

THE VOICE

Vanguard University of Southern California Student Newspaper

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Christmas in Orange County. Photo by Trekaroo Blog.

About Us

The Voice is the student newspaper of Vanguard University. Managed under the auspices of the English Department, The Voice is a student-run publication that functions with the assistance of a faculty advisor. The Voice provides campus news, information about students, programs and faculty, as well as a public forum for student opinion. The Voice is an online and hard copy publication.

Mission Statement

The Voice is a forum for student expression that engages, informs and entertains the university community. The Voice strives to be a credible, knowledgeable and thoughtful resource for news and opinion.

NEWS COLUMN

A Very Vanguard Christmas

By: Megan Luebberman

This year Vanguard University is having it's very first Christmas Tree Lighting! The event is set for December 3rd, from 6:00-8:00 pm on the Health Lawn. All students, student's families, faculty, staff, alumni and donors are welcome to kickstart the momentous Christmas season by celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with us!

Laura Capo, the Director of Student Engagement and Development, has been working to share this important event with us for about four years, since she came to work at Vanguard. Now that her idea has finally come to fruition, we can all come together to enjoy the event and season. Capo explains that the event includes holiday treats, in the form of cookies and hot chocolate, as well as several photo opportunities for the family. Before the performances begin at 6:30, and after the Music Department is done performing, there is time to mingle and enjoy the holiday atmosphere. Several vignettes will be placed around the school as backdrops for photos. There will also be a Christmas tree next to the fireplace on the terrace of the Waugh Student Center to pose with. When it is time to start the music performances, there will be a musical overture played, along with the sound of a trumpet to signify the start of the celebration.

Capo says that: "I think coming out of covid we're looking for ways to bring the community back together, that are meaningful. [...] Think of it a little bit as a concert in the park."

Everyone will be on the Health Lawn, and are encouraged to bring their chairs, blankets and anything else for their coziness as they watch the Music Department's performances in Judkins Courtyard. The Christmas Tree will be upstairs above the choir on the terrace.



A Very Vanguard Christmas Flyer. Photo by Vanguard University.

The Music Department has several songs planned, including classics such as "Silent Night" and "We Need a Little Christmas." Some songs will even be sing-along songs, so that everyone can participate in spreading Christmas cheer. Capo explains that in between the songs, there will be some readings of the birth narrative from Luke.

"Think of it as a Linus moment, [like] in the Charlie Brown Christmas."

To crown off the entire evening, the large Christmas Tree above Judkins Courtyard will be lit with a countdown.

As a final thought to what the real purpose and meaning behind this event is, Capo says: "I think just bringing community together and celebrating the birth of Christ, just having that shared faith in the real true meaning of the season. I think it's super important as we get into the habit of the busyness—just a pause—just to be a reminder of what we're celebrating."

So Vanguardians, come celebrate Christmas with us and ring in the season by remembering the real reason for the season: Jesus Christ!

LIFE COLUMN VOL. 2

Forensic Psychology- A Speciality Course at Vanguard

By: Megan Luebberman

Do you like crime shows? Have you considered going into the justice system? Are you interested in the inner workings of a serial killers' tactics?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then Vanguard University has a course for you!

Dr. Carlos Vasquez, an adjunct psychology professor at Vanguard University, teaches the course called Forensic Psychology. Dr. Vasquez holds a doctorate in Psychology, a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy, and a Master's in Criminal Justice from USC.

The course, Forensic Psychology, is an upper-division study of a special topic in psychology at Vanguard University. It is offered primarily to psychology students, but any student who has taken Intro to Psychology can take Forensic Psychology.

WHETHER YOUR DREAM IS
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ALL.

Megan Luebberman

Dr. Vasquez describes the course in this way: "Introduction to Forensic Psychology covers the many areas of the justice system such as criminal behavior, serial killers, the court system, investigation techniques, the prison system-just to name a few." The class is primarily filled with Psychology majors but, depending on the field a student wants to go into, Forensic Psychology could be the course just right for them.

In regards to non-Psychology majors joining the class, Dr. Vasquez states that "I would encourage students that have an interest or would like to know more about this area. I have found that it's not always for everyone but if you enjoy crime shows, law enforcement, the justice system then this class is for you!"

