VITAE

WINTER 2019 | THE MAGAZINE OF VALENCIA COLLEGE



Shaking Up DOWNTOWN



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.

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IN PICTURES
Students and members of the public studied portraits and other works by local artist Trent Tomengo during his exhibit in the Anita S. Wooten Gallery on Valencia's East Campus.

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Valencia College, OUC Announce New Training Program for Utility Line Technicians



Launched in June as a pilot project, Valencia College partnered with Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) on a new program to train electrical powerline technicians, as utilities in Florida and around the country are facing a growing shortage of utility workers. The 15-week training program is being held at OUC's training facility in southeast Orlando.

To develop the program, Valencia College combined OUC's existing curriculum with the power line worker curriculum produced by the National Center for Construction Education & Research. In addition, students receive financial literacy training, as well as help with interview skills and resumé preparation.

"We see this training program as a valuable resource for OUC's line technician recruiting efforts," said Latisha Thompson, OUC's chief employee experience officer. "Their skills are in high demand and by partnering with Valencia College on this program, we can ensure students are trained to meet OUC's high standards."



Energy from the Excess: West Campus Launches Food Waste Recycling

This past fall, Valencia College developed a partnership with the city of Orlando and the college's food-service provider, Valley Foods, to set up food recycling bins inside the West Campus cafeteria. The scraps collected in the cafeteria will be transported by the city to Harvest Power's anaerobic digestion facility, which converts the food waste into electricity.

Through this pilot recycling program that turns food waste into energy, Valencia College and the city of Orlando are hoping to lend a hand in curbing the staggering $180 billion worth of food waste that occurs within America annually.

New Building on Osceola Campus Set to Open in January 2020



The newest addition to Valencia College Osceola Campus, the Careers in Industry and Technology Building (CIT), is scheduled to open in January 2020.

The 53,000-square-foot, $13 million building will house several workforce-oriented degree programs, including a new Associate in Science in Engineering Technology degree program, with specializations in advanced manufacturing and supply chain automation.

The CIT building will also have classes for Osceola Campus degree programs in residential property management, criminal justice technology, hospitality and tourism management, and short-term training programs.

CareerSource Central Florida will move their Osceola location into the new CIT building upon opening as well. CareerSouce Central Florida partners with Valencia College's Accelerated Skills Training programs to provide retraining for unemployed and underemployed workers.

For Valencia College president Sandy Shugart, the new building symbolizes the college's commitment to helping everyone in the community improve their standards of living— and climb the ladder of success. But he noted, "you can't climb the ladder when the next rung up is two body lengths above you."

DirectConnect to UCF Award Recognizes Collaboration Between Institutions



In April 2019, DirectConnect to UCF was awarded the first Joyce Romano Partnership Excellence Award thanks to the innovative collaboration between the Valencia College Learning Support Division and the University of Central Florida's Transfer and Transition Services.

The award recognizes an individual, institution or team that exudes the spirit of collaboration in leading and serving others toward supporting transfer-student success. The award is in honor of the college's Dr. Joyce Romano, who cultivated relationships that helped build the partnership program that includes working groups, data systems and communication plans which keep the DirectConnect to UCF program thriving.

DirectConnect to UCF is a nationally recognized access program that guarantees admission to the University of Central Florida for A.A. or articulated A.S. graduates from six partner state colleges across Central Florida.

The program itself is noteworthy, allowing students enrolled at a state college to take courses that they can then transfer directly to their intended transfer school. It also takes an innovative approach in helping students overcome "transfer shock," a temporary drop in grade point average commonly associated with the transition to a new institution. Recognizing student needs and helping them create a bridge between their initial institution and transfer institution emphasizes the commitment towards putting student success and achievement at the forefront of their education.

valenciacollege.edu/vitae-news

Magical Moments That Impact a Lifetime

//BY ANGELA MENDOLARO



Mickey Mouse and Walt Disney World President and Valencia grad Al Weiss (second from left) joined Valencia College president Sandy Shugart and other college officials for the first groundbreaking of the Walt Disney World Center for Hospitality and Culinary Arts in 2000. A year later, Mickey returned to the West Campus to join in the grand opening festivities (below).

Walt Disney World Resort exhibits exemplary corporate citizenship and generous philanthropy throughout Central Florida—playing a vital role in lifting our community by supporting the missions of hundreds of organizations. One such organization, the Valencia College Foundation, sees the impact that Disney makes on the college's mission and in the lives of students each and every day.

As Valencia College celebrates Disney's most recent gift—a $1.5 million investment in the expansion and enhancement of the Walt Disney World Center for Culinary Arts and Hospitality at the downtown campus—we also recognize an invaluable philanthropic partnership that dates back to more than 30 years.

Since the earliest days of the college's culinary and hospitality program, Disney has been a key strategic partner. Cast members served on the program's advisory committee and as instructors in the classroom, as they do today. This involvement prepares our students to enter into the industry and succeed at the highest levels.

As the partnership grew, so did the vision for the culinary and hospitality program. In 2000, Disney made a $1 million gift to expand, enhance and relocate the program to a newly constructed building on Valencia College West Campus. As Al Weiss, an alumnus of the college and president of Walt Disney World Resort at the time, explained, "We have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Valencia Community College and are pleased to take the next step to expand the college's hospitality program."

At the time, it was the largest private gift in Valencia College history, and the Walt Disney World Center for Hospitality and Culinary Arts was only the second building to be named for a donor. More importantly, the investment enabled "the college to develop the kind of world-class hospitality and culinary programs that Central Florida should have as the number one tourist destination in the world," explained College President Sandy Shugart.

> **"You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world… but it requires people to make that dream a reality."**

Disney's recent $1.5 million gift brings us even closer to achieving our goal of being recognized as one of the best culinary and hospitality programs in the world—providing students of all backgrounds an unparalleled education opportunity that's affordable and accessible. "We know how important it is to invest in our talent, and this new campus will help develop the leaders of tomorrow for our thriving and growing city," said George Kalogridis, president of Disney Segment Development and Enrichment.

Over the years, Disney's other philanthropic investments have made a deep and lasting impact on the college's vision to transform lives, strengthen community and inspire individuals to excellence.

For example, in 1990 Disney endowed the Walt Disney World Chair in Film Technology.

An instrumental part in building what Steven Spielberg called one of the best student film programs in the nation, our film students gain first-hand experience working with industry icons; from acclaimed producer/director Robert Wise to "Master of Horror" George Romero to famed X-Files and Game of Thrones producer/director David Nutter, among other award-winning actors and actresses.

Valencia College first-generation college students have also been touched by Disney's sponsorship and in-kind support of the foundation's signature fundraising event Taste for Learning. Since its inception, the event has raised $3.7 million for first-generation scholarships—ensuring that all students have the resources needed to fulfill their lifelong goals.

As Walt Disney said, "You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world… but it requires people to make that dream a reality."

To our friends at Disney, thank you for more than 30 years of partnership with Valencia College. Every day, your generosity makes dreams come true for more than 60,000 students.



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//BY LINDA SHRIEVES & CAROL STINNETT

When the downtown campus opened its doors in August 2019, Valencia College—in partnership with the University of Central Florida—unveiled a unique and very 21st century campus. From its footprint alone, you can catch a glimpse of the significant presence it brings to Orlando's Creative Village.

