

The Peel



Brought to you by the Global, Professional, and Continuing Education Team

A word from Joe...

“Communication, communication, communication”, a simple word but so powerful in its meaning. We all receive numerous communications daily in our work in all forms: meetings, calls, email, text, newsletters, college-wide, campus based etc. Sometimes it may feel overwhelming as you try to navigate through it all. The one form of communication I miss the most, is seeing and talking to each of you. The personal connection, the openness of the conversation, and my ability to communicate over and over that I am always available to speak with you. As we prepare for our return in August 2021, I will embrace this form of communication more than ever before. If you need to reach out to me, please do so at any time. I look forward to seeing each of you as we embrace our way forward.

With deep appreciation and care,

Joe Battista
Vice President
Global, Professional & Continuing Education

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Study Abroad & Global Exchange Highlights

SAGE Office Brings Global Experiences to IT Students

The past year brought significant changes to the work the SAGE Office supports. Pre-pandemic, the SAGE Office focused on supporting short-term and semester study abroad experiences; however, with the shift in priorities and pause in mobility, the SAGE team began exploring new avenues and increasing efforts to internationalize the curriculum at home. As part of these changes, the SAGE Office looked to collaborate with faculty in specific disciplines to bring students enriching international experiences in a virtual setting. East Campus IT faculty members, Jerry Hensel and Heith Hennel, were the first to join SAGE in developing new global experiences for IT students throughout the year.

In fall 2020, Professor Hensel and Professor Hennel were the first to bring in a SAGE sponsored and organized Global Guest Speaker to Valencia College. As IT students were starting to take Amazon Web Services (AWS) certification classes through the new Valencia-AWS Learning Academy, the request was to bring in an expert in AWS. Babar Jan-Haleem, the head of the Australia/Pacific/Japan/China Emerging Technologies and Intelligent Platforms for Amazon Web Services (AWS), came to speak to students and share his 20 plus years of experience in IT and data. During his presentation, Haleem underscored how data drives decision-making, product development, and consumer-product interface at all levels. Haleem shared innovative practices with students, including the new technologies being use in the Amazon Go store, where AWS tracks shopping habits of consumers to tailor their online experience. Haleem also discussed the current job market for IT graduates and detailed how students can find opportunities to break into the industry. Professor Hensel remarked, “This was such an exciting opportunity for students, and they were able to learn from a technology guru on what it takes to get a job in the IT field.” At the end of the session, students were able to engage with Haleem during a Q&A session.



[Babar Jan-Haleem](#)



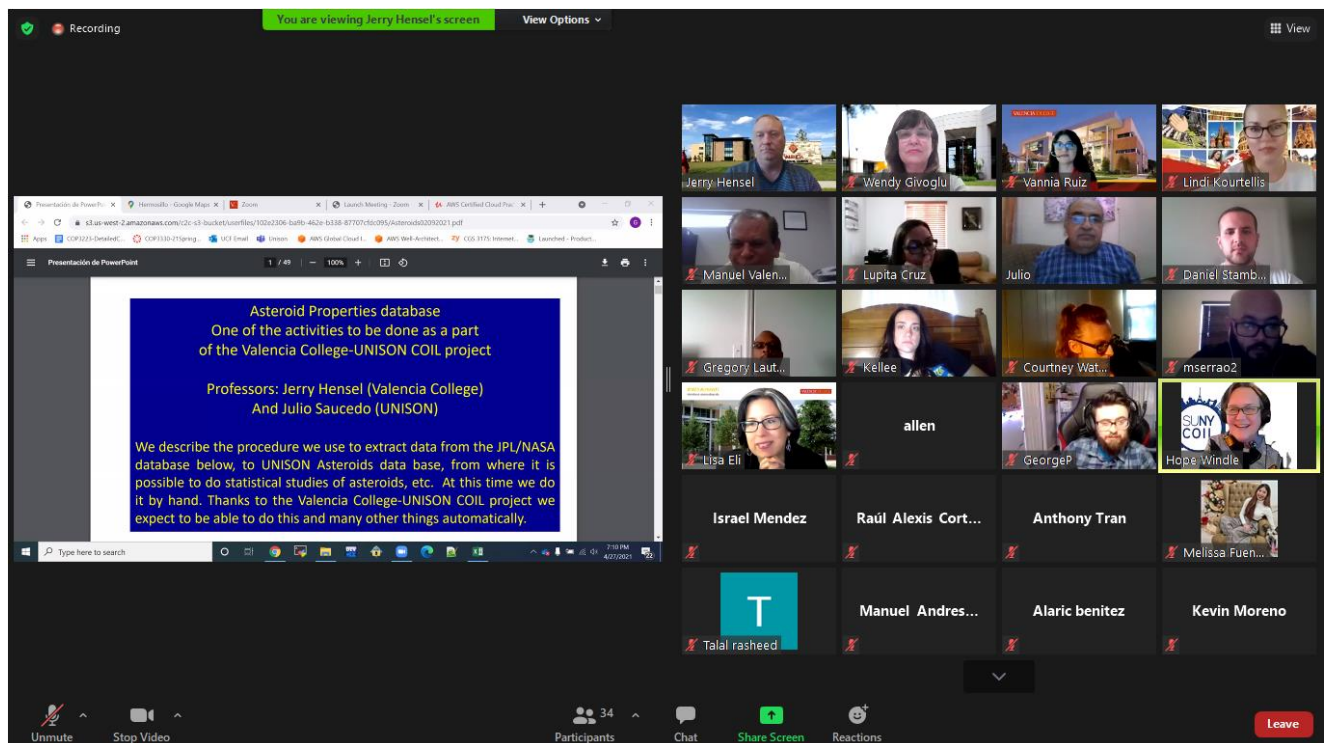
[Herbert Faust](#)

