave with the skills to repair or maintain many types of equipment.

Starting spring 2019, mechatronics will be offered at a new, additional location: downtown.

So, Matson began researching trade schools. That wasn't her original plan. After high school, Matson landed a full scholarship to the Minneapolis College of Art & Design. She loved the college, but her scholarship covered only tuition. And at art school, the cost of materials and her rent sent her deep into student loan debt.

After a year, as the weight of the student loans hit her, Matson packed up and moved home. But a few lessons from art school stuck with her. "In my freshman year there, I learned how to use a lathe, do welding, use a 3-D printer, plasma cutting, bronze casting. I was really into it. I loved it. It was something I'd never been exposed to before."

Back in Florida, she spent a year working at minimum-wage jobs, but struggled to pay her bills. Recalling those cool classes from art school, Matson explored welding classes at Valencia College's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in Kissimmee. But on a tour of the facility, she discovered that the next welding class was full—and she'd have to wait until a new term started.

If you want to start right away, College officials said, you can sign up for mechatronics.

"I said, 'Ok, what is that?' I didn't sign up knowing what I was getting into at all," says Matson. "I was completely new to all of it. I had no idea that this would be the path that my life would take."

That path, however, has led Matson to a new career. She's now working as an industrial maintenance technician at a Walgreens distribution center in Orlando—and making more than twice what she earned in her previous jobs.

Smart Factories Need Smart Workers

At the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, instructors have a mission – to teach students high-tech skills that local manufacturers desperately need. The facility, which Valencia opened in 2016, offers students the chance to train for a new career in as little as 12 weeks or up to six months.

Valencia College added the mechatronics class in 2017, after growing demand from the industry.

Mechatronics is a relatively new field that combines aspects of mechanical and electrical engineering—along with hands-on troubleshooting. In classes, mechatronics students learn the basics of hydraulics, electronics, fluid power and maintenance processes—so graduates leave with the skills to repair or maintain many types of equipment.

"The majority of our (mechatronics) grads are becoming industrial maintenance technicians. They are troubleshooters, problem solvers. They go to a piece of machinery that's not functioning, that's not producing, and fix that problem and get the organization back on track," says Carolyn McMorran, assistant vice president of professional and continuing education at Valencia College.

As more factories and workplaces rely on robotics, they're more dependent on people with advanced skills to repair them.

"We're moving into the age of smart factories. When a machine starts to break, it sends you a text, so the technician gets that in the middle of the night and gets up and goes off to repair it," says Robert MacMillan, the lead instructor in Valencia College's mechatronics program. "Today, we have

Savanna Matson started college in art school, but found a wealth of opportunities after she took a six-month course in mechatronics.





Valencia's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in Kissimmee offers short-term courses in welding, mechatronics, electronic board assembly and more.

computer diagnostics and machines talking to machines, so that is why the mechatronics is taking off—because that's where the factories are headed.”

MacMillan, who spent his teenage years working on his family's Pennsylvania farm, learned troubleshooting skills at a young age. “On a farm, you have to fix everything,” he says.

At age 17, he joined the Navy and served 20 years, working as an aviation electronics technician and later, an engineering assistant. The many skills he learned in the Navy, while working on airplanes and naval weapons systems, fit nicely into the mechatronics program—which teaches students the basics of hydraulics, pneumatics, maintenance, mechanical systems, electronic control systems and programmable logic controllers. The course covers that material, plus gives the students experience troubleshooting, in 22 weeks.

“It's extremely arduous,” says MacMillan. “But I tell the students: Give me 22 weeks and we can make this happen.”

Mechatronics instructor Robert MacMillan learned to fix everything while growing up on a farm.



Dean Scott, who has spent a lifetime learning new skills, retired from a career in graphic design and now puts his inquisitive nature to work at Earnest Products in Longwood.

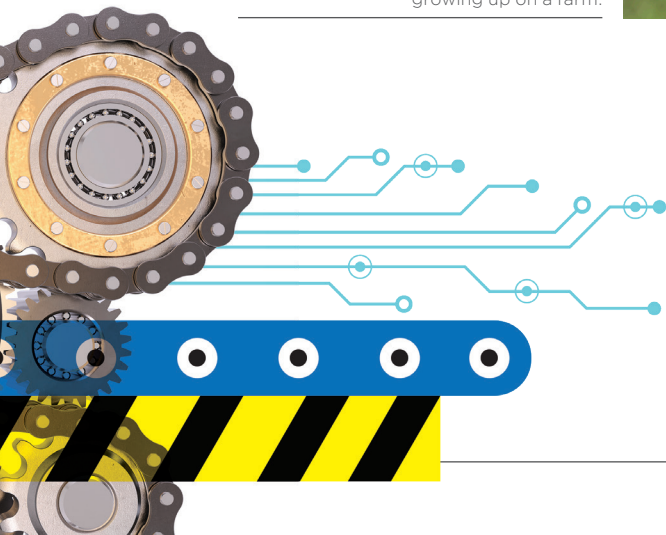
Students take an aptitude test before enrolling, but MacMillan says he helps students when they struggle. “If you have decent hand-eye coordination, and the ability to learn... that's all I need.”

Graduates admit the course is tough, but the hands-on nature of the class make it easier to digest. “Some of it was pretty challenging, especially when the course got into the electronics. It gets very complex ... there's so much to learn,” says mechatronics grad Dean Scott, who now works as an industrial maintenance technician at Earnest Products in Longwood.