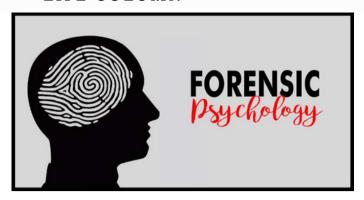
Outside of the classroom, Dr. Vasquez is involved in many different extracurricular activities in the realm of psychology which he draws from to teach. He peer reviews for Perspectives on Terrorism Journal. He has also completed the program on "The Threat of Global Jihad" and "Group Identity Terrorism" at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

Dr. Vasquez is the author of the book called "Apocalyptic Psychology: ISIS' Strategies." This book gives insight into ISIS' manipulation tactics which are used to lure possible recruits to join the group.

He also hosts several podcasts, including "Psychology Tidbits," "Circle of Insight," and "Forensic Psychology" on Apple and Spotify.

Dr. Vasquez's experience and expertise in psychology really enhances Forensic Psychology as a whole and offers students the opportunity to learn about how this subject matter applies to real life.

LIFE COLUMN



Forensic Psychology. Photo by Mind Help.

One of the most relished aspects of the class is the guest speakers that share their experiences in different fields relating to Forensic Psychology. Dr. Vasquez's connections to those in the field allow him to bring a variety of interesting individuals to class.

He explains that "my podcast on Forensic Psychology (which is on Apple and Spotify and gets about 90,000 downloads a month) affords me the opportunity to interview some fascinating people whether it's CIA or FBI or former inmates or experts in certain areas. These guests many times become speakers for the class so it has many benefits for everyone."

The speakers are a huge part of the class, as they can show students how forensic psychology is essential for certain careers and pathways after college. The speakers' experiences also highlight the key areas in society that forensic psychology is essential for, such as law enforcement.

Each semester the guest speakers are different. Dr. Vasquez says that "For instance, this semester we have a homicide detective that specialized in serial killers, a CIA operative (a spy), former Correctional officer, and more."

Veronica Gollihar, a Junior Sociology Major, takes Dr. Vasquez's class in Forensic Psychology and offers an inside look into what the class is actually like. She describes that in Forensic Psychology "we learn about a lot of different things ranging from what it takes to be a police officer and different assessments they are given, the legal system, criminals, and all sorts of things. It truly touches a lot of bases, and it is a lot of important information."

With a wide variety of speakers from the field, Gollihar feels that the students in this class get special perspectives of this subject that are rare to come by.

Gohillar recalls this one speaker in particular that they had named Mike Ciesynski, a former homicide detective and police officer. She says that she "found him particularly interesting because he had encountered a few serial killers including the Seattle Jungle Killer and he had also told us he did not think anyone should work in the profession for longer than 25-30 years because after a while you just get so desensitized."

Gollihar emphasizes how Dr. Vasquez's personal background and experiences with Forensic Psychology enhance the learning experience and make the class exceptionally interesting. She says that "An average class usually includes a slide show presentation, a few videos to go along with the class, and a lot of great insight, personal stories, and knowledge from the professor."

Whether your dream is to go into an area of criminal justice, or you are simply fascinated by crime and serial killers, Forensic Psychology covers it all. A wide variety of students can join and learn all about it.

As Dr. Vasquez comments about this class: "students enjoy the stories of criminal behavior and its application to the real world. [...] They enjoy the situational awareness tips but most of all are the guest speakers."

The Importance of Traveling Abroad in College

By Jenna Kallal

For the last couple of years, COVID-19 has prevented students from having the full college experience including being able to travel. Now that places are opening up, I urge students to take advantage of the opportunities placed in front of them, whether it is studying abroad, attending a mission trip, or even planning a trip with their friends or family. There is a multitude of benefits to traveling abroad. College is where students first experience independence and freedom from their life at home. For many, it's also their first time living somewhere that is not their hometown. They're finally getting a small taste of what the world has to offer and there is so much more to discover. Traveling across the world extends students' independence and exposes them to new experiences, challenges, and understandings.

Katie Hiew, Assistant Director of the Global Education and Outreach Department, listed some advantages of traveling abroad which include building self-confidence, learning practical life skills, and gaining problem-solving abilities.

Self-confidence is built because individuals will have to interact with strangers. When traveling abroad, you enter a new country with no connections. This means making new friends, building networks, and putting yourself out there.

