



INVESTING IN VANGUARD.

## Iraq Veteran Finds a Home at Vanguard

Philip Devine is home from Operation Iraqi Freedom and settling into the pace of a college campus. At Vanguard, he has found an academic program and a community of veterans where he can learn and develop his leadership skills and lifelong commitment to service. Devine is pursuing a degree in Religion in the School for Professional Studies (SPS) with a desire to go into ministry.

“Vanguard has enveloped me completely with the friendly staff and professors who can relate to me on a personal level,” says Devine. “My interest in the Bible and pursuing spiritual growth has only grown stronger since I enrolled.”

Devine, a Marine infantryman, is one of the many veterans served by Vanguard's Veterans Center which had its grand opening on June 3, 2010. The Center provides academic planning, financial advisement, and resources for returning service men and women, including administering the Yellow Ribbon Program, a partnership between Vanguard and the Veterans Administration to award scholarships to veterans. Admiral Vernon E. Clark, USN (ret.) a member of the Vanguard board of trustees, spoke for himself and Vanguard at the opening of the Center: “I want you to know how grateful that I am to the sons and daughters of America who wear that uniform, what I love to call the cloth of the nation.”

Veterans such as Devine place a high value on the camaraderie of their fellow veterans as they acclimate to civilian life after military service. One

of Devine's peers in the religion department, Aaron Huffman, was recently featured in the documentary series *Operation In Their Boots*, which explored the experiences of soldiers on and off the battlefield and their lives after coming home. Huffman, also a Marine combat veteran, shared his viewpoint in the episode “The Academic Front.” Devine and Huffman also benefit from the Veterans Advisory Board who provide guidance to student veterans and Center staff.

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Devine is especially appreciative of the Veterans Center and SPS staff. “They have been instrumental in helping me figure out how to complete my studies in my desired time frame, while allowing me to spend time with my family. I literally tell every single one of my veteran friends about Vanguard's SPS program...it is one of a kind.”

### DID YOU KNOW?

- 66 veterans are currently enrolled at Vanguard
- More than 20 Vanguard alums have served as chaplains in the armed forces, including **Lisa (Ferrario) Northway '94**, the only female Assemblies of God chaplain to serve on active duty
- 6 veterans serve as faculty and staff members at Vanguard
- *Military Times* recognized Vanguard as a Top 100 College or University for veterans

# Creative Voice in a New World

Sheyanne Romero is closing out her time as a Vanguard student with a daring creative venture: a book of short stories about people who live in California's central valley. This English major has come a long way from her first days on campus.

The first of her family to pursue a college degree, Romero found the world of higher education daunting as she navigated academic advising and financial aid planning. But as she began to invest herself in community life at Vanguard, she hit her stride and found strength in her creative voice.

First there was El Puente, a club for Hispanic students. "El Puente is a place where Hispanic students can gather and socialize and feel more at home," Romero says. "It's such a culture shock for many of them to be here. Meeting students with the same background who are first-generation college students - it meant there were other people like me on campus. It made me feel even more connected to the Vanguard community." As a senior, Romero is serving her second term as President of El Puente. The club recently enjoyed an event with Greg Austring, an Assemblies of God missionary turned Vanguard professor, who shared about his cultural assimilation process when he served in Guatemala.

Then her work was noticed among her English faculty and peers. In high school she had discovered a passion for literature and poetry, and at Vanguard she took the step from reader to author. She wrote her first short story as a sophomore

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and, according to professor Warren Doody, "has emerged as a strong and consistent voice in the classroom, one of the leaders in the department." Romero serves on the editorial board for Synecdoche, Vanguard's student literary journal, and is also a contributor. Her sights are set on an MFA program at the University of San Francisco and eventually the front of a college classroom.

Romero has also embraced Vanguard's commitment to outreach and missions. She joined a missions team to the Dominican Republic last summer, where she and the other students ministered with International Youth Initiative (IYI) in orphanages, feeding centers, and a women's prison.

For Romero, the road has been a challenging one and she wouldn't have it any other way. "I liked that I could work hard for something and see results," she says. "I knew college was the way to a better life."

