

# Program becomes credit course

■ The Prometheus Project helps the homeless and others in need.

by adam berry

valencia source

After losing his home, his business and being forced to live on the street for seven months, Stephen Davis regained control of his life and is now attending Valencia as a full-time student.

Davis moved to Orlando, from Farmingdale, NY, in 1997 working as a live-in caregiver.

When the person he cared for passed away in 2001, he opened City Cab, a taxi company in Orlando. After Sept. 11, Davis said gas prices began to rise and the number of people traveling declined.

Because of this, he was not able to pay his bills and he lost his business and his home. "It is amazing the alienation you feel when you're on the street."

While staying at the Preferred Living Center, transitional housing operated by the Wayne Densch

Center, in Orlando, Davis said he heard about the Clemente Course for the Humanities.

Davis said, "John [Scolaro] came in proclaiming, 'Knowledge is power.'" After that, Davis said he was interested in the program.

Scolaro is the Project Director of the Prometheus Project.

He attended the Clemente Course in the fall semester of 2002, with Professors of Humanities, David Sutton and Elizabeth Eschbach.

In Jan. 2003, Davis said he started living in a hotel for a short period of time. From there he moved in with an elderly couple as a caregiver. Davis is now renting a room in Orlando.

Davis was recently accepted into Phi Theta Kappa, ran for the position of senator of service and won. However, he had to step aside because his schedule was too busy.

Currently, Davis is majoring as a Music Production Technology Professional Specialist. He is taking classes full-time on the East campus and said he is planning on graduating in the Spring of 2005.

Davis said eventually he wants to do get a Baccalaureate degree from Florida State University and said he might also try for a Doctorate in

Music Arts.

The Prometheus Project, a Valencia Community College Course in the Humanities, is part three of the Clemente Course.

The project, begins in Jan. 2004 and will be team taught by Sutton and Eschbach at the Wells' Built Museum of African American History and Culture on Parramore Ave.

According to the Web site, the Prometheus Project is a "study in the humanities for the multi-generational poor of Orlando and Central Florida.

The Prometheus Project will be offered as a three-credit course when the program starts in Jan.

Scolaro said the credits will count as an elective or as a non-Gordon rule humanities course. He also said the "course is intended to open the door so that the student will be inspired to pursue a degree."

They are currently searching for students to fill the program. Scolaro said the program is for the homeless, formerly homeless, drug addicts, and working poor.

"It's a time consuming task to recruit students," said Scolaro. "The three of us [Scolaro, Sutton, and Eschbach] have for the past two

months made recruitment presentations at the Wayne Densch Center for Preferred Living, the Callahan neighborhood center, and the Rio Grande neighborhood center." He said, "Our intention is to recruit other members of Valencia Community College faculty in the future."

Sutton said they hope to have at least 30 students in the program and he expects it to be a year before the program expands.

He also said, "The project is a really incredible example of what a community college should be doing. The operative word in community college is community."

Funding for the Prometheus Project is being provided by a \$25,000 grant that goes through July 2004, from the Florida Humanities Council.

Scolaro also said that Valencia has agreed to pay the professors as part of their faculty contracts.

The course is free to students, and the cost of applications and books has been waived also. However, students are required to fill out an application for the Prometheus Project and for Valencia.

Questions and comments can be sent to [newseditor@valenciasource.com](mailto:newseditor@valenciasource.com)

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but will have to go through a second round of testing. The students will

