

The Ever Changing Face of DSU

A follow-up With Melissa Bartelson



I have known many people in the military who have not taken advantage of the opportunities for education. What DSU has done for me regarding multiple deployments and hassles with lack of internet at times overseas is a great example of how people are willing to work with us. I greatly appreciate each of the staff who made my associates possible. They were so understanding and flexible with operation tempo and travel and such. I just hope the word can get out that it is possible, and that DSU has done such an awesome job, the staff is to be commended.

Have you completed your degree from DSU?

I completed my degree this Fall. There was one chemistry class that I finished at UW-Parkside that finished my AS, Associate of Science, with DSU.

How are your plans to use horses to help children coming along?

My plans continue. I have two lesson students presently. My dream is still big. The complement of a BSN will hopefully provide the financial independency needed for horse ownership. I would also like to see it enable me to physically care for children who come to me.

Melissa, where are you at now in your career?

I am continuing my education toward a Bachelor of Science, BS, in Nursing. I also am employed at Vista Medical Center in the ICU as a

Patient Care Tech. Outside of that I remain affiliated with the Navy Reserves and am assigned to the 4th Marine Air Wing, Marine Air Control Group-48 in Great Lakes.

Has your degree from DSU been beneficial to you personally? In your career?

My degree from DSU has helped me tremendously in the relationship I continue to develop with my horse. I learned much from Gene and Sandy Miller concerning horsemanship and it is a great feeling to be able to apply it to my own horse. (The Miller's instruct all of the equine classes for the degree and work out of their ranch in Wyoming.) What I have been able to do with him through their courses has enabled me to trust him with children. I think that no matter what course you take it impacts you. Much of what you do with horses you can apply to humans and interactions you have with them. You learn to pay attention to detail, just as the military teaches. The detail comes in the form of a movement or a give with a horse. With humans it is in tone, inflection, and body movements. The training classes taught me that small steps are marvelous. That change doesn't often come in leaps but in small steps and those are to be celebrated. It taught me patience.

Were the on line classes appropriate for your degree?

I think so. I was unsure about the Ag Marketing class but I think having that makes me more well rounded. If nothing else it gives you a better view of the big picture since being in horses we will depend on the agricultural market.

How would you rate the overall effectiveness of the on line classes?

I feel they were very effective. It was such a great match for me. I needed something that I could pursue but without much restriction. Classrooms were not an option. I was unsure about the training classes and how you could do that on-line. The instructional videos, the videos we sent and then the feedback I received worked. I was pleasantly surprised how much I learned. I thoroughly enjoyed the English classes I took. The instructor broke the barriers of the internet classroom by putting us in groups and having discussions and editing one another's papers. It was as if we were in a classroom.

Would you or have you recommended DSU's on line courses to friends, family or colleagues?

I would and have. While in the desert I encouraged many to enroll...although I don't think anyone took me up on it. With the Miller's and the Associate of Science, AS, in Ag degree that you offer you have a one of a kind opportunity offered.

No one knows what the future holds. I have big dreams for my life. I would love to run a ranch for kids, I would love to be a medical missionary overseas, I'd go back to Iraq in a heart beat. But I do not know what God has in store for my life. I know He placed DSU in my path for a reason. I know that I am going on to earn my BSN at Parkside for a reason. I just don't know what He has in store in the future.

What I do now is continue to prepare and look forward to what manifests from it all. I am continually thankful for DSU. For that opportunity, for the education that affects the relationship between my horse and I, and for how it has helped me prepare to instruct others. I am thankful

for the knowledge it has given me which is not only applicable to the horse world, but to the interactions with others. I look forward to what God has planned, and I know He will use what I have learned.



Melissa Bartelson with her horse, Cowboy, and dog Willie.