There are many practical life skills that traveling abroad encompasses. One is adaptability. Students have to get used to a new environment and make themselves comfortable in where they are. There is also time management. If studying in another country, it takes maintaining schoolwork while exploring a new area. Another is communication. Many students will have to learn a new language to successfully interact with people.



Travel Suitcase and Globe. Photo by Jenna Kallal.

Students are also taught valuable problem-solving skills. They no longer have their parents to rely on when inconveniences come about. Students may end up lost, losing valuables, running out of money, or even getting sick.

Hiew also mentioned, "Seeing other cultures can be eye-opening." We are used to our own culture because we have been surrounded by it our whole lives. Being exposed to other cultures strengthens our empathy and awareness of differences in people. We don't realize that people live in contrasting conditions than our own until we see it upfront. People around the world eat different food, have an array of occupations, enjoy various activities, and are surrounded by diverse landscapes. They also live in different financial conditions.

We better understand cultures when we submerge ourselves in them. It's wrapped up in the history and location that people act the way they do.

Choosing a place to travel to may be difficult. The globe has 195 countries and around 10,000 cities. Just remember no matter where students go, there is value in their travel.

Hiew illustrates her favorite places to travel and why. She comments, "Everywhere I've been I have learned something from that experience. The best food I ate was in Greece. The most beautiful country I visited was Croatia. The most difficult country was Turkey. The nicest people are the Moroccans."

Not to say that traveling abroad will always be easy. Hiew also lists difficulties and challenges that students may face which include: airsickness, fear, anxiety, food allergies, cost, fundraising, and much more. Traveling can be difficult for the body. Students may feel airsick or experience awful jet lag. People around the world eat drastically different food so it can be difficult for students to find food they like or fits their preferred diet or allergies.

Traveling can also be high in cost. People have to pay for plane tickets, housing, classes, food, and souvenirs. It takes being able to save up, raise money, and manage it well. Especially for college students who already pay for tuition and outside means such as bills, gas, and supplies.

This may seem like a lot for students to plan and take on by themselves. Yet, Vanguard University has made traveling abroad accessible through its Global Education and Outreach Department. They not only provide opportunities to study abroad but also plan mission trips. Students can study abroad during the regular semesters or even go over the summer. The mission trips are organized during breaks so students don't have to miss classes.

WE BETTER UNDERSTAND CULTURES WHEN WE SUBMERGE OURSELVES IN THEM.

Jenna Kallal

The GEO department helps students every step of the way. They provide the necessary information and resources on the different opportunities. They assist students to fill out paperwork, raising money, researching scholarships, filling out applications, and organizing necessary needs. The GEO department gives students access to contact them anytime they need them while abroad.

Once students return from abroad they want to help them reintegrate into their previous life and debrief on how everything went.

There are several ways to reach out to the GEO department. It is recommended that students stop by their office which is located on the first floor of Scott Academic Center. Students can talk with Kayli Hillebrand, Associate Dean of International and Experiential Education, Katie Hiew, Assistant Director of the Global Education and Outreach Department, or their appointed interns. They can answer any questions and prepare students with the necessary tools and work needed for these opportunities.

Students can also visit the Global Education and Outreach page on the Vanguard portal to find more information on trips and studying abroad. There is also the Geo Instagram page, @vugeo, where they post updates and important information on events and opportunities.

How the Oil Spill Hurt the Heart of a Huntington Beach Resident

By: Jared Rhone



Ocean Oil Platform. Photo by James Wheeler.

This past month beach goers in Huntington Beach were met with a harsh reality.

Approaching their beloved city and dog beaches, residents were expecting a well spent afternoon full of surfing, swimming, and enjoying the sand and balmy weather. What they were greeted with at the beach was nothing of the sort. The beaches' shores were contaminated with large gobs of oil that not only polluted the water but gave the coastline a murky look. Clumps of oil locked into the sand, as the shore was painted with the black veil of oil infested waters. Those that tried to approach the waves felt the wet splashes of the dense water, as the oil and sand laid stuck on their legs.

On October 2, the oil spill in Southern California devastated not only the beaches and coastal regions, but the inhabitants and their respective ecosystems. Displaced and lacking a means to survive, many animals are running out of options. As for beachgoers, their beach sanctuaries are now landlocked with the heaps of oil that will affect the land for years after.