"We're building something unique here," said Dr. Sandy Shugart, president of Valencia College. "But the real measure of a college or university isn't defined by its buildings, but how well it serves those within them. We're determined to make a difference in the life of this community."

A shared campus. A hub for innovation. A multitude of programs. Downtown Campus prepares students for success from the moment they walk through the doors. Students from Valencia College and UCF, live and learn alongside one another. Here, opportunity is felt well beyond the classroom—it's a place to create connections that will transform lives and inspire students to achieve their aspirations.

Instead of a campus solely operated by one institution, it's truly a shared campus. Valencia College leads all of the general studies classes for both colleges, which provides students with a seamless transition into a career or onto a program at UCF through the DirectConnect program.

"From its curriculum to the way it's tied into Parramore, this is an educational facility designed to open doors and eliminate barriers to opportunity for everyone," says Buddy Dyer, mayor of the City of Orlando.



PAVING THE PATH TO TRUE POTENTIAL

A powerful magnet for traditional-age college students, Downtown Campus plays another important role in our community: to provide opportunity to the residents of Parramore.

In building the new campus, Valencia College partnered with leaders in the Parramore community to find solutions that positively impact the largely African-American neighborhood west of Interstate 4.

"We're next to a variety of neighborhoods where opportunity has always been a challenge," Shugart says. "We want to offer the best shot for real economic mobility for the communities that surround us here. We need to be visibly present in their community. It's theirs."

Ultimately, the neighborhood could become a model for 21st century education—where, within a few blocks, students can attend pre-school through high school—and then college.

"Our goals are long-term," says Eugene Jones, executive dean of Valencia College Downtown Campus. "The real measure of success will be longer term—when those children in kindergarten at the Academic Center for Excellence graduate from high school… and how we have changed their future."



"the new campus has the potential to be as big as the opening of Disney World."



The Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) Academic Center for Excellence—located just a block away from Downtown Campus—is a unique Community Partnership School serving children in the Parramore neighborhood from pre-school through eighth grade.

TRANSFORMING THE FOOTPRINT OF DOWNTOWN

Modeled after Arizona State University's campus in downtown Phoenix, the new campus offers degree programs that benefit from being in the heart of the city.

With an opportunity to be in the center of it all—and greater accessibility to professional development opportunities—a number of associate degree programs at Valencia College headed downtown. Many students will now be able to benefit from internships and other work experiences, all while staying close to campus.

Take, for example, the college's health information technology program. Downtown Campus is within minutes to both major hospital systems in our community—Orlando Health and AdventHealth. This close proximity gives students a chance to put what they learn in the classroom into practice—ensuring that they're prepared for the job from day one.

The culinary and hospitality programs also relocated downtown. While their former home on West Campus kept students and faculty close to the tourist corridor, the new location places them among top food and hospitality destinations that have sprung up around downtown Orlando in recent years. It's an expansion that they've been waiting for—occupying 50,000 square feet of space—and enabling them to double in size.

"Orlando really is emerging as a food destination. We're the home to theme parks and the center for several major chain restaurants," says Craig Rapp, professor of hospitality and restaurant management. "But the advantage of being downtown is that we're closer to foodie areas such as Baldwin Park, College Park and Winter Park, so we expect some of that will emerge downtown."

It also puts students close to up-and-coming chefs like Trina Gregory-Propst, a Valencia College grad whose restaurants include Se7en Bites and Sette, and Bruno Zacchini, the chef behind Pizza Bruno.

Jim Inglis, program chair of the Valencia College hospitality program, similarly sees the wide range of possibilities at the new campus. "The opportunities downtown are growing. We have partnerships with the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, Amway Center, and Marriott. ACE Café has already reached out and is very interested in forming a partnership with us."

And with the announcement of a new sports and entertainment district near the Amway Center, Inglis believes there will be many more opportunities for students from the culinary and hospitality programs to learn the business. "There will be a hotel, more than 30 restaurants, a series of outdoor concerts. It's a tremendous opportunity for our students."

Another group of students shared in the excitement of heading downtown: digital media majors. With plenty of on-campus resources, including green screens, specialized computer labs and industry-standard equipment, the new space trains up-and-comers in one of the hottest emerging career fields around town. "I think the students at the new campus will have quite a few opportunities. Those who want to work or complete internships downtown, find the campus very attractive," says Anne Ross, downtown digital media professor. "We're particularly excited to be sharing facilities with UCF. The equipment and labs are just phenomenal."





Students had plenty of help from community partners and friends during Move-In Day. It's also the first on-campus housing option for Valencia College students—making it especially exciting.





A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Everyone wants to design their dream kitchen. But when Walt Disney World Resort invested $1.5 million in the culinary and hospitality program, they opened the door for the chef instructors at Valencia College, and their dean, Alex Erdmann, to design truly dreamy teaching kitchens.

The Walt Disney World Center for Culinary Arts and Hospitality is housed on the third, fourth and fifth floors of the UnionWest high-rise. The kitchens are bursting with new equipment—a chance for many students to train on the newest culinary tools as they learn from award-winning chefs. From an Italian-made gelato and ice cream machine to artisanal bread ovens imported from Portugal to a spraying lab for decorating pastries, students in baking and pastry classes will have a wide range of new equipment to train on.

In the kitchens, lessons heat up over both traditional gas stoves and new induction stovetops, which cook faster and cleaner than most traditional ovens. To cool things off, students get hands on with the blast chillers—a common skill required in restaurant kitchens. Topping it off is the special growing cabinet that's used to grow micro-greens and baby lettuces.

And no more crowding around a table to see what the teacher is doing. With digital, ceiling-mounted cameras that project images to TV screens throughout the room, instructors can now demonstrate various techniques—from chopping to prepping—at their own cooking station. "The Walt Disney World Center for Culinary Arts & Hospitality provides a phenomenal space for students to be able to garner the training they need in those fields," says Felecia Williams, president of Valencia College Downtown and West campuses.

Disney's involvement will bring more recognition to the program. "With a location right in the center of one of the world's most visited tourist destination, we're setting the stage for future global leaders in our industry," Erdmann explains.

The move by the college's culinary and hospitality programs comes at a time when Orlando's profile as a foodie city is emerging. "The goal here," says Shugart, "is to create one of the top culinary schools in the country."



Culinary students serve up some tasty dishes in the new state-of-the-art kitchens as they train in a variety of cuisines under award-winning chefs.

> **"...phenomenal space for students to be able to garner the training they need in those fields"**



LEARNING FROM SEASONED EXPERTS



> **“I love that you can make one dish and ignite so many feelings in a person.”**

For culinary students, the chance to learn in a state-of-the-art kitchen is part of the path to landing a successful career upon graduation.

“I am super excited,” says Ariana Arzon, who started taking culinary classes at Valencia College in 2019. “The idea of these new kitchens with top-of-the-line equipment—I am very excited to get my hands on it.”

After graduating from Lake Nona High School, Ariana was studying to become a high school English teacher. But after two years, she decided to follow her passion—and take a chance on a culinary career.

Coming from a large Hispanic family, her earliest food memories stem from family gatherings, where everyone brought a dish and gathered to enjoy a meal together. As an adult, she realized how important those memories were.

“Food is a really powerful way to bring people together and uplift spirits,” she says. “I love that you can make one dish and ignite so many feelings in a person.”

And though she’s not pursuing a baking/pastry concentration, she’s eager to try the new chocolate lab. “I may take some extra classes because the chocolate lab sounds so cool to me. If I have any extra space in my schedule, I’ve kind of picked out a few classes that I want to take.”