Scott, who left a career as a graphic designer, found the course rekindled his desire to work with his hands. “I really liked that and wanted to make a change and get away from sitting at a desk and a computer,” says Scott, 57. “Besides, learning new things is fascinating. I enjoyed working with the gears and the motors and combining hydraulics with that.”

Today, Scott spends much of his workdays doing preventive maintenance on many of the metal-forming machines at Earnest Products. In addition to preventive maintenance, he and his two colleagues are called upon to fix machines when they break down. “I like it. You're always doing something different,” he says.

“**We're moving into the age of smart factories.”**”





Raymond Roberts, a Navy veteran, signed up for mechatronics training to get hands-on training, and hopes to eventually become an electrical engineering technician.



Mechatronics grad Alex Condevillamar now works as a spaceship technician for RUAG Space, a Swiss tech company.

From Artists to Nurses, It Takes All Types

Students come into the mechatronics program, says MacMillan, from a wide variety of backgrounds. One was a former medical school student; several have been artists. Their ages range too, from students who've just graduated from high school to those approaching retirement age. "There is no common type," says MacMillan. "My number-one graduate was a nurse who couldn't stand working in a hospital anymore."

Today, that former nurse, Alex Condevillamar, works at RUAG Space, a Swiss company that produces satellites at its Titusville facility. "His job title is 'spaceship technician,'" says MacMillan, "which may be the coolest job title ever." Condevillamar is in RUAG's apprenticeship program and will soon be trained in CNC (computerized numerical controls).

For those who complete the program, there are a wide range of job options. Graduates of Valencia College's mechatronics program have been hired by a wide variety of companies, ranging from Peddinghaus, a Chicago-area company that makes CNC systems and structural steel, to Frito-Lay, which hires mechatronics grads to run the automated production line at its Orlando facility. At Frito-Lay, mechatronics grads are being hired to run the machines that cook, weigh, inspect and package thousands of potato chips and tortilla chips each hour.

Don't sneeze at any of those jobs. Graduates start out earning \$20 to \$30 an hour—and some have started as high as \$37 an hour.

Two of the students currently taking the mechatronics classes are now working as interns at the BRIDG high-tech research facility near Kissimmee. There, they do most of their work in the high-tech "clean rooms," learning how to repair and operate the equipment used to make semiconductors.

For Raymond Roberts, one of the BRIDG interns, the mechatronics class provides a chance to learn about electronics and engineering in a hands-on way. "I was studying electrical engineering at Valencia College, but began to struggle with the calculus classes," says Roberts, 27, a Navy veteran. "I like the hands-on approach that the manufacturing center offers; I feel that I learn a lot better that way. Now, my goal is to work in this field and then go back to school. Then I think the theory will make a lot more sense."

For students, the class is interesting and challenging. And the instructors are nearly as charged as the students.

"I wake up excited every morning," says MacMillan. "... for the majority of the students, it's like E-ticket ride to Disney. Their eyes are wide open and we're expanding their minds."

And no one could be prouder at graduation ceremonies than MacMillan. After a six-month training program, his students leave with job offers—and family members who are often happier than the graduates.

"I see these parents and they have tears in their eyes, because their son and daughter can now support themselves, their families," he says.

“His job title is ‘spaceship technician,’ which may be the coolest job title ever.”

Twenty-Two Weeks Can Change a Life

For Savanna Matson, work begins each day at 2 p.m. inside a Walgreens distribution center near Florida Mall. There, in a cavernous facility, workers break down large containers of products and ship smaller quantities to area Walgreens stores. “No store needs 100 tubes of the same-colored lipstick,” Matson explains, “so the distribution center may send each store 10 tubes of that lipstick—and that lipstick, along with other items, is packed into smaller totes (boxes) that are sent to the stores.”

Matson and a team of other maintenance technicians—including another Valencia College mechatronics grad, Brendan Moniz—maintain the distribution center’s extensive system of conveyer belts and other machinery.

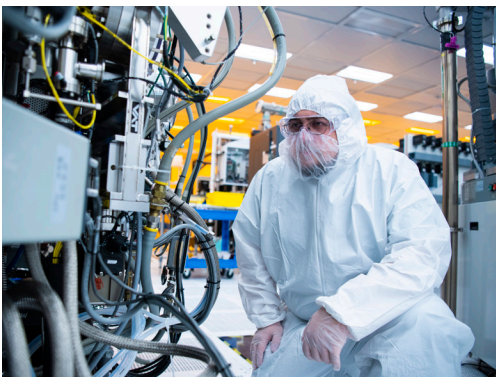
“We have like 13 miles of conveyer belts. It’s my job to make sure the conveyers are running properly and nothing’s gotten stuck,” says Matson, whose friends and coworkers call her Savvy.

That’s not as easy as it sounds. “The ceilings are very high—40 feet—and the conveyers are up to three stories high. Sometimes we have to get up on the catwalk to fix something.”

For her boss, Walgreens maintenance chief Richard Kowalewski, finding people with the skills for the job has been challenging. “Two years ago, I was six people down, out of a 24-person staff,” he says. When he advertised for industrial maintenance technicians, he found people with basic skills, but not the advanced skillset he was looking for.

“I could get people who could pass my general technician test, but I couldn’t get people who could pass my senior technician test. Brendan and Savvy both passed,” Kowalewski says.

Kowalewski, who has a master’s degree in maintenance engineering and spent decades as a Postal Service maintenance chief in Philadelphia, says he’s eager to hire graduates from Valencia College’s program—even if he can’t keep them.



