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NEWS RELEASE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



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USD FOUNDER'S GREAT-NIECE
GRADUATING FROM NROTC AT USD --
FIRST NAVY ASSIGNMENT: ICELAND

USD senior Tina Hill Van Hook is connected to this institution in a most intriguing manner.

First off, her great-aunt, the Reverend Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill, founded the San Diego College for Women 26 years ago, which merged with the College for Men in 1972 to become the University of San Diego.

Secondly, the 21-year-old coed is graduating this Sunday, May 26, as an ensign in the Navy, having spent the past two years in the NROTC program at USD.

She becomes a Navy officer during NROTC commissioning ceremonies on Saturday, May 25. Not more than 100 women nationwide are expected to graduate from NROTC this year, according to the NROTC.

Her first military assignment is a year in Keflavik, Iceland as an operations officer in the Navy's administrative offices there.

"I asked for an assignment anywhere overseas, so that's how I got Iceland," Ms. Van Hook explained with a chuckle.

"I'm told it's not as cold as Greenland."

Some consolation. In the summer, the warmest it normally gets is 40, while the average temperature in the winter is in the low 20s.

Tina is related to Reverend Mother Hill on her mother's side of the family. "She's my great-grandmother's sister.

"I often felt Aunt Rosie's presence on campus, particularly when I went to church. . . I didn't really know my great aunt but my grandmother (Lela Dunn of Coronado) always used to tell me stories about her. She told me my great aunt was a very strong, independent woman.

"My grandmother always used to say, 'things were different at USD when your Aunt Rosie was there."

Different? Like how?

"Like the girl students used to always have to change clothes for dinner."

The Reverend Mother Hill came to San Diego in 1945, at the request of Bishop Charles F. Buddy, to establish the College for Women. After seven years of planning and construction, the school opened.

She is responsible for choosing USD's distinctive architectural design, Spanish Renaissance.

Reverend Mother Hill remained involved with USD until her death in 1965.

At USD, Ms. Van Hook majored in business administration. She attended USD as a civilian during her freshman and sophomore years, but joined the Navy officer training program at her father's suggestion.

"My Dad told me about the scholarship available from the Navy to I applied and qualified for it." Her father, Gordon Van Hook, was a captain in the Navy. He now manages Texaco's west coast tanker fleet out of Long Beach.

Gordon Van Hook resides in Newport Beach with his wife, Lela, who works for Neiman-Marcus stores.

When their daughter is commissioned into the Navy on Saturday, she will be part of the NROTC's first graduating class at USD since the program began here three years ago. Two other women and four men will be commissioned at the ceremony.

The commissioning is at 10 a.m. in Salomon Lecture Hall in DeSales Hall on campus.

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