Ariana’s long-term goal is to become a sous chef or executive chef at a Disney hotel. Several of her high-school friends studied culinary arts at the college and have already landed jobs there. Two are currently employed at Disneyland Hong Kong and others are working in Disney hotels or for Disney Cruise Line.

“You get so many connections here. The instructors are fantastic and they’ve had full careers. They can help you get internships and jobs,” Ariana says. “I know so many people who got internships at reputable places because of an instructor.”





Luis Romero, sommelier, gently swirls wine in a glass—taking note of the body and density of it.

MIXING IT UP

What could be better than your own mixology lab? While much of the focus at the new Walt Disney World Center for Culinary Arts and Hospitality has been on the teaching kitchens, the new facility, opening 2020, also features a 27-foot professional teaching bar that will enable hospitality students to take bartending courses and earn advanced beverage certificates.

“There’s a real need for people in Orlando to expand their beverage knowledge,” says Craig Rapp, a former food and beverage manager who now teaches hospitality classes at the college. “Previously we had a wine class, but they never got any hands-on training on becoming a bartender.”

With the addition of this beverage and bar lab, the college has added a certificate in bar and beverage management, which students can use as a stepping stool to a bartending job (which Rapp notes is the highest-paying job in most restaurants) or for those who might become a beverage manager.

“A lot of servers don’t know anything about drinks,” says Rapp. “They don’t have that foundation of knowledge; which is that every drink is built on the basics. This is designed to teach them that.”

COLLABORATIVE SPACES LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

Take a stroll around campus and you'll find a number of collaborative spaces mixed in among classrooms, faculty offices and other amenities. After stepping off the elevator on the third floor of UnionWest, you can start to hear the chatter of students nearby. Rounding the corner, you'll see students filling chairs and tables, and couches—some getting in the latest study session and catching up with friends, while others unwind and enjoy the scenic city views.

The space, which shares similar features to the fourth and fifth floors, has an industrial feel to it—featuring floor-to-ceiling windows that utilize natural light, colorful artwork that fills the walls and furniture designed for collaboration and innovation. It's anything but your typical learning environment. It's an area for limitless possibilities.

For students looking to get some work done away from the buzz, there are quiet study rooms throughout the building. These have individual desks with ample space to spread out books, papers and other materials, while offering some privacy.



Take a peek into some of the other areas around that help bring the campus to life:

Conference rooms with flat-panel monitors on the walls and connectivity options on the tables; they're made to support active learning.

First Stop, a joint Valencia College and UCF space, covering admissions and financial aid.

Workspaces, offices for student services, classrooms and amenities span across floors one through five.

A 7,900-square-foot Recreation and Wellness Center that includes a multipurpose fitness studio, as well as a variety of gym equipment.

Classrooms designed with modular furniture, whiteboards on several walls for ideation and class discussions, and the newest technology for student learning.





EXPLORING THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Downtown Campus places students right in the heart of Orlando; offering just the right mix of a vibrant lifestyle and the amenities of a big city. Within a 10- to 15-minute walk from campus, students can experience the many things there are to love about the City Beautiful. From hitting the books at Lake Eola or a nearby coffee shop to meeting friends at a local restaurant to gaining internship or work experience at businesses close by—the options are endless.

There's definitely not a shortage of sports games, concerts or other events with Amway Center, Camping World Stadium and Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts a couple of blocks away. Or, if students want to check out more sights around town, the LYNX Central Station and SunRail Church Street station can get them there.



With a number of fun and inviting spaces around the campus, students can enjoy living and learning; from hitting the books to soaking in the views.



SOAKING IN THE VIEWS

For the first time in the college's history, Valencia College students are living in dormitories, alongside their UCF classmates. For many, the new high-rise dormitory, UnionWest, provides them their first chance at a traditional college experience.

The 15-story building—which has 10 floors of apartment-style dormitories—is now home to 626 students. Valencia College students occupy nearly half of the dorm rooms.

And no wonder. At UnionWest, the amenities include a campus gym, located on the second floor, and a large communal area on the sixth floor, where residents can hang out and watch TV, play video games together, or play a game of ping-pong or pool together.

If they want to take in the scenery, they have one of the best views in the city—from the Skydeck—a large balcony that looks east over downtown.

It's a big step for many students—including Isael Nuñez. Isael was living at home with his mom and taking classes at Valencia College when he learned about the opportunity to live at Downtown Campus. Eager to stretch his wings, he signed up early. Although other people were nervous about the prospect of living downtown, Isael wasn't.

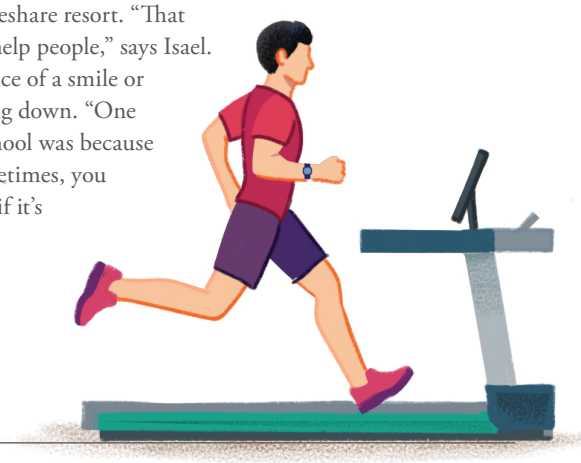
"Trying something new in life is one of the best ways to move forward and develop yourself," he says. "Change is good—even though it's not always easy, it's good."

While others live in UnionWest, Isael is also working there as a resident assistant (RA); the job requires him to counsel other residents or help them with problems. He has plenty of experience doing that. Before taking on his RA duties, he worked as a security officer for an Orlando timeshare resort. "That gives me a lot of experience in how to help people," says Isael.

But more so, he knows the importance of a smile or a friendly face for someone who's feeling down. "One of the reasons I struggled in middle school was because I felt like I was alone," Isael says. "Sometimes, you just need someone to reach out—even if it's just saying, 'How's your day going?' "



Isael Nuñez is having fun living downtown, where he has the opportunity to meet and help other students as a resident assistant (RA) in UnionWest.



LEARNING TOP SKILLS IN WEEKS

A week before the start of classes, the college's Center for Accelerated Training opened its doors. Located on Pittman Street, it's set on the southern end of the new campus. Home to Valencia College Accelerated Skills Training programs, the center offers short-term workforce training classes—helping individuals learn the skills needed for professional development opportunities at their current job or to find a new, better paying one. To ensure access to these programs, many students are eligible to receive up to $5,000 in tuition funding from Career Source of Central Florida.

The center currently offers opportunities in advanced manufacturing, providing a first-hand look at how to create electronic circuit boards and gain sought-after positions with local defense and aerospace employers. Another program, transportation and logistics, offers hands-on training in warehouse and distribution trades. In the coming months, more courses will be added, including a 22-week program to prepare future industrial maintenance technicians.

The initial classes at the Center for Accelerated Training, which started on Aug. 19, had 26 students—10 of whom came from neighborhoods in or near Parramore. "This means a lot to me," said Lorraine Hill, a Parramore resident who is taking classes to learn how to assemble electronic circuit boards, a job in high demand at Lockheed Martin and other local employers. "It's giving me a second chance to get myself together and have a better life."