Savanna Matson inspects the conveyor belts that feed 13 miles of conveyers in the Orlando Walgreens distribution center where she works.

“I know that in three years, the people I’ve hired from the college will be gone”—on to higher-paying jobs, he says. “However, those folks coming out of Valencia College’s program don’t have any experience. When they get experience—and if they go on and take some more classes on electrical theory or electronics—then they’re going to go on to make much, much more money than I can offer, and I understand that.”

But for Matson, the Walgreens job is the starting point for a career that could lead in many directions. Today, she is earning \$21.21 an hour, compared to the \$10 hourly wage she made at her theme park job. And she gets holidays off and paid vacation time.

Like many of her fellow graduates, Matson is learning on the job from her more experienced co-workers. But she also credits the program with teaching her a wide array of skills. “The other day, I was able to show one of my co-workers how to do something that I knew how to do and he didn’t. That was really big for me because these guys know so much more,” she says. “I’ve had six months of training, but I don’t have the skillset that they do.”

Raymond Roberts is learning to operate and maintain the equipment that produces silicon wafers at the BRIDG complex in Kissimmee.



The (mechatronics) class really changed my life completely.”



While many of her coworkers are thinking about retirement, Matson is focusing on her future. She has begun taking classes to earn an A.S. degree in industrial management—which she’ll need if she wants to become a supervisor or manager.

“For me, the (mechatronics) class really changed my life completely. The ability to go in and spend 22 weeks training. That’s such a short period of time, but we learned so much. Now I’m able to make the money that I never thought I would be able to make—and I don’t have to work as hard.”

But one of the greatest changes in her life, she says, has been working a Monday-through-Friday job. While that may not mean much to others, it’s an important step up for Matson. “I had never had a job where I had weekends off. It represents stability, just a quick change for the better for me.” ▮

valenciacollege.edu/cover-story

JAN



"Michael" is a figurative sculpture by Orlando artist Helanie Schneider



Helaine Schneider: Everyone's Talking, No One Is Listening

Sculptures and Installations

📅 Jan. 17 - March 8, 2019
Reception - Thursday, Jan. 17
from 5 - 7 p.m.

📍 Anita S. Wooten Gallery,
East Campus

💎 Admission is free

For more info, contact 407-582-2298

Black History Celebration Breakfast

Paintings

📅 Jan. 31, 2019 from 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

📍 Building 8, Room 101,
East Campus

💎 Admission is free

For more info, contact 407-582-2298

FEB

Clarice Assad

MUSICIAN. PERFORMANCE.

Grammy-nominated
Brazilian-American
musician and composer

📅 Feb. 7, 2019

📍 Performing Arts Center,
East Campus

💎 Admission is free



Clarice Assad, an accomplished singer, guitarist and pianist, performs jazz, classical and Brazilian music.

Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play

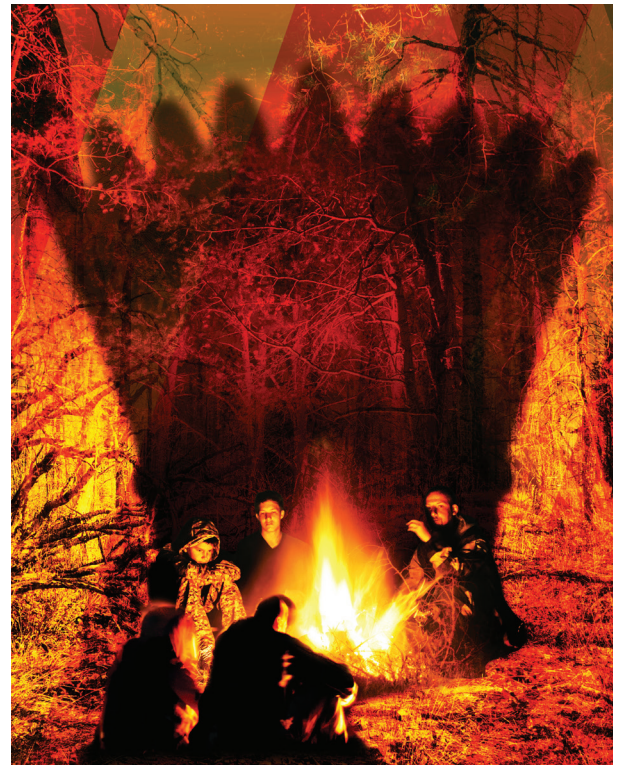
By Anne Washburn
Directed by Jeremy Seghers

📅 Feb. 15, 16, 18, 22 and
23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17 and 24 at 2 p.m.

📍 Black Box Theater,
East Campus

💎 \$12 General Admission;
\$10 Students, Staff, Alumni
Seniors and Military

For more info, contact
407-582-2900



MAR



Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering

🕒 March 5, 2019 from 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

📍 Special Events Center,
West Campus

💎 Admission is free

For more info, contact 407-582-2291

Valencia College Spring Dance Concert

Featuring “3 Epitaphs,” a classic
from modern dance legend Paul Taylor

🕒 March 22 and 23, 2019 at 8 p.m.

📍 Performing Arts Center,
East Campus

💎 Admission is free

For more info, contact 407-582-2291

The juried student exhibit displays the
best artwork that Valencia College students
produced during the 2018-2019 school year.

APR

King Lear

Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by John DiDonna and
Tim Williams

🕒 April 5, 6, 8, 12 and 13, 2019
at 7:30 p.m.
April 7 and 14 at 2 p.m.