In early spring 2021, collaboration between SAGE and IT faculty continued. During February, the SAGE Office brought IT students another Global Guest Speaker, this time focused on business culture and IT in Paris, France. Over 100 students attended the lively and engaging session, as guest speaker Herbert Faust took students on a virtual tour of Paris and highlighted work/life balance in the city and Parisian business models. He also shared tips on applying for work visas, creating a startup company in France, and information on Paris-based companies hiring international employees.

Study Abroad & Global Exchange Highlights

SAGE Office Brings Global Experiences to IT Students (cont'd)

Spring 2021 also brought about another opportunity for IT students as Professor Hensel and SAGE developed an IT Capstone COIL course. COIL, a virtual exchange model that stands for Collaborative Online International Learning, is a pedagogical approach emphasizing internationalization, technology, partnerships, and accessibility. COIL brings students from different colleges in different countries together into a shared course environment where faculty members co-teach and manage common coursework. Professor Hensel entered into an interdisciplinary COIL collaboration with Universidad de Sonora (UNISON) in Hermosillo, Mexico. Professor Hensel with his partner professor, astrophysicist Dr. Julio Saucedo, implemented a semester-long project where Valencia College IT students created both a database and website for tracking asteroids in the solar system. The UNISON astronomy students and Dr. Saucedo were delivered working prototypes to help in research of statistical properties of asteroids and locate the trajectory of near-Earth objects (NEOs) that might someday be on a collision course with the Earth. Professor Hensel used his CIS 2910 IT capstone course for the COIL collaboration. This allowed twenty Valencia IT students to collaborate with ten students from UNISON. Along the way, the SAGE Office supported the development and implementation of the project, as well as offered culturally infused events for the students to learn about one another and build trust. In the end, the project was a massive success. Multiple guests, including administrators from Valencia College, UNISON, and SUNY, attended the students' final prototype presentations.