The Electronic Board Assembly hands-on training program has been a hit with the downtown community—providing the skills needed for a number of careers in manufacturing.



Austin Spector has made downtown home—it's where he lives, works and plays. From taking classes on campus to going to work down the road, he's enjoying having everything close by.

PROVIDING SERVICE WITH A SMILE

It's 2 p.m. on Friday, and Valencia College student Austin Spector is changing into a suit and tie to leave for work.

He doesn't have to go far. Austin, a hospitality and tourism management major, works the front desk at the Marriott Orlando Downtown. His commute? A two-block walk from his dorm room at UnionWest.

"During the interview, they asked about my commute," he describes. "I told them I would walk to work. That's what's great about being downtown. Everything is so close."

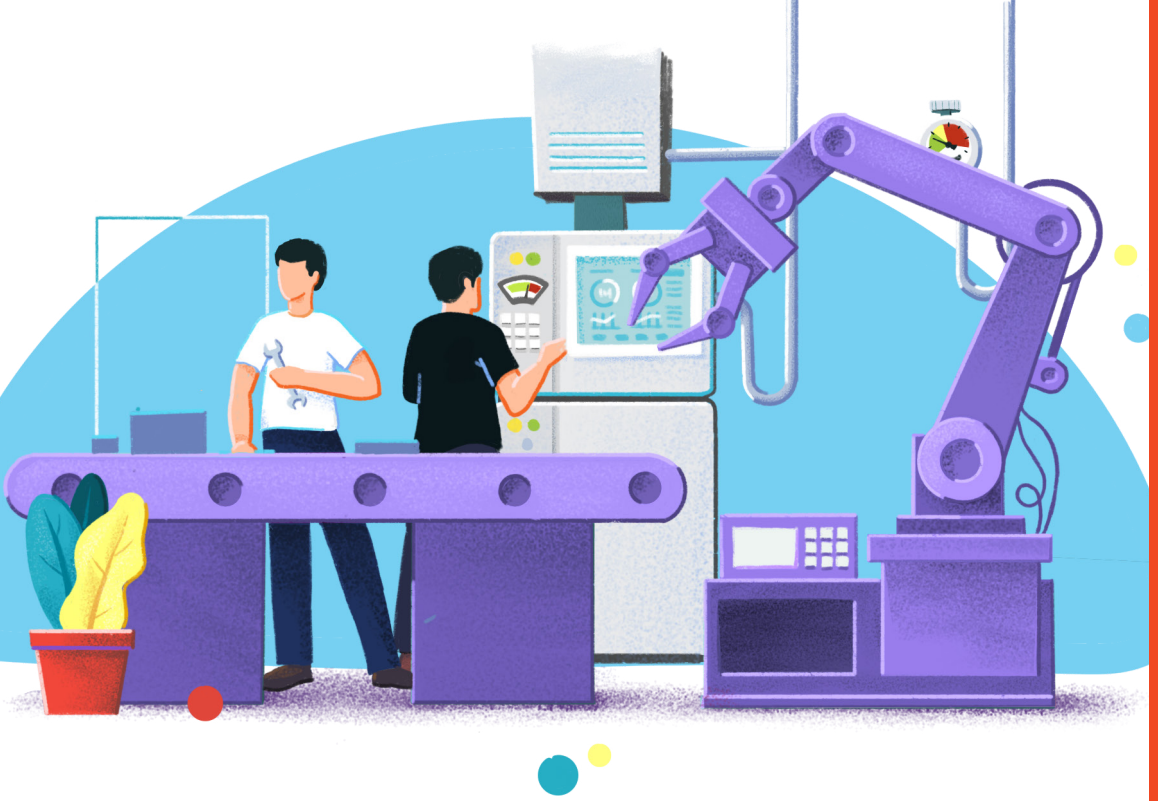
In high school, Austin thought he wanted to become a chef. But along the way, Austin discovered that working in a kitchen wasn't his passion. What he craved, he realized, was interaction with customers.

A hospitality career, he thought, better suited his personality.

After some research, he discovered that Orlando was home to two great programs—Valencia College hospitality and tourism management program, which offers students the chance to transfer into on the top 5 best colleges for hospitality and tourism in the world: UCF's Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

He was sold. Now in his second year, Austin moved in August from an apartment near West Campus to a dorm downtown.

"Overall, it's been a really good move," says Austin, who made a bunch of new friends on his first night at the dorm, while washing clothes in the laundry room. Since then, he and his friends, students from Florida, Venezuela and Colombia, have become close. "Mostly we hang out in the common area on the 12th floor," he explains. "But if we want to play pool or ping pong, we'll head down to the sixth floor."



MAKING A LASTING IMPACT



Kelli Lewis – HIT Program

After joining the college in 2013, Kelli Lewis served as the inaugural program chair for the A.S. in Health Information Technology (HIT). It's proven successful since the start—something Kelli and her team say they'll grow on with the new opportunities downtown. "I'm so happy to be part of this new campus—where our students live and learn," she explains. "Now that we're open, we've had the opportunity to get to know and work alongside UCF's Health Information Management (HIM) faculty. It's a great partnership; right now we're exploring ways to foster collaboration between our programs' students."

Students are also sharing in the excitement, saying that being downtown places them closer to internship opportunities at local hospitals and health care facilities. With access to key players in the industry, many students have set their sights on entering directly into the workforce upon graduation or continuing on the pathway to a bachelor's degree at Downtown Campus.



Rudy Darden – English Professor

English Professor Rudy Darden's connection to Downtown Campus began in 2015 with his work on the steering committee for the campus. Even before the start of classes, Rudy looked forward to the new opportunity and focused on deepening his connection with the Parramore community. He's established relationships with many—communicating that college is for them. Teaching the mechanics of grammar and composition is only part of his role, he shares. The other part entails encouraging students to discover their voice and grasp the value of living an examined life.

"There's no greater joy than doing work that's tied to my beliefs. Life doesn't present us at the starting line at the same place. People of color and women very often start behind. Valencia College speaks to that kind of disparity and says that no matter where you are, we can level the playing field in education," he says. "People are really carrying that charge, and I believe that mine is to model it."

valenciacollege.edu/cover-story

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

From the time Downtown Campus broke ground, local organizations and community members from all around Central Florida rallied together to show their support. So many played an important role in this endeavor, all sharing the same vision: Improving countless lives through the power of learning.

To those committed to giving back to our community. Who make a difference right at home and help others when they need it most. You create better tomorrows by ensuring that high-quality education belongs to everyone because the future does, too. When we join together, our entire community prospers.

To our donors and partners. Supporters and fans. Thank you.

HOW TO

How to Create Your Legacy



Have you ever thought about how you would like to be remembered? It can be how you've contributed to the world. Your lasting footprint on the lives around you. A well-thought-out estate plan enables you to leave a legacy that supports those you care about, and may help you avoid or limit the tax burden on your heirs.

Inheritance Considerations

While each family's situation is different, there are some important questions to think about. As you take time for self-reflection, here are several things to consider:

WHO is dependent on you for financial support?

WHO will receive your assets?

WHAT significant life changes have occurred in your family since you last updated your will or trust?

WHAT else do you really desire for your heirs beyond money?

HOW much is "enough," and what is an appropriate inheritance for each heir?

WHAT charitable institutions have been most important to you, and do you want to include them in your plans?