📍 Black Box Theater,
East Campus

💎 \$12 General Admission;
\$10 Students, Staff, Alumni,
Seniors and Military

For more info, contact 407-582-2900

Annual Juried Student Digital, Graphic and Fine Art Exhibition

🕒 April 11 – May 17, 2019
Reception – Thursday,
April 11 from 6 – 8 p.m.
Award Ceremony – 6:30pm

📍 Anita S. Wooten Gallery,
East Campus

💎 Admission is free

For more info, contact 407-582-2268



Spring Opera Theatre Workshop

🕒 April 19 and 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

📍 Black Box Theater,
East Campus

💎 Admission is free

SAVE WITH YOU-PICK PACKAGES.

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performance. Four tickets for \$36 or
eight for \$60.

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CAMPUS NOOKS WITH MORE THAN TEXTBOOKS



Discover learning that's happening beyond the classroom. Go inside several fun, yet functional spaces that foster real connections between students and staff. Areas that engage students, provide support for improved learning and offer the tools needed to succeed. A testament to our belief that anyone can learn anything under the right conditions.

From a showcase of student projects to knickknacks that help break the ice, meet the faculty and staff behind several spaces that show a different side to teaching.

//BY CAROL STINNETT





A former student made Lisa, a cat from socks, to add to her expanding collection of furry friends.

LISA LIPPITT

African American and 20th century Humanities Professor, West Campus

“I want a space that encourages students to ask questions, to enjoy learning,” describes Lisa. Upon first glance of the humanities professor’s space, students get a glimpse of her love for cats and her dark sense of humor.

Framed pieces fill the walls, each with a tale of its own—pictures and postcards from the students she’s kept in touch with over the years. “Some have moved out of state for jobs or to further their education,” she says. “It’s special to still be part of their lives and get updates on how they’re doing or what they’ve been up to.”



“

It’s welcoming; a place where students are comfortable coming to.”

BILL GOMBASH

Speech and Communication Professor,
East Campus

From walking by to stepping inside, Bill’s love for Disney is a conversation starter that catches students’ eyes. Sitting in the easy chair—a plum, plush recliner—students get a front-row seat to colorful movie posters and Disney knickknacks, including his Toy Story collection that starts chatter about which of the three films is best. “It’s welcoming; a place where students are comfortable coming to,” he says. “Some have even said it’s the coolest office ever.”

A more recent addition to his office came from a past Annual Juried Student Digital, Graphic and Fine Art Exhibition. The pottery piece, “Unity,” caught his attention with its colors, but the story behind it—a tribute to Pulse—spoke volumes to him. He added, “I love to support students whenever possible.”



Bill purchased “Unity”—a tribute to Pulse—after seeing it at a student art exhibit.





SAMIRA CHATER

Professor of French and Spanish, and Language Coordinator, Osceola Campus

Tranquil yet lively, Samira’s space tells a story of international cultures. Bookshelves display photos of past class trips, including one to Epcot where students in French class interview French-speaking people from different countries and another visiting a Latin restaurant with students from her Spanish class. “Even after students leave the classroom, many come back to visit,” she smiles.

A world map hangs above one bookshelf—a reference point for Samira to show students where her worldly trinkets came from. “I take the opportunity to talk about the country, the people,” she explains. “It helps students visualize it firsthand.”

Samira’s worldly pieces are arranged by their region. Atop the Central America shelf, sit mini elephant figurines and booties—gifts from a college peer who visited El Salvador years ago—a testament to the meaningful relationships she forms with both students and staff.

Artifacts created from scratch (left) by Samira’s students that were used during a cultural presentation that’s assigned each semester.

JED BROITMAN

Professor of Humanities, West Campus

As a way to inspire students outside of the classroom, Jed’s space sheds a different light on humanities—filled with postmodern art and miniature toys ranging from the late 70s through the early 80s to items that are a nod to his classes.

A collection of vintage movie cameras and film posters, including a favorite, *Metropolis*, speak to his passion for filmography, but also his role in putting together the college’s Cinema Nights. The events introduce students to situations and human landscapes rarely explored in mainstream filmography. “I want Cinema Nights to encourage students to study film through a critical lens and analyze it as a mark of cultural identity,” he explains.

Friendly characters, like Yo Gabba Gabba, serve as ice breakers when students visit Jed’s office—a reminder that we’re all kids at heart.



A nod to the bike enthusiasts on Winter Park Campus, this welcoming message “life is a beautiful ride” greets students as they walk in the space.

“

Students come here to bounce ideas off one another, get inspired—it’s fun to see their energy.”



COLLABORATION WORK SPACES

Winter Park Campus + East Campus

Around each campus, students and staff collaborate in various spaces to talk over class projects, career goals or even just life.

One such space on Winter Park Campus (seen above) is shared by Jean Marie Fuhrman and several others. Students are greeted with a motivational quote before walking into the bright area surrounded by travel pieces. “It’s a warm, friendly environment where students feel at ease,” Jean Marie explains. “They love looking at the souvenirs from all over the world and share their own stories, too.”

Another great space, the Graphics Lab on East Campus (seen to the left and below) is flooded with color and offers an open work area that encourages teamwork. Program Chair and Professor of Graphic and Interactive Design, Kristy Pennino, describes the space as a creative outlet, saying, “Students come here to bounce ideas off one another, get inspired—it’s fun to see their energy.”



valenciacollege.edu/feature-story

Mini knickknacks are placed throughout the Graphics Lab on East Campus—a piece of fun for students and staff alike.