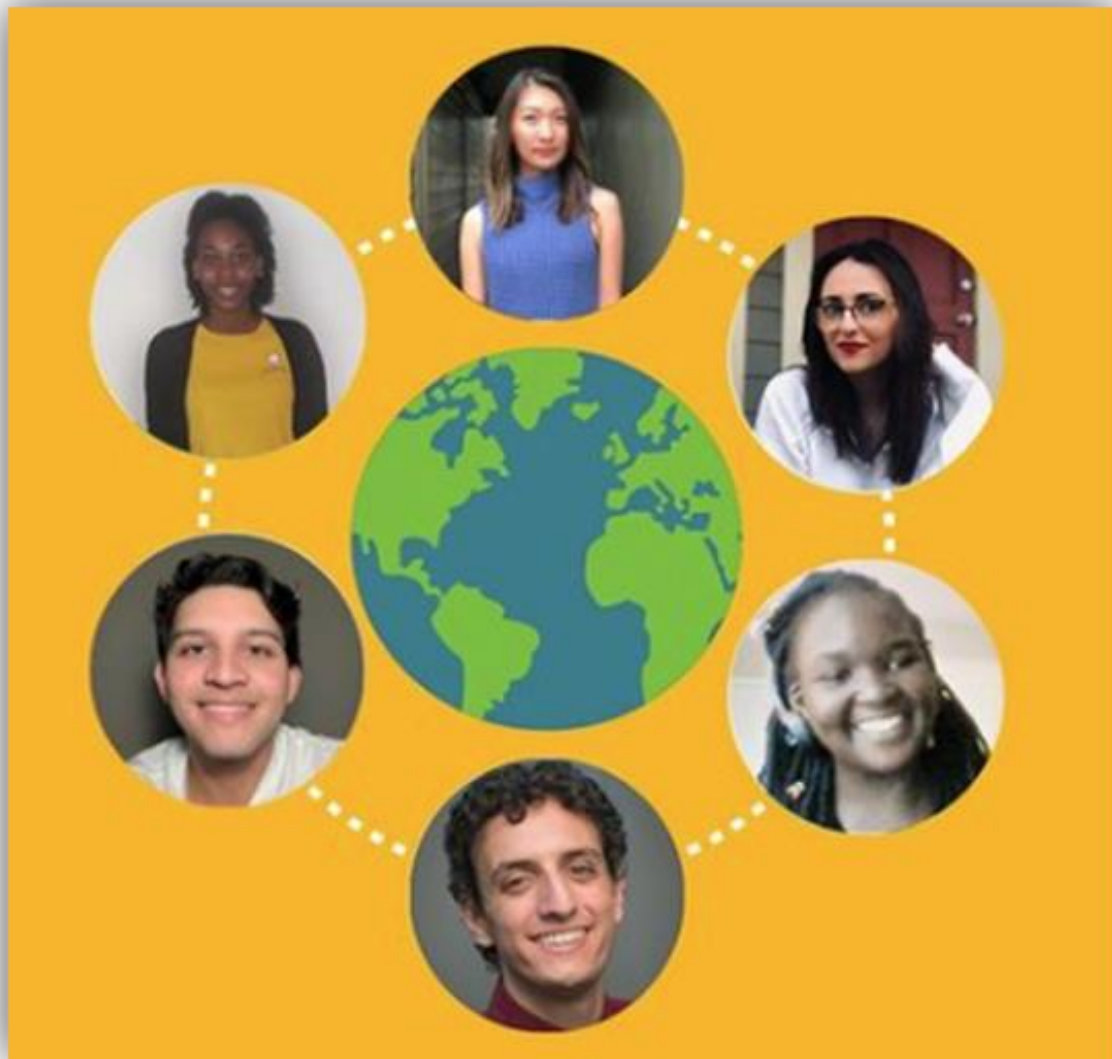
The SAGE Office will continue to collaborate with IT students and faculty in the upcoming year. In addition to two more IT-focused COIL collaborations in the works, the SAGE Office will support a short-term, faculty-led IT study abroad program to the UK in summer 2022. The SAGE Office looks forward to a return to travel; however, mobility is now just one of many initiatives SAGE supports. Virtual global experiences are here to stay.

Global & Continuing Education Highlights

International Student Recruitment and Global Engagement (ISRGE) Team

International Ambassadors Program Launch

A group of six international students were chosen from over 60 applicants, to participate in the inaugural International Ambassador program. Haley Fox, from the ISRGE team, is leading the project which provides the students a chance to gain professional skills, earn volunteer hours, and to share their stories with prospective students. Starting in fall of 2020, the ambassadors participated in student recruitment webinars, chatted with dozens of potential Valencia College students, created social media videos, and provided feedback to staff on improving the student experience. Prospective students can connect directly with ambassadors on the [International Students website](#). Recruitment has already begun for next year's program participants.

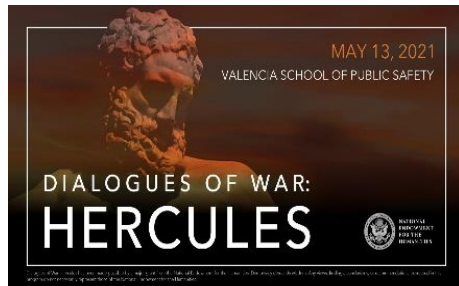


Starting at Top Center then clockwise: Yuyu (Japan), Alba (Spain), Maggie (South Sudan), Bruno (Brazil), David (Honduras), Tanaii (St. Lucia).