Planning Strategies

Use these planning strategies to help you provide for your loved ones and leave your legacy:

BEQUESTS | Bequests made through your will or trust are one of the most common ways to provide for your loved ones and favorite causes. You can make a bequest of a dollar amount, specific asset or percentage of your estate.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS | By completing a simple form, you can designate heirs and charities as the beneficiary of retirement plans, financial accounts and life insurance policies.

GIVE-IT-TWICE TRUST | You can set up a special charitable remainder trust that will pay income to your heirs and then leave the remaining principle to a charity.

Have an existing estate plan? Now's a good time to review and update it.

If you don't have an estate plan, it's not too late to start. Valencia College Foundation can assist by providing you with our free estate planning guide—we're happy to help. Give us a call at 407-582-3150 or send us an email at **foundation@valenciacollege.edu**

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GET FROM A → B

There are several ways to get around Orlando and Central Florida, but arguably the easiest and most environmentally friendly include some of our local public transportation options. Luckily, there are plenty of options you can take to work, class, or your favorite entertainment hub downtown through the SunRail or LYNX and LYMMO services.

SUNRAIL

SunRail is a Central Florida passenger rail system serving the City of Orlando and

4 CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNTIES.

1,126,646

riders used the SunRail in the 2018 fiscal year.

SunRail currently runs 34 train trips per day, Monday through Friday, with

16 STATIONS ON A SINGLE LINE.

LYNX

As part of a partnership with LYNX, Valencia College students and employees can ride the LYNX system

ABSOLUTELY FREE

In 2018, 25,117,921 passenger trips were made, with more than

79,000

rides provided each weekday.

BIKE FRIENDLY!

If you ride a bike to a LYNX bus stop, you are more than welcome to attach it to the front rack of the bus.

LYNX uses nearly

2.7 MILLION GALLONS

of bio-friendly fuel per year for their diesel buses.

LYNX services three major Central Florida counties, covering

2,500

SQUARE MILES

with more than 1.8 million residents.

LYNX became the

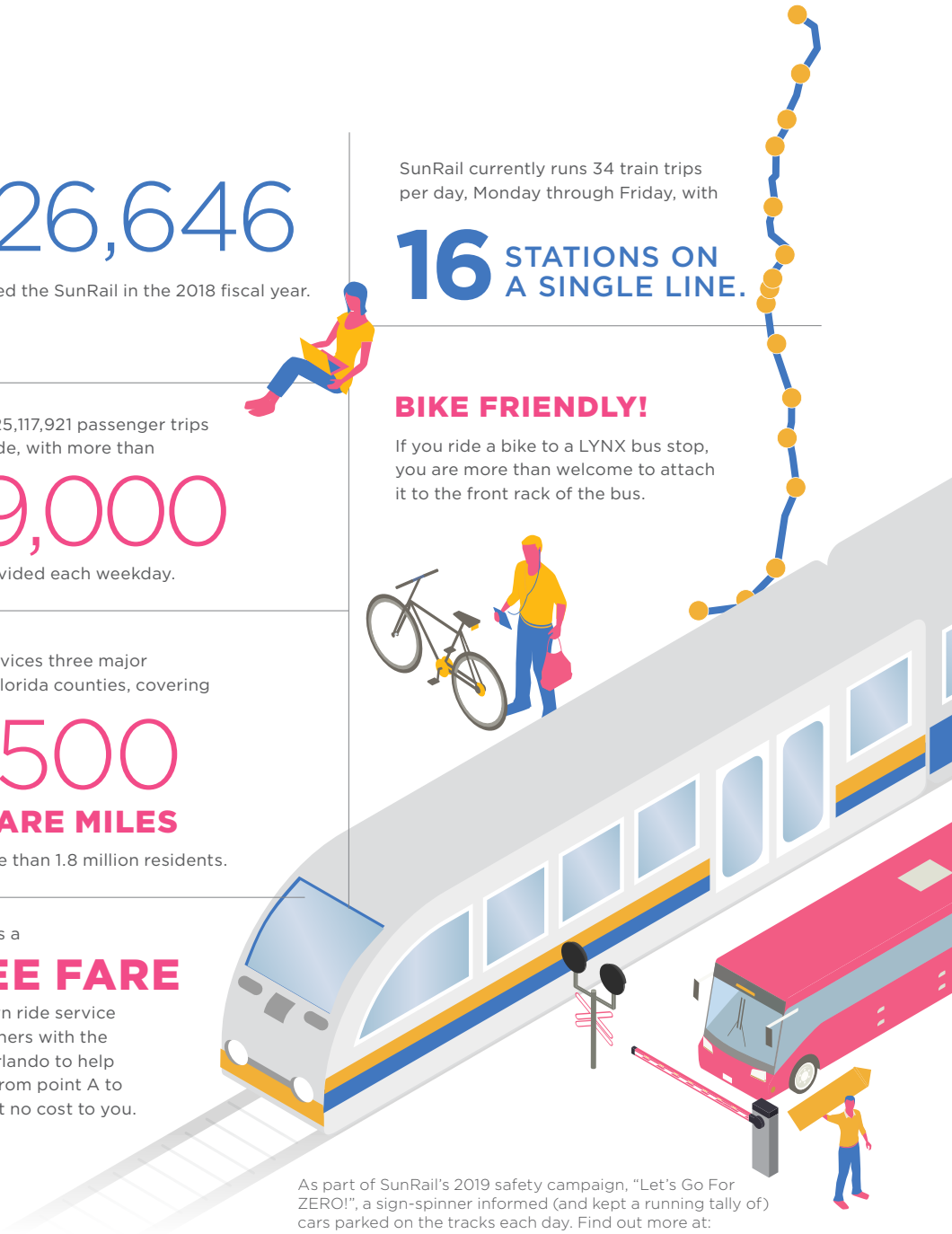
1ST TRANSIT AGENCY

in the nation to build, operate and blend its own biodiesel fueling station.

LYMMO is a

FREE FARE

downtown ride service that partners with the city of Orlando to help you get from point A to point B at no cost to you.



As part of SunRail's 2019 safety campaign, "Let's Go For ZERO!", a sign-spinner informed (and kept a running tally of) cars parked on the tracks each day. Find out more at:

valenciacollege.edu/up-close

JAN



Artist Theresa Lucey's paintings focus on figurative realism.

Theresa Lucey

PORTRAIT ARTIST

- Jan. 16 – March 6, 2020
  Opening Reception –
  Thursday, Jan. 16, 5 – 7 p.m.
- Anita S. Wooten Gallery,
  East Campus
- Admission is free

For more info, contact 407-582-2298

3 in Motion

Book, Music and Lyrics by
Jami-Leigh Bartschi

Directed by John DiDonna

- Jan. 24, 2020 at 8 p.m.
- Performing Arts Center,
  East Campus
- $12 General Admission;
  $10 Students, Staff, Alumni
  and Seniors;
  $6 for Children 12 and under

FEB

Susan Freinkel
Science writer and author of "Plastic: A Toxic Love Story"

Humanities Speakers Series

- Feb. 4, 2020 at 1 p.m.
- Performing Arts Center,
  East Campus
- Admission is free

25th Annual Film Celebration

- Feb. 15, 2020 (times and films TBA)
- Film Screening Theater, School of
  the Arts and Entertainment Building,
  East Campus
- $12 General Admission;
  $10 Students, Staff, Alumni
  and Seniors

Brighton Beach Memoirs

By Neil Simon

Directed by Eric Pinder

- Feb. 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 2020
  at 7:30 p.m.
  Matinee: Feb. 16, 2020 at 2 p.m.
- Black Box Theater, East Campus
- $12 General Admission;
  $10 Students, Staff, Alumni
  and Seniors

In her nonfiction book "Plastic," science writer Susan Freinkel examines the modern world's toxic relationship with one of our favorite materials.