BY THE NUMBERS: DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

With the countdown to downtown well underway, get the ins and outs of the new UnionWest at Creative Village. This building will be home to downtown classes—including the hospitality and culinary programs—as well as student housing for both Valencia College and UCF.

STAY FRESH

21 students. 7 culinary workstations. 3 students per station. Smaller class sizes mean more one-on-one time for learning fresh new skills in the kitchen.

KNOW GLOW

The culinary lab downtown will have the first induction stove of its kind in the American market.

5,000 PSI

The building's foundation can support 5,000 lbs. per square inch. Fun fact: That's enough to allow a rhinoceros to balance on its horn in every square inch of the building.

6 WEEKS

The self-contained microgreen unit can be harvested for cocktail and food garnish every 6 weeks; enough time to listen to Margaritaville 14,573 times.

7 BASKETBALL COURTS

The footprint of the first floor—34,000 sq. ft.—can fit 7 basketball courts at once. Who's ready to play ball?

6 SOCCER FIELDS

With 392,000 sq. ft. of area, there's a lot of room for making goals. That's over 6 times the size of a soccer field, or 6 times more goooaaallls.

HOLD THE DOOR

With every person averaging 4 trips per day, the building's 10 elevators will make 320,000 rounds up and down.

300 STEPS

To get to the top of the 15-floor building. That's 32 steps more than the tallest lighthouse in the U.S.

ROOM WITH A VIEW

Aim high: Measuring in at 195 feet, both UnionWest at Creative Village and Cinderella's Castle share their size and incredible views.

144 ELEPHANTS

When the 600-space parking garage is full, it will hold 900 tons of cars, or 1,800,000 pounds, or even 144 elephants—however you look at it.

319 TOILETS

All together now: Every toilet is flushed at the same time before opening day. That's 400 gallons of water—enough to take a 2 ½ hour shower.





Ken Bourgoïn

From cakes to Continental cuisine, Ken Bourgoïn has led a delicious life. Now he's sharing his secret sauce with a new generation of culinary students.

// BY LINDA SHRIEVES

It all started with pineapple upside-down cake. That deliciously caramelized-topped cake, a buttery, brown sugar concoction, cooked by then 12-year-old Ken Bourgoïn was his first attempt at baking.

So when his parents took his cake to a dance party—they loved ballroom dancing, square dancing and round dancing—they returned home with rave reviews of his cake.

And that's when Ken Bourgoïn discovered the power and pleasure of baking.

"They came back and said everyone loved it!" he says. "There was something about making people happy that I really enjoyed. By 10th grade, I knew that I was going to do culinary. In the end, I loved making people happy."

So Bourgoïn, the son of two French Canadians living in Goffstown, N.H., poured himself into baking, earning a prize in a Boy Scout baking contest for "most original cake"—a baboon dressed in a Scout uniform. In high school, Bourgoïn started baking cakes for school fundraisers.

Although his father tried to discourage him from pursuing a career as a chef—it's all "nights and weekends and holidays," his dad said—Bourgoïn was determined. At Southern New Hampshire University, he majored in culinary arts and soon took a part-time job at nearby St. Anslem's College, where he worked with Jerry Foster, a pastry chef and "the nicest chef in the kitchen." Foster "would make cakes the size of an office" and the cakes were often cartoonish—the creations of a man who loved his work.

At this point, Bourgoïn was leaning toward a career as a pastry chef. But at Southern New Hampshire University, culinary students didn't have that option. So he continued learning at different jobs; at a high-end country club in Manchester, N.H. and then at a small fine-dining restaurant that specialized in Austrian continental cuisine, where he started as a sous chef and eventually became the executive chef. And he vowed to learn as much as he could from anyone he came in contact with.



“

A good cook is not afraid of learning and being challenged by something new.”



Ken Saingain

VALLI

Chef Ken (right) demonstrates technique during a class. A culinary student (below, left) samples bananas foster.

Starting in August 2019, Chef Ken and the culinary and hospitality programs will move to the new downtown campus that Valencia College will share with UCF. The new School of Culinary Arts and Hospitality will include three culinary kitchens, and three baking/pastry labs, along with a chocolate spraying-room, a mixology lab and a “pop-up” event space—where students will learn to produce cooking videos and TV demonstrations.



“I always found that mentors really matter in this industry,” Bourgoin says. “I set out to latch on to someone and learn as much as I could from them.” But that’s not always the easiest route: “The people who are the best teachers and mentors tend to ask you to do things you don’t want to do—but they challenge you.”

But he adds: “A good cook is not afraid of learning and being challenged by something new.”

When one of his mentors advised him that he needed to leave New Hampshire and go explore, Bourgoin packed his bags in 1991 and headed for a job at Disney. And there, at the age of 22, he says, “the whole world opened up.”

While rotating between the many Disney restaurants, Bourgoin met a new mentor, Scott Hunnel from Victoria and Albert’s; an eight-time nominee for the James Beard Foundation’s “Best Chef in the South” award.

In 1992, he also got the chance to work with the USA Culinary Olympic team—which was led by Keith Keogh, an executive chef at Epcot. The team won the gold medal in international competition in Germany.

And in 1993, Bourgoin met the woman he would later marry; while freelancing during the holiday season for a Winter Park caterer.



The people who are the best teachers and mentors tend to ask you to do things you don’t want to do—but they challenge you.”