Noah Barnes, an avid surfer and longtime Huntington Beach resident (dated October 20, 2021) spoke to writers about the horrors unfolding at his local beaches and how he plans to help in the future. He describes his drive to aid the beaches as not only a responsibility, but a privilege to give back to the place that gifted him so many hours of fun memories. He provides his personal experience as a catalyst, in order to inspire others to take care of their local beaches and consider how they treat the ecosystem. His immediate audience are the locals of Huntington Beach, but he hopes his message spreads out to the residents of Southern California.

Barnes has been living in Surf City since the age of 12 and has been surfing ever since.

Now 20, he recollects on what the beach has meant for him throughout his time in Huntington Beach. "It symbolizes my safe space really," starts Barnes, "I've been coming here for years now and it's practically my second home. Whether I'm surfing or just enjoying the atmosphere the beach always has something to offer for me."

With the recent oil spill however, Barnes has seen his second home invaded with the pungent oil that has attacked the beaches of Southern California.

As he grapples with the reality of the latest events, the surfer struggles to put his feelings into words. "Seeing the beach hurt for sure. I saw pictures but it's a totally different feeling when you see it in person."

While he feels deflated by what he has seen he believes going has been eye opening in more ways than one. "Being there felt unreal. I haven't seen the beaches over in Newport, but I've heard they're much worse. When you see it you really feel the weight of the situation and you start to understand how serious it actually is."

Barnes also states that he hasn't been able to surf since, and feels the impact of losing out on an integral part of his weekly routine. "I've had to stay away from the water for the most part, I have a few friends who can't take it and have surfed anyways. I don't know if I'll get to that point, but it's been hard to sit out and avoid a place I love to be and not surf when I am there."

But for Barnes, the situation is so much deeper than his current inability to surf. He wrestles with his own environmental responsibility and speaks to his newfound perspective overall.

"Its weird," begins Barnes, "Even though I've been going to the beach forever, I really wouldn't call myself a super big nature person. But this whole experience has really changed that."

Although Barnes does not profess to have become an ecologist overnight, he now feels driven to be environmentally aware and learn to be more cognizant of how he impacts the beach. "I think I've spent all this time enjoying the beach and what it gives me, but I've never really put the time into giving back to it."

Barnes looks on to the future, hopeful to carry himself in a way that not only preserves the beach but gives it life.

More than ever, he recognizes the importance of "being a good steward of what I have and showing my thankfulness by taking care of what I got."



Beach Photo by James Wheeler.

ENTERTAINMENT COLUMN

Don't Scroll Your Life Away: Fasting From Social Media

By: Isabella Perez

The non-biblical definition of fasting is defined as abstaining from food or drinks, typically done for health and diet purposes. From a biblical perspective, fasting is defined similarly, but with a deeper purpose. The biblical value of fasting is to abstain from food or drinks in order to be more inclined to hear from God, and to seek him deeper without distractions, through prayer. Matthew 4:4 states "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." We read multiple times in scripture about people fasting and praying before making big decisions or when facing intense turmoil in their lives. What comes from this? Wisdom, clarity, and guidance from God, which is shown to be far more satisfying than any physical elements of food. But what if I suggested that fasting can be done from more than just food? God encourages us to fast from anything that we are idolizing, or devoting more time to than him.

Vanguard University of Southern California third year psychology student Mary Lowe talks about her experience with fasting from social media, and the list of positive ways it has impacted her.

Lowe began fasting from social media at the height of the pandemic when political opinions and divide began to weigh heavy on her heart. She quotes "There was one day when I got off of social media and just started sobbing because of everything that was going on. I decided that day that I was going to start a fast from social media, and that particular time, I literally took three months off. I didn't plan to, but as the days went on I just felt myself feeling better not being on it."

Lowe talks further about how social media has affected her mental health.



Photo by Cheryl Benton via The Three Tomatoes

She sighs stating "If I could just delete everything [social media] and disappear off the face of the earth I totally would. It's just so negative. Everytime I get on there [social media] I see people from my old highschool and what they're doing with their life and I compare it to what I'm not doing."