MAR

Valencia College Spring Dance Concert

- March 20 and 21, 2020 at 8 p.m.
- Performing Arts Center, East Campus
- $12 General Admission; $10 Students, Staff, Alumni and Seniors; $6 for Children 12 and under



Valencia College dance students perform modern dance, jazz and ballet at the annual Spring Dance Concert.

APR

Spring Symphonic Jazz Band Art and Music Concert

- April 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
- Performing Arts Center, East Campus
- Admission is free

For more information, contact 407-582-2900

Annual Juried Student Digital, Graphic, and Fine Art Exhibition

- April 16 – May 22, 2020
  Opening Reception – Thursday, April 16, 6 – 8 p.m.
  Award Ceremony: 6:30 p.m.
- Anita S. Wooten Gallery, East Campus
- Admission is free



Come see Valencia College students' creativity up close at the juried student art exhibit in April.

JUNE

A Night in the Ukraine

By Dick Vosburgh, Frank Lazarus

Directed by Ron Schneider

- June 8, 9, 11, 15 and 16, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
  June 10 and 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
- Black Box Theater, East Campus
- $15 General Admission; $12 Students, Staff, Alumni and Seniors

The Vision of Printmaking (5 artists)

- June 18 – Aug. 7, 2020
  Opening Reception – Thursday, June 18, 5 – 7 p.m.
- Anita S. Wooten Gallery, East Campus
- Admission is free

SAVE WITH YOU-PICK PACKAGES.

Mix and match any dance and theater performance. Four tickets for $36 or eight for $60.

GET TICKETS:

valenciacollege.edu/arts
407-582-2900

Raul Valery
A Sound Effect on Students Beyond Music

//BY JIM ABBOTT

Although his long career as an electronics engineer started with a passion for music, Valencia College professor Raul Valery stresses that the music industry is now only one of many career options for students in the college's sound and music technology program.

"It's the sound technology industry, which includes music, not the other way around," said Valery, director of the program that offers specializations in sound technology as well as music performance and sound for students interested in pursuing careers in music production, sound mixing, audio engineering and sound design.

In addition to music production careers, Valery points to big career growth potential in other aspects of sound technology.

"In live shows is where musicians make money," Valery said. "So the opportunities for live sound engineers are growing. And where the opportunities are really growing is production for audio books, sound for podcasts and, because of the explosion in streaming services, it's in sound for film and television and video games."

Especially the latter, he said.

"The video game industry is a lot larger than the film and music businesses combined," Valery said.

Another big growth area is in sound technology for simulation and training products, he said.

"We are a hub of that industry, Orlando is," Valery said. "People don't realize, but the agencies like the FBI and the CIA all have sound engineers. We have graduates working in every aspect of the sound technology field."

At Valencia College, students gain experience in a state-of-the-art $13.5 million Film Production and Sound Technology building that opened in 2017 on East Campus.

The 30,705 square foot building features a 125 seat screening theater, a high-resolution digital projector, and an immersive mixing and dubbing room equipped with Dolby Atmos-certified technology boasting nine loudspeakers capable of producing 128 simultaneous sounds.

"It's the new standard in sound anywhere in the world," Valery said of technology available in less than a handful of colleges nationwide.

The program also offers an opportunity for hands-on music business experience through FlatFoot Music, the college's student-run record label. With area internship possibilities limited, the label was formed at the suggestion of recording industry veteran Bruce Hensal, a program adjunct professor, Valery said.





> “By the time I got out of high school, I had more than 2,000 vinyl records. I knew I wanted to work on making records.”



While working on a film in 1986, Valery (right) flew in an ultralight to record the sound of vintage World War I and World War II fighter planes.



Professor Raul Valery shows (from left) students Emily Cadot, Sanjay Jaiprashad and Kenneth Colon how to route signals on the recording console in the Studio B control room.

"Bruce suggested we create a course that emulates the way a record company works," Valery said. "We received a grant and started a record label that became a music production course."

Hensal, a studio veteran whose credits include work as front-of-house sound engineer for legendary concert promoter Bill Graham at the Fillmore West and staff engineer at Criteria Recording Studios in Miami, is impressed with the Valencia College program, he said.

"Raul has assembled a world-class faculty, facility and educational program that manages to be current while maintaining links to the classic era of recording," Hensal said.

Those links include an album of classic hits from 1967-68 recorded to celebrate the college's 50th anniversary in 2017. Valery spearheaded the project with contributions from students and faculty from the sound technology program and elsewhere in the School of Arts and Entertainment.

It was a throwback to Valery's own introduction to music as a pre-teen in Venezuela.

"When I was seven years old or so, I fell in love with records," Valery said. "By the time I got out of high school, I had more than 2,000 vinyl records. I knew I wanted to work on making records."

Along the way, Valery, 64, also became a musician, studying classical flamenco guitar, clarinet, saxophone and Spanish bagpipes at the conservatory level in Venezuela. He also became a huge Beatles fan ("I still have Beatlemania," he said) and Miles Davis devotee.

At age 17, he hosted a radio show in Venezuela, "Viva el Jazz."

After earning a degree in electrical engineering in Venezuela, Valery moved to Los Angeles as a protégé of industry veteran Sherman Keene, a favored engineer of Frank Zappa and author of a seminal textbook on audio engineering.

In Los Angeles, Valery assisted at several Zappa recording sessions in the early 1980s.

"People say, 'You worked with Frank Zappa?' I say, 'No, I got him coffee'," Valery said, chuckling.

Valery arrived at Valencia College nearly 19 years ago, recruited to lead the sound and music technology program by Ralph Clemente, the revered longtime film program chair who passed away in 2015.

In his current students, Valery also sees a devotion to the resurgent format of vinyl records.

"Really, what they love is records," Valery said. "About 80 percent of our students do not play a musical instrument. They are not really into the music, but they are into the sound."

> **"It's the sound technology industry, which includes music, not the other way around."**

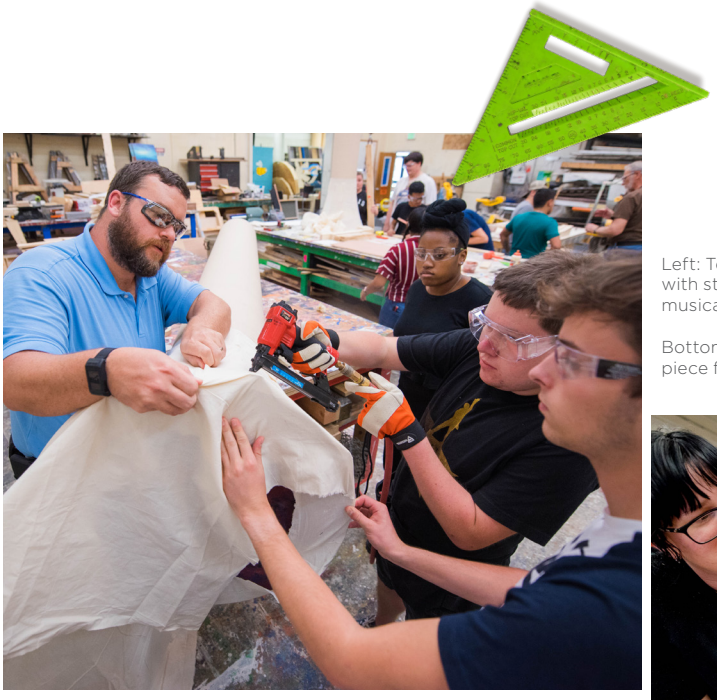
What does it take to be a good sound engineer? Raul Valery gives his top 5 list online at **valenciacollege.edu/expert-spotlight**

From Page to Stage

//BY MCKENZIE LAKEY

The Performing Arts Center on Valencia College East Campus has been described as a "mixed bag" by those who work in the building. Whether it's an exhibit in the lobby, an intimate performance in the Black Box Theater, or a foot-stomping musical on the main stage, the variety is endless behind those wide double doors.