## 31 Bits of Love

Kallie Dovel '08 and several recent VU alums started a company called 31 Bits, which sells African-made jewelry to benefit the poor in Uganda. In 2010, Reef Sandals released a sandal featuring 31 Bits beadwork.

"It's a huge opportunity for us," says Dovel.

The sandals, called "Ugandals," are sold in stores nationwide.

31 Bits was born after Dovel traveled to Uganda and met a local bead-maker who was selling her paper-and-lacquer creations to foreign visitors.

"I got to know her and her family," says Dovel. "She was making this jewelry but didn't have much of a market for it. I bought a huge box, went home for Christmas and sold them all out at a craft market. That opened my eyes that this could impact more women."

Dovel recruited fellow VU students and '09 alums **Anna Nelson, Brooke Hodges, Alli Swanson** and **Jessie Simonson** who traveled to Uganda last year to set up the business with the bead-makers. Then they began importing the jewelry and selling it in boutiques. The big break came when Reef Sandals heard about the burgeoning business and decided to add



Jessie Simonson, Calli Dovel, Anna Nelson, Brooke Hodges, Alli Swanson

the beads to their product line. Now 31 Bits, which employs thirty-four Ugandan women and has an office in Uganda, is turning out beads to adorn thousands of shoes.

As a result, the Ugandan bead-makers "are buying

houses, sending their kids to school and starting businesses which they didn't have capital for before," says Dovel.

"I think that for all of us Vanguard played a huge part in shaping us into who we are today. It was through the classes I took and the experiences I had at Vanguard that I began to feel a call to be part of something bigger than myself." says **Anna Nelson '09**. She continues, "My interest in development work was sparked through the anthropology classes I took at Vanguard. Through conversations we had with classmates and professors, the four of us began to dream and think outside the box! I think Vanguard equipped us with the resources to be able to do what we are doing. We still seek advice from our old professors about what we are doing even now. I'm so grateful for the role Vanguard has played in my life!"

## A Message from the Board of Trustees



As a Vanguard University trustee and chair of the Committee on University Advancement, I thank you sincerely for considering Vanguard University of Southern California in your giving plans. This year has

been a remarkable testimony to God's faithfulness and provision. In just one year, Vanguard moved to a strong reaffirmation of its accreditation. This achievement is clear evidence that God has placed the right leaders at Vanguard for this season of its life. As a trustee, I can attest to the wisdom and faithfulness of every Board member as we partner together with Christ to serve His kingdom through Vanguard. Your financial contribution will help Vanguard University serve students and the world in Christ through education and spiritual formation. I look forward to rejoicing with you the miracle of God's transforming work mission in the world through Vanguard University.

Dr. Evelyn Robertson  
Trustee

## Partner in prayer for Vanguard University

### PLEASE JOIN THE VANGUARD COMMUNITY AS WE PRAY FOR:

- President Carol Taylor as she leads the University
- The students who will join the Vanguard Family next fall as freshmen
- The Veterans Center as it serves our veterans with compassion and gratitude
- Homecoming and Family Weekend events as friends and family celebrate
- The blessing of Christian Fellowship as the Price Room is remodeled
- The glory of God's sunshine and the provision of umbrellas for the Café and Cove patios
- Vanguard scholar-athletes who champion character and make school history
- The opportunity to serve children through the online Child Development Program
- Strengthening local churches through the new Graduate Religion major, Master of Arts in Leadership Studies
- The power of music to share the Gospel through the Vanguard University Department of Music as they tour internationally
- Our Alumni as they go into the world as business leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, artists, and missionaries

# Ways to Give

## PHONATHON PLEDGES

Thank you for pledging during the Student Phonathon celebrating Vanguard's 90th birthday. Phonathon pledges can be fulfilled by mail or online at [www.vanguard.edu/give](http://www.vanguard.edu/give).

## GIVE ONLINE

Supporting Vanguard is simple and secure online. Just point and click, and your gift - whatever its size - will help Vanguard continue to provide a Christ-centered education to students. Visit [www.vanguard.edu/give](http://www.vanguard.edu/give).