His wife, who’d attended the prestigious Culinary Institute of America and had taken photography classes at Daytona State College’s renowned photography program, started her own food styling and food photography business in 1994. The couple married in 1995 and together, they have shared a delicious life—watching as Orlando’s culinary reputation has evolved from that of a theme-park town—“oh, you guys do burgers and hot dogs”—to an up-and-comer in the culinary world.

And now that he’s teaching students who want to become chefs, Bourgoin’s determined to expose students to as much talent and training as he can. He has helped

mentor young chefs including Camillo Velasco of Norman’s 1921 in Mount Dora and Trina Gregory-Propst of Se7en Bites. His goal? To build a cadre of motivated chefs who want to help set the standard for hospitality—both at Valencia College and in Central Florida.

“My goal is to put Orlando on the map for food. It’s not about me; it’s about the talent that’s here. ▣

valenciacollege.edu/expert-spotlight



Shedding Light on Visual Storytelling

//BY CAROL STINNETT

In grade school, Camilo Velasquez remembers roaming hallways lined with works from the Metropolitan Museum of Art—seemingly a small museum of its own, complete with a print of Vincent Van Gogh’s “Starry Night.” It was there that the art professor and Anita S. Wooten Gallery curator first discovered a love for art. “I was awestruck,” he explains—eyes wide open as if seeing it for the first time all over again. “Completely in shock how images could move my emotions.”



As we find a seat at a local coffee shop, he sips on hot tea and details how the artist's story impacts his own work. Though Van Gogh was never formally educated in art, Camilo's certain of his influence. "If I'm in a gallery or museum, I'll recognize his work from across the room—even if I've never seen it before," he grins.

Though art always intrigued him, Camilo spent hours contemplating life after high-school graduation. So when his father offered to pay for college, with the condition that he study business, he jumped at the opportunity. Recalling that period, he pauses to take a sip of tea, glances down and scrunches his face. "Two long, miserable years," he sighs. "I hated business, but enjoyed plunging into anything creative—literature, humanities, philosophy."

Camilo describes his father as a responsible man who taught him work ethic. He vividly remembers the political violence in Cali, Colombia, where he was born. Like others, his family planned to migrate to Argentina, but days before, a telegram arrived, warning against the idea. Instead, the Velasquez family decided on New York—a place Camilo's father had previously visited.

Though his father never finished high school, he held multiple jobs in New York to support the family. "I never saw him in pajamas. He was the last in bed at night and first out the door every morning," Camilo describes.

Laughing, he remembers telling his father that he wanted to become an artist rather than a businessman. "He almost had a hemorrhage." Echoing his father's tone, he continues, "There's two things we'll never have in our family—a priest and an artist. We've never had those and we won't have one any time soon."



Top Left: Camilo's father as a young boy in Colombia.
Bottom Left: Camilo (right) and several friends after their first art exhibition in Colombia. Photographs provided by Camilo.



I hated business, but enjoyed plunging into anything creative—literature, humanities, philosophy.”

Craving independence, Camilo struck out on his own, returning to Colombia and enrolling in a fine arts program at Universidad Nacional de Colombia. He returned to the United States after he earned a scholarship for a master's degree at the New York Institute of Technology.

After sipping more tea, he taps the cup, thinking about his work. Based on experiences—life, death,

love and loss—he equates art to publishing a diary for everyone to read. He sits back, gathering thoughts before detailing his work process. "Before starting a piece, I write about an experience and consider its symbolic meaning. What's the lesson? Conclusion? The philosophy involved in it?" It's his favorite aspect of art—conceptualizing—a labor of love as he explains.

A pulverized pencil inspired one of his most recent works. "I'm trying to find my car in the campus parking lot when I look down and see this crushed pencil. To me, it symbolized the dilemma



Top: Annual Juried Student Digital, Graphics and Fine Arts Exhibition
Right: In drawing class, Camilo works with student, Jules Ramirez, on a portrait.



I want it to be a teaching tool that serves our entire community. The pleasure art gave me growing up—I want to extend to others.”

of technology—the loss of handwriting. So I took a picture and did a piece on that. It represents me holding a mirror to society. I need to write and this allows me to see clearly.”

Outside the classroom, Camilo’s around the Anita S. Wooten Gallery or in the vault—an area used to store art for upcoming exhibitions. It’s a fairly new role for Camilo, after the sudden passing of Jackie Otto-Miller, who served as the director and curator of the gallery for 15 years.

Since taking over, Camilo has big plans. After finishing his tea, he presses his fingers together,



“I want it to be a teaching tool that serves our entire community. The pleasure art gave me growing up—I want to extend to others.”

The gallery hosts exhibits each year that feature work from murals and portraits to sculptures and artifacts. The Annual Juried Student Digital, Graphic and Fine Art Exhibition, which takes place each spring, remains one of his favorites. “It highlights students’ work—they’re at the same

gallery where their professors, mentors and other admired artists exhibit,” he says. “It’s the biggest show we put on.”

His favorite part of the job, though? Learning from students. His voice, crackling with emotion explains, “It’s a creative journey. Students find their voice.” From first day jitters to confidence in critiques—Camilo loves his front row seat in watching students learn the language of art. ▮

Photograph by Teresa Aplin



Members of Lake Nona Campus student government association honor the lives lost in the 2016 Pulse nightclub tragedy with a student-created handprint mural on June 12.



Osceola students enjoy spinning swings and, yes, selfies on Spirit Day, Oct. 18.

On Sept. 19, Horizons Scholars mentors (the Valencia College chapter of the statewide Take Stock in Children program) gather for an introductory team-building exercise at Baldwin Park chocolatier Farris and Fosters.