Lowe also adds more on how social media has affected her confidence and her relationship with God, and how when she's fasting, her faith and view of herself is stronger. Fasting from social media has become essential for her spiritual walk stating, "It's important for me to take those times to fast if I feel like I'm spending more time on social media than I am with God." She adds "Journaling is a big thing that I try to implement into my fasts, meditating on God's word, whether it's simply picking a verse and seeing how God speaks to me through that. Also just doing things that social media can take away from."

Lowe mentions what leads her to doing a fast now is simply an awareness of when her screen time is becoming excessive, or when she feels an inclination from the Holy Spirit. Lowe gives tips to those looking to start implementing social media fasts into their routine including "Starting with time limits, or even setting specific times during your day, as long as you start gradually, the bigger commitments will develop with time." God graciously invites us to repent of that which we are placing before him, and to redirect ourselves to a posture of being filled and satisfied by Him alone.

ENTERTAINMENT COLUMN MICHAEL'S CORNER

30 Years of Nevermind

By: Michael Robles



Nevermind Album Artwork, 1991. Photo by Kirk Weddle

It is already known that Nirvana was a major influence on 90s rock culture and music. But, in recent years, discussion on their influence has sparked the debate on whether the band is overrated. On September 24, 1991, the band released what would become their most influential album: Nevermind. With 2021 being its 30th anniversary, we can dive into how the album came to be so impactive on music and culture as a whole. Even so, Nevermind by Nirvana is one of the most culturally and musically aware albums in history.

As Nirvana grew in popularity, they became an icon for non-conformist culture and helped shape 90s youth attitudes against social norms and institutions. Their influence clung mostly to the rock and punk crowds, eventually founding the "grunge" movement in culture and music.

Before looking into the album itself, one must ask: what is the definition of being overrated?

A generalized definition of being overrated is the artist does not have enough talent to be as popular as they are. However, the concept of being overrated has commonly become far too mixed up with just being popular or influential. In order for an artist to truly be overrated, their popularity must outweigh their talent or authenticity.

Nirvana's Nevermind does the absolute opposite.

Kurt Cobain's unique songwriting form, along with the band's music style that was unusual for music at the time, played into how different they were compared to other bands at the time. The rock scene had just moved on from the hair metal wave, and a revival of hard rock and metal had begun to make its way back into the late 80s and early 90s... until Nirvana released Nevermind.

Distortion is often used on guitars to add a more raspy and chaotic sound to guitars, so they were not used as much in mainstream rock music at the time. Most people strayed from effect pedals because they took away from the "natural sound" of guitars. However, distortion was practically Nirvana's middle name. Cobain, who used about four distortion effect pedals in his career as a guitarist, used distortion heavily in Nevermind. "Smells Like Teen Spirit," "In Bloom," and "Breed" have a major focus on guitar distortion, as it adds to the louder, heavier sound that the songs are going for. Not only that, but they add to what Cobain is conveying in the song.

The key way Nevermind is one of the most influential albums in history is how the band creates a masterful relationship between sound and message. "Smells Like Teen Spirit," one of the band's most famous songs, does this really well. In the song, Cobain sings about various themes of self-deprecation and depression. He speaks on how pressured he feels as an artist, feeling as though he must entertain audiences full of "teen spirit", as well as how self-expectation can lead to one's own demise.

"Smells Like Teen Spirit" is a major critique both on the music industry and Cobain's own heartache through a nihilist lens. The song's twisted nihilistic rage is emphasized through the loud, distorted chaos in the instrumentals. Drummer Dave Grohl plays loudly on the cymbals, and focuses more on attack in his drumming rather than complexity.

OPINION COLUMN MICHAEL'S CORNER

This sound makes it feel as though even the instruments are shouting at us on the track, calling the listener to break out of the norms they are boxed into. As the song's opening track, "Smells Like Teen Spirit" calls their listeners to get angry. The same goes for every other song on Nevermind, as they often convey raw emotion or social critiques to convey the band's views.

Raw emotion plays a major part in the song "Breed," which is probably the most punk song on the album. The repetitive lyrics, blast-like beats, and fast bass and guitar riffs play off of Cobain's shouting to convey the same rage against society as in "Smells Like Teen Spirit". One major social critique that is expressed throughout the album is toxic masculinity, and the band's social commentary on the male species as a whole.