## BY MAIL

Make checks payable to Vanguard University with any specific gift designation noted in the memo line. Vanguard University will issue an official receipt soon after receiving your gift. Checks can be mailed to:

Vanguard University Office of Advancement 55 Fair Drive Costa Mesa, CA 92626

## BY PHONE

Vanguard University is able to accept gifts of Visa or Mastercard. In addition to making a credit card gift online at [www.vanguard.edu/give](http://www.vanguard.edu/give), you can also call Kristine Fray, Gift Processor, at 714.966.5443.

## MONTHLY GIVING & ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER (EFT)

Choose one of two ways to have gifts automatically sent to Vanguard University:

- Electronic fund transfer from your bank account
- Automatic credit card debit from your credit account

To enroll in either option, complete a donation form at [www.vanguard.edu/give](http://www.vanguard.edu/give) or call Kristine Fray, Gift Processor, at 714.966.5443. Kristine will be happy to assist you.

## MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

Mark McAnlis, Director of Gift Planning, is pleased to assist you with a memorial or tribute gift. Call Mark at 714.966.5440.

## STOCKS AND OTHER APPRECIATED ASSETS

For details on how to make a gift of stock contact Mark McAnlis, Director of Gift Planning, at 714.966.5440.

## IRA ROLLOVER

If you are over age 70.5, you can rollover up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA to Vanguard University. These gifts can be made tax-free and will help balance your IRA value with other estate assets. Depending upon your income level, there may be additional income tax benefits. For more information, contact Mark McAnlis, Director of Gift Planning, at 714.966.5440.



# A Vanguard Heritage

BY BRENNAN HAWKINS '11



Vanguard is in my blood, or at least that's what I've always been told. I can remember shooting hoops in "The Pit" when I wasn't big enough to hold a basketball and playing in the Heath courtyard before there was a Heath building. I would think to myself, – it would be the coolest thing in the world to be a Vanguard University student. And you know what? I still think it is.

Both of my parents, **Randy '79** and **Charlotte (Rosser '83) Hawkins**, were students here at Vanguard. Growing up I heard stories about their experiences, mainly the one about how they met and eventually got married. My grandparents both helped build Needham Chapel and had a strong connection to the Vanguard community. My dad worked here as a basketball coach for 10 years and as the Financial Aid director for 11 years. All these family connections gave me the perfect chance to see all that Vanguard really has to offer.

When my parents first talked with me about college options, one thing they said about Vanguard really stood out. While Vanguard has great academics and professors, it also has a community that is unique and special. They said while at Vanguard, I would get the opportunity to get an education with a Christian perspective. A Vanguard University education would provide me more than information; Vanguard would teach me to think. They told me about

the ways the Vanguard community helped to cultivate them as they grew in their knowledge and in their faith, which is exactly what I wanted. As someone who takes great pride in learning and challenging myself, Vanguard was easily the best fit for me.

From academics to athletics to the social atmosphere, my time here has been fantastic. I followed in my dad's footsteps and played on the basketball team, received instruction from professors who taught my mom and got involved in the community in ways I never would have imagined.

I can remember my parents saying that their time at Vanguard produced some of their most cherished memories, and I can honestly say that the same is true for me. I am so happy that Vanguard is in my blood, because in the same way that Vanguard helped to mold my parents, it has helped me form who I am as a person today.



Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew (5:16) "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

This newsletter, titled SHINE, is an opportunity to share how God's light is shining through Vanguard students, faculty, staff, and friends. Whether creating jobs for Ugandan women, writing inspiring stories, or providing resources for our honored veterans, the Vanguard community strives to serve others and honor God. As Vanguard University celebrates its 90th year of providing a high quality, Christ-centered education, we are shining a light on both the school's rich legacy as well on its bright future. Vanguard is moving forward confidently with God's provision, as these stories show. Thank you for faithfully lifting up Vanguard University in prayer. Your support, both spiritual and financial, will ensure that Vanguard's light will shine brightly for years to come.



*Kelly Kannwischer*

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