



Cultural Emissary

As a student of anthropology, **Cecilee Glaus '09** tackles tough research problems the way she used to figure out Russian pieces as a classical piano student — by zeroing in on and mastering each element.

“I thrive on challenges when I know if I work hard enough I can excel,” says the soon-to-be graduate student. “The research is hard but thrilling. It compels me to keep studying and citing more people than I need to because in my mind it all connects into this huge, multi-faceted web of culture.”

After graduating from VU this past May with a degree in cultural anthropology and a minor in religion, Glaus is heading to Berkeley’s Graduate Theological Union to pursue a master of arts in cultural and historical studies of religion with an emphasis in Islamic studies. The main draw: the school’s Center for Islamic Studies. Her goal is to build bridges and forge a religious dialogue with Muslims.

Her interest in Islamic studies was sparked in an introduction to theology class with professor Ed Rybarczyk, and in a current issues in missions class with professor Greg Austring.

“I did one of my final projects on Islam and saw in it so much of my own love for the Lord and desire to serve and be known by God, and at the same time the fundamental component of my faith was missing from their beliefs, in the person of Christ,” she says.

She traveled with VU staff and students to Kyrgyzstan in the summer of 2008 and came away believing that her career would intersect somehow with Muslim culture. Her approach to the subject is both scholarly and spiritual.

“Anthropology provides a way to dialogue with and understand Muslims, to respect and be known by them, to know what makes them tick and how to represent our culture in a way that is meaningful and doesn’t alienate them from their culture,” she



says. “I feel prepared and have a strong foundation in my faith doctrinally and theologically.”

Glaus grew up attending Church on the Way in Van Nuys. She’s always had “an itch, this compulsion” to serve overseas as a cultural emissary.

She was also trained as a classical pianist and discovered the depths of her own tenacity as she figured out difficult pieces by Rachmaninoff and other modern Russian composers. Her small hands were ill-suited to their works, but she was able to master them by practicing the difficult parts over and over. When she got to VU, she fell in love with anthropology and began to apply that same tenacity to her studies.

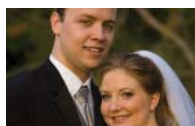
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Silina (Yohner '04) Vockrodt and husband Jason welcomed son Masen on February 2, 2009. Silina is a first grade teacher at Calvary Chapel Christian School while Jason works at Rebel Oil Company. The Vockrodt's live in Las Vegas.



Bethany Smith '08 and Paul Blankenship '07 were married January 31, 2009. They live in Chula Vista.



Brittany (Ruseler '08) Cleberg married Zachary, a video editor, on July 13, 2008. They live in Orange.



Christina (Daigle '08) and Stephen Gaynor '07 were married in Needham Chapel December 7, 2008.

Stephen is attending Trinity Law School. Christina received her teaching credential at Vanguard and is a sales associate at Nordstrom. They live in Santa Ana.

Just Married



Amanda (Vidito '98) Allen and Jay were married August 1, 2008. Jay is the sports director for a radio station in

the Portland, Ore., area. Amanda recently graduated from George Fox University with an MA in counseling. They live in Tualatin.

In Memory

Edythe (Voshell '52) Adams passed away September 16, 2008.

Ted Adams '53 passed away January 8, 2009.

Leeta Mae (Hubbard '45) Matthews passed away September 5, 2007.

Wendell Nick '94 passed away March 6, 2009.

Carlos Romero '93 passed away May 8, 2009.

Evangel (Pederson '53) Smith passed away March 17, 2008.

Flora Spurlock 1953-1954 passed away March 10, 2009.

Hugh Carr, former staff member, passed away November 2, 2007.

Send us your photos! We would love to showcase pictures of your new baby, wedding or anniversary in Class Notes. Email your photos (at least 1 megabyte in file size) to alumni@vanguard.edu or mail your prints (at least 3" by 4") to Alumni Relations, 55 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626. Prints will not be returned.



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"The Lord has given me favor with it," she says. "More than anything, I enjoy the research. People tease me in the reference room at the library because I'll be in there with mounds of books. To me research is the candy. It's fun finding evidence to support my argument. Anthropology gives me an opportunity to pursue research on a scholastic level."

She excelled so much that as a sophomore she presented research on the religious education system in Indonesia at the Santa Clara Undergraduate Research Conference. Most other student presenters were seniors.

"The opportunities I had at Vanguard opened a door to understand what anthropology is on an academic level and where I can

use my craving for research to pursue change and work toward better understanding cultural systems," she says. "Professors Craig Rusch, Vince Gil and Jamie Huff took me under their wings, mentored me and guided me. They have been amazing."

She also enjoyed the sense of community and personalized instruction at VU, "which made Vanguard an incredible gift," she says. "Studying under people who genuinely care about my development as a human being, and who make themselves available on so much more than a scholastic basis, was incredible."

Working on campus in the office of diversity programming and mobilization for the last two years, Glaus was the liaison between VU and programs in the Orange County area that serve people with special needs. She also prepared teams to volunteer abroad in humanitarian service.

"Studying under people who genuinely care about my development as a human being ... was incredible."

"At this point I'm curious to see how the Lord continues to open doors in the academy for me to pursue anthropology on an academic and intellectual basis," she says. "I am thankful for the time spent at Vanguard and there isn't anything I would have changed about this experience. Now I'm looking forward to new places and new challenges."