School of Public Safety Highlights

American Idol Contestant Visits the School of Public Safety

In the spring of 2019, Fire Science A.S. Director Dan Diehl and several fire rescue students attended a “Dialogues on the Experiences of War: Hercules” workshop hosted by our Humanities faculty on the West Campus. This workshop was funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities and supports the study and discussion of important humanities sources about the trauma and effects of war on veterans, or for others with a relevant experience. This workshop with focus on effects of



trauma interested the School of Public Safety and Dan Diehl suggested a partnership with our Humanities faculty after he attended. Over the past two years, the School of Public Safety developed a strategic partnership with Humanities faculty Dr. Sean Lake and Julie Montione, and on May 13 this workshop was offered to the students in the Public Safety Leadership Development Certification Program.

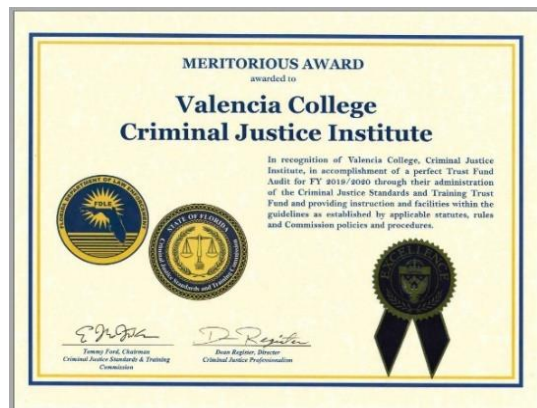
The highlight of the workshop was the appearance and performance of one of this year’s American Idol contestants, our own 2017 fire academy graduate and Apopka firefighter Jeremias Williams, a singer and panelist on the humanities team. Jeremias opened the event with the National Anthem and ended the performance of Hercules with Amazing Grace. Jeremias is OUR American Idol.



Jeremias Williams (left)

Criminal Justice Institute Receives a Perfect Audit

Once again the Criminal Justice Institute received another “perfect” audit from the Criminal Justice Professionalism Division at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. Director Rob Pigman was presented with a Meritorious Award for CJI on May 6th by FDLE.



Audit perfection has become a long standing tradition at CJI for many years. All student and class files, and trust fund records are assessed in great detail to assure strict compliance within state rules. A perfect audit is quite an accomplishment considering the large number of academy classes, advanced/specialized training classes, and the amount of trust funds awarded to the college each year for training. Congratulations to CJI and the SPS support team for another shining moment for Valencia.

School of Public Safety Highlights

Equitable & Just Policing Education Training Task Force @ SPS

Last fall, the thirty-member Equitable & Just Policing Education and Training Task Force, in partnership with the Peace and Justice Institute, convened to review and assess the current law enforcement education and training at the School of Public Safety to identify deficits in the curriculum and make recommendations to change the occupational culture of policing in central Florida with a goal to identify an education and training strategy. The task force completed its work in February and has made ten recommendations, in three defined dimensions, to increase equity and inclusion, enhance trust and legitimacy between the community and law enforcement, and improve officer safety. These dimensions include:

- 1) Law enforcement academy training
- 2) Community collaboration and partnerships
- 3) Public safety workforce

In all, the recommendations across these areas will contribute to a “theory of change” and will become the foundation of the School of Public Safety’s five-year Impact Plan.

Additionally, the task force identified a “working theory” to lead this work in the future:

Public safety is what the community experiences.



SPS Participates in Third Annual Creating a Resilient Community Conference Held Virtually on April 20 & 21, 2021

This year’s two-day virtual conference, attended by over 300 regional professionals, was presented by the Peace and Justice Institute and the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County. As the public safety lead on the Creating a Resilient Community (CRC) work team, Jeff Goltz assisted with conference planning and participated in a conference workshop and panel:

- Law Enforcement & Mental Health Partnerships to Promote Resilience in Central Florida (workshop moderator)
- Community Panel, Our Collective Impact: Regional Resilience (panelist). Orlando Mayor Dyer, Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, Orange County Sheriff John Mina, and Seminole County Sheriff Dennis Lema also participated



To learn more about the CRC and their work in central Florida, contact [Rachel Allen](#) or [Kelsey Visser](#) in the Peace and Justice Institute (PJI).

