International Learning: Military Connected Overseas

Student Spotlight

As May approaches, Nathalie DeJesus, a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, eagerly anticipates her graduation, marking the culmination of a remarkable journey that spans from her service in the US Navy to her pursuit of forensic law. DeJesus is a veteran who served for five years and uses Chapter 33 benefits. She is also Military Community Advocate for the Center for Academic Success and Transition (CAST) as well as a member of the UNL Chapter of Student Veterans of America (SVA). She has recently found her passion in the intricacies of maritime law, fueled by her experiences both at sea and in the classroom.

When she realized maritime law was what she wanted to pursue, she discovered a program within Global Experiences that would expand her newfound passion. Her time in the Navy, where she specialized as a mechanic aboard C2-A cargo planes working on safety equipment, laid the foundation for her current academic pursuits, instilling in her a deep understanding of the importance of legal frameworks in the maritime domain.

Recently, DeJesus participated in a transformative Global Experiences program organized by UNL during the J-term. Alongside 14 fellow students and two professors, she ventured to Bimini, Bahamas, where they delved into the world of sharks indigenous to the area.

“The Global Experiences program was a very good experience. They literally walk you through every step and make sure that you have your passport and all your documentation and your doctor's notes,” said DeJesus.

For DeJesus, one moment stood out: “We were swimming with the hammerhead sharks and were hoping to see one, but we saw five instead plus there were 20 nurse sharks coming in and out in between us right in front of our faces,” she said.

She finds joy in witnessing the awe of those around her who are experiencing international travel for the first time, a sentiment she believes is integral to personal growth and understanding.

DeJesus remains grateful for the opportunities afforded to her through her military service and educational pursuits. With her sights set on a future in maritime law, she is determined to make a positive impact, leveraging her unique blend of military experience and academic expertise to advocate for justice and uphold the rule of law.

As DeJesus prepares to embark on the next chapter of her life, she stands as a beacon of inspiration for fellow service members and students alike, demonstrating the transformative power of education and the unwavering spirit of those who serve.

“IT was a once in a lifetime opportunity. When else will you get to be with students that you will see when you get back and have this awesome experience and swim with sharks, who can say that? You should just try it once, even if you don’t go anywhere internationally. It broadens so much, and you meet amazing people,” said DeJesus.

Doing anything exciting over spring break? Let us know! Email nfrederick2@unl.edu

Stressed? Stop by & grab a stress ball!
Meet the Staff!

Deb Quinn has been part of the MVSC since it opened and has been a valuable asset to the military connected community on campus for over 20 years. She is UNL’s Senior School Certifying Official assisting Veterans, Service Members and Dependents to receive their VA Education Benefits specializing in the GI Bill® and the POST 9/11 programs.

Not only is she a Nebraska native but her father and uncle served in the military.

“Getting to meet so many students who are eligible for their benefits is so fulfilling. I get to know some of them personally, you know the stories behind why they were in the service or what some of them are planning to do now that they’re out of the service and graduating from UNL,” says Quinn.

Quinn is available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and is happy to assist students with questions about all of the benefits they are receiving.

Mascot Naming Contest!

This adorable eagle came to us from University Program Council at their Stuff-A-Plush event! We need your help giving it a name! Send in your responses to Natalie Frederick (nfrederick2@unl.edu) or come to the office. Staff will vote for the best one and the winner will receive a gift from the MVSC staff!