A fun-loving motorist, affectionately referred to as "Tingles" by his peers, allows pedestrians the right of way after an industrious day on West Campus, July 2.





Student Veterans of America and Valencia College Veterans Services join forces the week of Sept. 10 to display 22 pairs of empty boots on East, West and Osceola campuses, signifying the average number of veterans lost to suicide each day.

East Campus students cool off in style at Student Development's Summer Splash event on June 14 in front of the Building 8 live oak.



IN PICTURES

After sparring with pugil sticks, a student demonstrates his Poinciana Pride with a spirited backflip on Oct. 18.

Valencia College Jazz and Symphonic bands christen the new outdoor stage of the School of Arts and Entertainment building on Oct. 30 with ghoulish renditions of mid-century jazz standards and famous film scores.



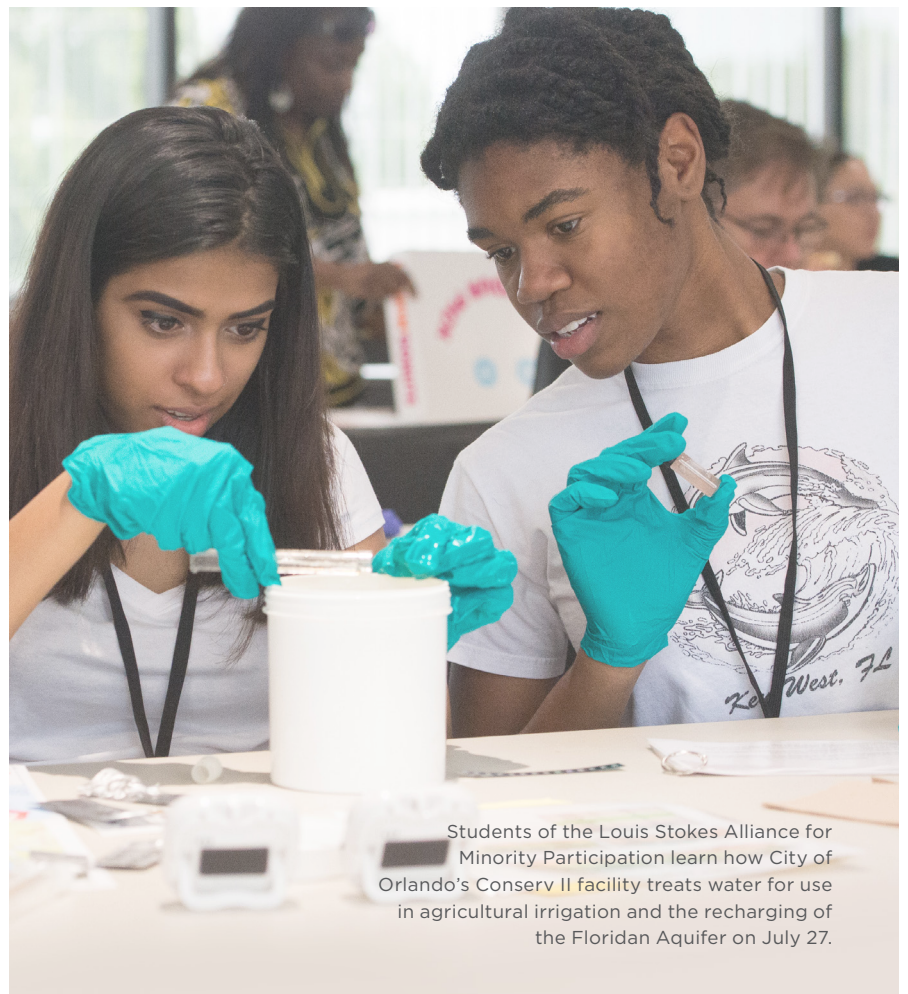
Dressed in Medieval and Renaissance clothing, Valencians of Winter Park gather on Oct. 23 to celebrate handmade crafts of the early modern period.



Following a talk by visiting activist and musician Daryl Davis on Sept. 21, participants of Valencia College's Peace and Justice Institute gather in front of the Winter Park portico for an aerial photograph of a candle-lit, human peace sign.



From the future site of student housing and learning tower UnionWest, Valencia College president Sandy Shugart offers a bird's eye view on Sept. 12 of the forthcoming Downtown Campus, opening in partnership with University of Central Florida in August 2019.



Students of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation learn how City of Orlando's Conserv II facility treats water for use in agricultural irrigation and the recharging of the Floridan Aquifer on July 27.

Throughout the year, Valencia College graduates share milestones and successes. In “Class Notes,” catch up on the personal and professional accomplishments of your fellow classmates.

1

Robin R. Poole, '79

Currently serving as a faculty member at Valencia College, Robin was in the second graduating class of the college's Dental Hygiene Program. Robin now serves as vice president of the Florida Dental Hygienists' Association, and serves as a state and national delegate to the American Dental Hygienists' Association. She recently received the Valencia College Foundation's Wayne Densch Chair in Geriatrics.



2

Linh Dang, '90

Linh, who is Chief Development Officer for CFE Federal Credit Union, has been named one of Orlando Business Journal's 2018 Women Who Mean Business and The Business Journals' Influencers: Top 100 Executives in Finance. Linh is also a member of the Valencia College Foundation Board of Directors.