Student Highlights

Going the Extra Mile for Our Students... One Firefighter's Dream Comes True

Becoming a firefighter in Florida is very challenging. You must demonstrate life-saving skills, be physically fit to climb ladders and scale buildings, and be worthy to meet the community's trust as a public servant. Unfortunately, some fire academy applicants have a personal history that may question community trust because life experiences for some has been difficult. Thus, this creates a "gray" area for a certification as a firefighter with the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training and this is where the Fire Rescue Institute recently stepped in to make a difference in a student's life.

In 2019, a young man with a background challenge, requiring extra assessment and attention, approached SPS and enrolled in the Fire Science Academy program; our combined Fire Science A.S. degree, EMT, and firefighter academy. Instead of turning our back on this determined young man and denying a dream to become a firefighter, our Fire Training Director Jim White and his team rallied to assist.



With numerous letters of personal support and Jim's personal communication with the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training staff, it was decided that this student would be allowed to become a certified firefighter. Since graduation, one of our newest firefighters, yes this young man with a big dream, contacted Jim with sheer joy as he was offered a job at a local fire department. Jim and his team went the extra mile to help a dream come true and add another highly trained and educated Valencia student to our public safety community in central Florida to keep us all safe.

AWS Welding Competition Winners: Ryder Purcell and Emma Lynn Ponds

Welding students Ryder Purcell and Emma Lynn Ponds represented Valencia at this year's **Valencia College** and **American Welding Society** – Orlando Annual Welding Competition. They took home first and third place, respectively, in the Open Class Division! The winners took home custom welding helmets donated by Outlaw Leather.



Emma Lynn was previously featured as one of our Metallica Scholars last Fall:

<http://news.valenciacollege.edu/continuing-education/behind-the-bay-metallica-scholarfinds-empowerment-through-welding/>

Student Highlights

CNN Production Specialist, Macey Mackubin

After the pandemic crippled the Florida economy, Macey Mackubin vowed to find a career that would make her more employable. “I wanted to find a career that would stand up in a pandemic situation,” says Macey, a graphic designer. Today, Macey and her classmates are training to replace a generation of skilled machinists now at retirement age.

After completing an 18-week program in CNC machining, she’ll be able to manufacture and machine parts with a mill and lathe. The best news is this: Most of our CNC grads land a job shortly after graduation with local employers, including Lockheed Martin.



Macey Mackubin

Carroll Team Member of the Year 2020, Maxcene Robuste

In February 2020, we posted a featured story of Apartment Maintenance graduate Maxcene Robuste and his journey to a successful career with Carroll Management. Recently, Maxcene received the award for Carroll Maintenance Team Member of the Year for 2020.

“The AMT Program gave me all the baseline knowledge and skills I still use today. Having no prior industry experience, I was able to gain the knowledge and skills I needed to fix a variety of appliances, understand how to properly use technology to follow up on work orders, and much more. The program was the jump-start of my career”.



Maxcene Robuste



AST Highlights

Community Resource Fair

On May 22, 2021, Valencia College hosted a Community Resource Fair for our Poinciana community – organized by Brandon Arrington, Osceola County Commissioner District 3, CareerSource Central Florida, Osceola County Government, and more – and we had a great time! Thank you to the entire Poinciana community for making this such a great event.



AST Recruiter Nikesha King Recognized by The Transition House

We want to thank The Transition House, Inc. for recognizing Nikesha King-Walker, a vital member of our AST Recruitment Team! The Transition House is a mental health center that caters to troubled and homeless men, veterans, victims of substance abuse, and more recently children and other adults.

Nikesha works firsthand with some of our hardest hit students to connect them to resources and opportunities that help them reach new heights in not just their careers, but even their livelihoods. We are so proud of you Nikesha and your commitment to our students! Thank you to The Transition House for this honor.



Nikesha King

AST Highlights

Downtown Center for Accelerated Training Feature on WFTV

On May 6, 2021, WFTV Channel 9 visited our Downtown Center for Accelerated Training to spotlight the high demand for accelerated job training programs at Valencia College and the impact these offerings have made in the community.

The feature also takes a brief first look at the upcoming Midtown Orlando Center for Accelerated Training, scheduled for opening later this summer.



Orange County Convention Center Program Recap

The impact of the pandemic on Orange County left numerous people without employment, steady income, or even a way to get rehired. Thanks to the partnership of the Orange County Government, CareerSource Central Florida, the Orange County Convention Center, and Valencia College, we've been able to train and upskill 170 Orange County residents to enter into high-demand, high-wage jobs in a matter of weeks.

