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World-traveling psychologist speaks to students

SEARCH

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Clinical psychologist Dr. Melissa Green was at Cartersville Elementary School on Friday to speak to students about her recent experience abroad.

Dr. Green, who attended CES and now holds degrees from Howard University and George Washington University, spoke to fourth-graders about her trip to multiple countries in the fall of 2014 on a cruise ship as part of the Semester at Sea program. She served as a counselor for the program, which offers college students the opportunity to travel the world while continuing their studies. During her time on the ship, Dr. Green was able to communicate with teachers at CES via email, who shared her messages with students in their classrooms. One of the teachers, Laura Greet, said the relationship was established through a young lady in her class who is a family member of Dr. Green. It was a great opportunity for the students, she noted, because

it allowed them to get a glimpse of other parts of the world.

“There was a lot of communication the whole time. Some of (the students) wanted to know what (Dr. Green) was doing for Halloween or Thanksgiving on the ship,” said Greet. “We’ve tracked her sailing on a world map.”

Students were able to follow along as Dr. Green started in England and traveled to Russia, Poland, Germany, Belgium, France, Ireland, Portugal, Morocco, Spain and Italy. They then awaited her next correspondence as she sailed two weeks across the Atlantic Ocean to Brazil, then visited Barbados and Cuba. Dr. Green was thrilled to finally converse with the students in person. She brought with her an informative video about the Semester at Sea program, as well as a slideshow with photos she took during her time on the trip.

“It’s very special, because I did attend (CES), and I never imagined that I would have left Cartersville, let alone travel around the world,” she said.


Dr. Green hoped that her experience had a positive impact on the students and their perspective on life.


“A lot of times, if something is different, it’s ‘wrong,’ and we judge it negatively,” she expressed. “I hope from the information I shared, (the students) won’t be afraid to be exposed to other cultures and other people.”

If the “oohs” and “aahs” during her presentation were to serve as any indication, it seems the youngsters were more than tuned in to her message.

Dr. Green is currently employed as a military and family life counselor at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, serving active duty service members and their families. She previously worked with Psychology and


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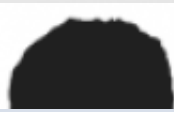
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