3

Dr. Marci Dial, '96

Marci began her nursing journey with an ASN degree from Valencia College and spent 22 years as a nurse in Central Florida. She earned a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and currently works full time as a Professor of Nursing in Valencia College's Nursing Program. She also works part time as an ARNP at the Shepherds Hope Clinic in Orlando. Marci is currently pursuing a second doctorate, in nursing research, at UCF. She has earned various national certifications and is recognized as a simulation leader by the National League for Nursing.



4

Jeff Hogan, '01

Jeff recently earned a master's degree in public health from Fort Hays State University and continues trying to make a go at growing food at his home in Apopka, Fla.



5



Neil B. Otto, '02

Neil, Orange County Public Schools' human resources talent acquisition administrator, was awarded the 2018 Workforce Game Changers Award from “Workforce” magazine. By increasing OCPS human resources department's presence on social media and improving the school system's external branding, he led efforts to decrease vacancies. Neil's also created a database of candidates to ensure the growth of the county's network of qualified teachers. This work has allowed schools to reach and keep in touch with a new generation of teachers.

6



Mary E. Myers, '05

Mary recently earned a doctoral degree in communication from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. Her dissertation was written on an early radio broadcast pioneer, Dr. Clarence M. Morgan, who produced the longest running children's educational radio program in broadcast history, which was called "Story Princess of the Music Box."



7

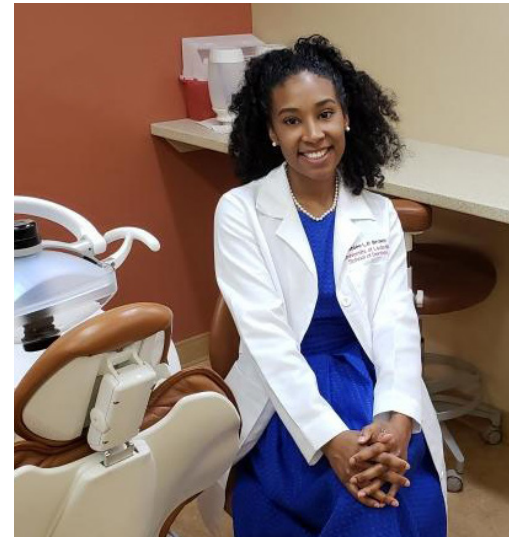
Kerry-Ann Martin, '09

Kerry-Ann served as director of staffing for a nursing facility after graduating from Valencia College, but in 2017, she launched an interior design business, "Kerry's Kreations." Today, she has more than 70 clients and her company continues to grow. When she's not working, Kerry-Ann enjoys volunteering and community service projects.

8

Ashlee Brown, '15

While studying at Valencia College, Ashlee participated in the UCLA Summer Medical Dental Education Program, and after graduation, transferred to UCF, where she earned a bachelor's degree in health science - pre-clinical track. Today, Ashlee is a first-year dental student at the University of Louisville School of Dentistry and is projected to graduate in May 2022.



9



Varsha Sujanani, '15

After earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology from Valencia College, Varsha accepted a job with Microsoft. She was recently promoted to work in the advanced analytics and artificial intelligence department where she'll lead Microsoft's in-depth technical readiness (training) and specializes in Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Analytics (Machine Learning) and IOT (Internet of Things). She's excited to be a part of the AI/AA/IOT world as it ties back to her engineering roots.

10



Jeffery Stephen Villegas, '16

Jeffery is currently in his final year at Rollins College, where he is on track to graduate with a double major in International Affairs and Communication Studies, with a specialization in Organizational Communication and Leadership. After graduating from Rollins, Jeffery is planning to earn his master's degree in international relations.

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WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE

//BY CYNDIE COX

Holidays are a time for families and friends to celebrate their connections. Yet many in our community don't have that opportunity, whether because of infirmity, finances or other factors. So why not start your own tradition of giving back?

Help Make Dreams Come True

If you're fortunate enough to help others financially, consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Valencia College Foundation (valencia.org), which provides academic scholarships to Valencia College students who may not otherwise be able to afford an education.

Take on a Worthy Cause

Your time and talent can also better the lives of others. Give back to your community by volunteering with nonprofit organizations such as Toys for Tots, the Pet Alliance, Coalition for the Homeless, Second Harvest Food Bank, Meals on Wheels and others.

Buy a Little Extra

While you're shopping this season, add some canned goods and toiletries to your grocery cart and donate them to local food pantries, including Pooky's Pantry on your Valencia College campus.

Be a Good Neighbor

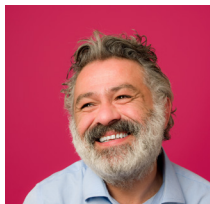
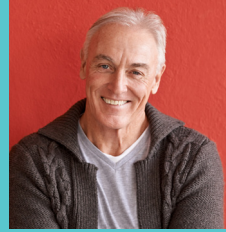
Not every opportunity to give back to our community involves a big commitment of time and energy. Start close to home. Do you know people whose burden you could help ease? Think of your neighbors, your fellow students or someone at work. What can you offer?

Seniors may need rides to the store, or companionship during a game of cards. Single parents could use the break provided when you babysit for free. Imagine what it would mean to a Valencia College student who is alone in this country to be welcomed at your holiday dinner table. These may seem like small gestures to you, but to the people you're helping, they can mean the world.

Giving back can be habit-forming, so don't be surprised if the joy you get from helping others continues all year long!

valenciacollege.edu/how-to

Not every opportunity to give back involves a big commitment of time and energy.



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Cutthroat Kitchen Winner
Food Network Star Finalist
Orlando, Florida