In "Territorial Pissings," Cobain criticizes the treatment of women by men in society. In the second verse, Cobain shouts, "Never met a wise man / If so, it's a woman," expressing how he feels that men are too territorial and unintelligent to be wise. In the chorus, he says, "Gotta find a way, find a way, when I'm there," to show how he strives to better society when he reaches a higher status. His commentary is very direct and straightforward, playing into the anger he has towards the male species.

These three songs perfectly represent what makes Nevermind such an influential album. Not only is it timeless, but it is the pinnacle of breaking social norms. Cobain himself stated that the band wanted to combine mainstream pop with heavier rock. The album does this in a purposefully rigid, yet organic way. Song moods trample on one another, transitioning from loud outcries to somber ballads (although these are rare). It perfectly encapsulates the Nirvana sound that has become so well-recognized.

Nevermind uses the same platform that allows pop music to become so radio-friendly, but allows the band to send their messages and rage-like themes like that of punk rock in such a straightforward way. This same album structure and style would soon explode in the music industry, creating the "grunge" movement both in popular culture and music itself. Soon, Nirvana spawned bands such as Soundgarden, Alice in Chains, and many more. Variants of Cobain's raspy vocals, distorted guitar, Novoselic's reverbed bass riffs, and Grohl's metronomic yet crowd-raging drums began to rise. The stylistic form of Nevermind can still be heard in different genres today.

The past nu-metal music genre, popularized by bands such as Linkin Park, System of a Down, and Disturbed, had many of the same qualities that Nevermind was known for. Even the pop punk wave of the early 2000s had similar qualities that grunge popularized. Nowadays, these same influences have become so deeply rooted in rock that grunge has become more of a musical and cultural aesthetic more than a movement itself.

Distortion effect pedals for guitar, punk-influenced instrumentals, and lyrics directed towards social issues became widespread in rock subgenres with Nevermind's release. The album may not have been the first to do this, but it was the first to make it worldwide. If Nevermind hadn't been released or stylized in the way it was, rock would not be the genre it is today.

Meet The Staff

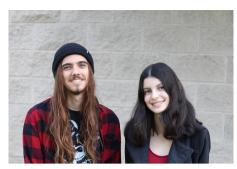




Jenna Kallal and Emily Dodge. Photo by Amanda White



Jenna Kallal (far left), Megan Luebberman (left), Emily Dodge (middle), Isabella Perez (right), Kayla Limón (far right). Michele, Andrea, and Michael (not shown). Photo by Amanda White



Michael Robles and Megan Luebberman. Photo by Amanda White

Michele Acosta, Staff Writer

Michele Acosta is a 3rd year transfer student, studying in English with a minor in journalism. Her career goal is to become a copywriter or go into broadcast journalism.

Emily Dodge, Editor-in-Chief

Emily Dodge is a Senior English major minoring in journalism and part of the VU Scholars program. She hopes to go into copy editing and creative nonfiction writing.

Jenna Kallal, Staff Writer

Jenna Kallal is a Communications major with an emphasis in emerging media and technology as well as a journalism minor. She is also currently the social media intern for the Global Education and Outreach department.

Kayla Limón, Staff Writer

Kayla Limón is a Communications Public Relations Major minoring in Journalism. She is the Co-President of the Public Relations Student Society of America Chapter at VU & Social Media Manager for VU's The Voice Newspaper!

Megan Luebberman, Staff Writer Megan Luebberman is a Junior English major, studying creative writing in hopes of writing her own books one day.

Isabella Perez, Staff Writer
Isabella Perez is a Communications here emphasizing in Tech/
Emerging Media and minoring in Journalism. She enjoys writing, being in nature, cooking, and spending quality time with friends, family, and Jesus!

Jared Rhone, Guest Writer
Jared Rhone is an English
major, minoring in Journalism.
He plays for the VU Men's
Soccer Team.

Michael Robles, Staff Writer Michael Robles is very passionate about writing and music. He is an aspiring writer and has a major interest in showing Vanguard the concepts and opinions we don't always tend to see.

Andrea Velasquez-Mejia,

Staff Writer

Andrea Velasquez-Mejia is a senior English major, minoring in Journalism. She is the Department lead for the Intercultural Student Programs.

We are accepting guest writers, photographers, and videographers. If you are interested, please reach out to us via our email, the voice@vanguard.edu or our submissions form on the Voice Newspaper,

https://vanguarduniversityvoice.com/submit-to-the-voice-newspaper/