Left: Technical Director Ross Rauschkolb (left) works with students to build part of the set for "Aida", the first musical of the 2019-2020 season.

Bottom: A staff member paints an Egyptian-styled set piece for "Aida", based on the designed rendering below.

Behind the scenes of the applause, the stage, the perfectly themed costumes and the beautifully designed sets is the team of individuals who keep the stage coming to life each season.

Without a continuous stream of talented individuals who lend their heart and soul to the venue, productions and events at the Performing Arts Center would go unattended—or worse—uncreated.

One crucial piece of the performing arts puzzle is Ross Rauschkolb, the technical director of the Performing Arts Center and an instructor of technical production.

As a technical powerhouse behind productions, Ross works closely with all of the creative minds collaborating on a show to translate their ideas into something that comes to life on stage. Now in his fourth year at Valencia College, he says there is never a dull moment in his job.

"It's always new and exciting with a new project every six to eight weeks," Ross says. "We get to dream big and give as much as possible to share a spectacular show with the audience."

Another important element to Ross' job is the educational impact he has on Valencia College theater students. Throughout the process of building a show, as many as five to six classes can all be working on building the set. For Ross and other professors in the theater department, that means breaking down the designs and process to help their students build the show (and their portfolios).

"My job is translating arts," Ross says. "I try to tell my students to think about what they're building in terms of LEGOs. They are small components that we can use to build something grand."

"We get to dream big and give as much as possible to share a spectacular show with the audience."

This is something he has in common with Constance Lee, a costume designer and part-time entertainment design and technology professor at Valencia College. She also translates stories and helps students bring their passion to life, but through a different medium—fabric.

"We are all collaborators and storytellers," Constance says. "Everyone attaches emotions to their clothing, and it's our job to convey the feelings of our characters and the story with the outside world through fabric and costumes."

As a designer, Constance says she submerges herself into the time period of the show to "get in the groove and feeling of the era" that the show is based in as she sews and creates costume pieces. This means everything from listening to music to watching movies and shows as she seeks inspiration. It also allows her the chance to connect and understand the story of characters she has only been able to meet through a page.

"I make temporary clothes for people living in an imaginary world," Constance says. "All of the work we do together and the time we place into understanding our characters and their world, only helps us better tell the story and bring it to life."

While the characters and the worlds that the production teams build may be imaginary, the patrons who attend the shows are very much real. Greeting these patrons with a smile and a wink is Karina Wright, the Box Office manager.



From selling someone their first ticket, to guiding them into the imaginary world they will be living in for the next few hours, Karina's position allows her to interact one-on-one with every guest coming through the theater.

"Customer service is the most important part of your day when you're in the Box Office," Karina says. "It's important to make a great first and lasting impression as they come in."

Although Karina is still relatively new to Valencia College, her experience with theatre spans nearly 45 years. Starting her career as an actress, she has gone on to work in theatre, television and film. Unable to quell her passion for the arts, she's worked in technical and stage management roles throughout the years.

"I've been in the industry for several years now, decades actually, and all of my various jobs in the entertainment industry have really helped lead me to this role," Karina says.

While being behind the window of the Box Office counter is a new view for Karina, she lights up when she starts to dive into the season and explains the upcoming productions at the Performing Arts Center.

"I'm excited for my first season here," she says. "I get to continue working in a field I love, while also being someone who is cultivating a passion for the arts in everyone who passes through here. What's better than that?"

A sentiment that is, no doubt, shared by all of the production and creative teams as they collaborate to bring shows and events to life each season at the Performing Arts Center.



Karina Wright greets a guest at the Box Office, located in the Performing Arts Center.



Get to know Rebekah Lane, the new director of the School of Arts and Entertainment, with a special Q&A online at **valenciacollege.edu/arts-spotlight**





"We are all collaborators and storytellers"

Constance Lee (left) shares a teaching moment with a student as they collaborate on building costume pieces.

WEST CAMPUS// Students showed off their muscles at the U.S. Marine Corps' pull-up bar during Welcome Week festivities.



LAKE NONA CAMPUS// Students were positively dizzy on Spirit Day, especially after taking on the human gyroscope.





WINTER PARK CAMPUS// Singer Maria Oliva Bryant performs at Peace Day in the Park, a celebration of the United Nations' International Day of Peace, which was organized by Valencia College Peace and Justice Institute and held in Winter Park's Central Park.



OSCEOLA CAMPUS// Each year, military veterans gather with first-responders from New York to remember the lives lost on Sept. 11.



WINTER PARK CAMPUS// Students celebrate Constitution Day by proposing articles for the campus constitution.

EAST CAMPUS// Students and faculty gather to form a human peace sign during Peace Week celebrations.



WEST CAMPUS// Students play a "steady-hand game" at the Club Fair Carnival.



LAKE NONA CAMPUS// Mike Bosley (far left), executive dean of the Lake Nona Campus, joins with students and staff to celebrate the seven-year anniversary of the campus (with sparkling cider).



POINCIANA CAMPUS// The annual Summer Block Party featured music, entertainment, giveaways, campus tours and a kids' zone—fun for the entire community.

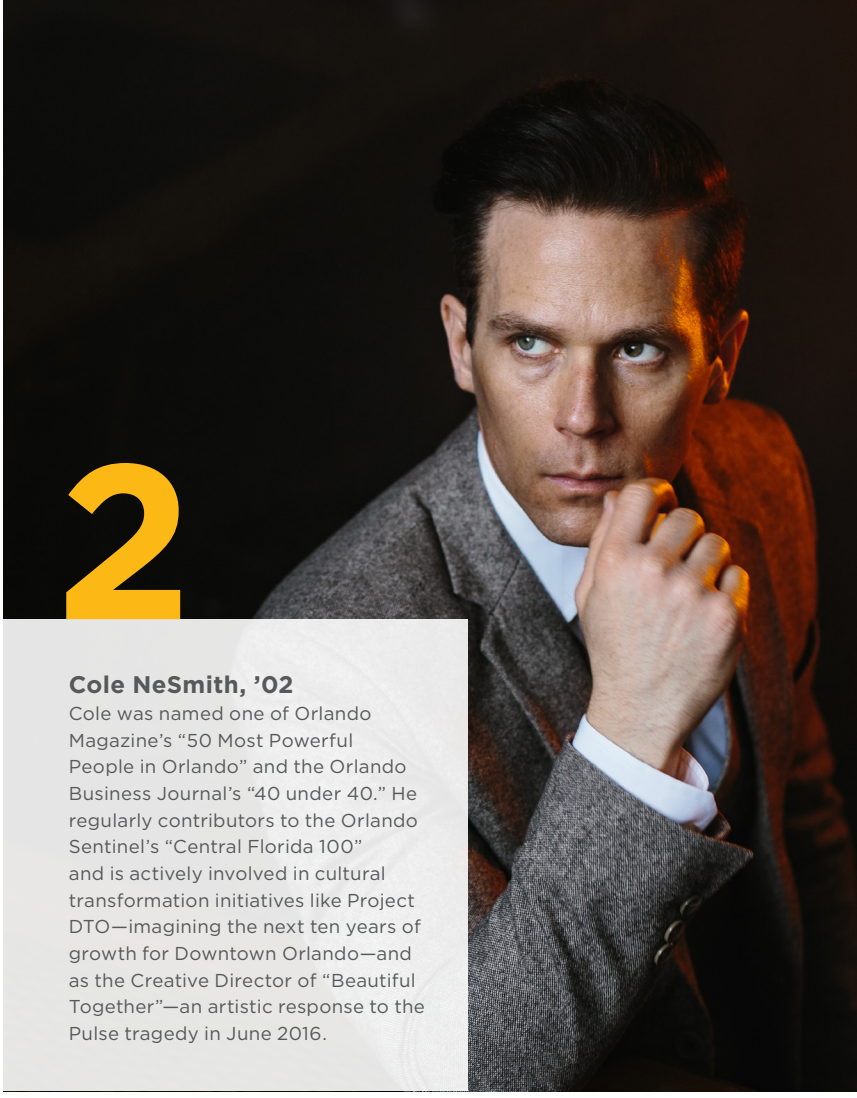


EAST CAMPUS// Students discovered the work of local artist Trent Tomengo at the opening of his exhibit at the Anita S. Wooten Gallery in September.

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



Naomi Gonzales-Longstaff, '01
Naomi has been creating nail looks for runway, beauty, fashion, editorials, print and film since 2009. Her past roles as part of the Professional Educational Teams of L'Oreal, Essie and Revlon CND has been the foundation for her continued success. She is currently the Global Brand Ambassador for GERmanikure Pro Nail Tool. Naomi also launched a vegan nail brand called NAOMI Polish. Based in Orlando, she splits time between LA, London, Miami and New York City.



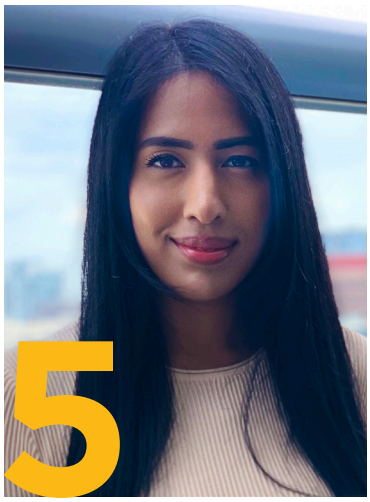
Cole NeSmith, '02
Cole was named one of Orlando Magazine's "50 Most Powerful People in Orlando" and the Orlando Business Journal's "40 under 40." He regularly contributors to the Orlando Sentinel's "Central Florida 100" and is actively involved in cultural transformation initiatives like Project DTO—imagining the next ten years of growth for Downtown Orlando—and as the Creative Director of "Beautiful Together"—an artistic response to the Pulse tragedy in June 2016.



Jennifer Tomlinson, '05
Jennifer works at Valencia College as a New Student Experience faculty member and a co-coordinator of the division on West Campus. She is most excited about her diversity and inclusion work as a credentialed SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) facilitator. This summer marked the launch of her podcast, Black Woman Be Well, a podcast dedicated to the discussion of health and wellness through the unique perspective of black women. It's available on all major podcast platforms.

Drew Han, '06
Drew earned his Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Central Florida (UCF) after completing his associate degree at Valencia College East Campus. He is currently employed with the national valuation firm, Valbridge Property Advisors, and serves as senior appraiser with the Orlando office. Drew is a candidate for designation with the Appraisal Institute and is a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser with the state of Florida.





Jennifer Bhagirath, ’07
After graduating from Valencia College, Jennifer went on to earn her bachelor’s in education and masters in communication from UCF. She is now the career program advisor for Culinary and Baking and Pastry Management at Valencia College Downtown Campus. Jennifer believes that both her academic and professional career began with Valencia College and considers it a place of opportunity. Jennifer is celebrating 10 years with the college and hopes to one day teach at the school.



Elvin Cruz, ’10
Elvin is currently serving as the scholarship manager at Valencia College Foundation. After earning his master’s degree from UCF in educational leadership/community college education, he started teaching the New Student Experience course, both online and face-to-face. Elvin serves on various committees for the National Scholarship Providers Association and will be celebrating his 10-year work anniversary at Valencia College in April 2020.



Michael Acevedo, ’13
Currently serving as the Florida Outreach Director for the Center for American Military Music Opportunities, aka CAMMO, Mike graduated with 5 degrees from the college’s business program. A former Student Government President of East Campus, he recently performed on America’s Got Talent with Voices of Service, which took 5th place in the finals. In 2016, Mike performed in Prince Harry’s Invictus Games. In the Army, he was a broadcast journalist and singer and toured the USA, Korea and Europe.



Shreyas Trivedi, ’10
Originally from Kenya, Shreyas Trivedi graduated from the College as an international student. He went on to receive a B.A. in Advertising and Public Relations from UCF ‘12. In 2017, he returned to Valencia College as an international admissions specialist and was recently promoted to coordinator for International Student Services at Downtown Campus. In his new role, he loves interacting with the international student community and being an advocate for campus diversity.



Jazmyn Rodriguez, ’13
A graduate of Valencia College, Jazmyn recently received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from UCF. She often credits her success at UCF to the strong foundation she received at Valencia College. Jazmyn has now joined the team at Marriot Vacation Worldwide and hopes to use her degree to help those around her overcome challenging issues and find the joy in the world around them.



Ivelisse Rivera, ’18
Ivelisse Rivera is a Duke Energy Scholarship recipient from Valencia College and is now pursuing her bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering with a focus on power and renewable energy at UCF. Ivelisse has worked as an intern for Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Americas, Inc. and now researches Power Grid Optimization with Dr. Wei Sun at UCF. After graduation, Ivelisse hopes to pursue a master’s degree in electrical engineering at UCF. Ivelisse is very grateful to have been a Valencia College scholarship recipient as it allowed her to become more involved in her studies.

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We want to hear from you! Let us know what you’ve been up to by submitting a class note with news on career updates, awards, business venture, advanced degree, marriage or birth announcement.

To be featured in Class Notes, visit
valenciacollege.edu/class-notes
and complete the submission form or mail to:

Class Notes Editor,
Valencia College Alumni Association,
1768 Park Center Dr, Orlando, FL 32835





Thanks for your participation in the recent 2019 Alumni Attitude Survey.

From valuable insights about your college experience to what influenced your professional and personal goals—your feedback will create better tomorrows for generations to come.

Survey results are coming this spring, so be on the lookout. We appreciate your time and support.

– Your Valencia College Alumni Association

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Jeff Villegas '17
Co-Founder, Sales Rebellion
Orlando, Florida
Valencia College
Alumni Association Member