

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Name: Alyssa Nasto

Year of Graduation: 2003

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

After high school I studied Air Traffic Management at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. I graduated summa cum laude from ERAU in 2006 and then began working for the Federal Aviation Administration as an Air Traffic Controller. I lived in Oklahoma City and Austin, TX before finally settling back in Florida at the Pensacola TRACON (Terminal Radar Approach Control Facilities), where I work with both civilian and military aircraft.

While in college I was afforded the opportunity to attend a study abroad in Ecuador. This trip is what ultimately ignited my passion for travel...though imagine my parents' surprise when I extended my stay to experience life in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Since then I've been fortunate to travel internationally often, visiting over 30 countries so far. Exploring new cultures and meeting people from every walk of life has been eye opening and completely amazing.

My other passion is volunteering with the military and veteran programs. I was a cofounder of the Team RWB (Red, White & Blue) Pensacola chapter (a veteran outreach program) and the athletic director for several years. I have also worked with the United Service Organization, Challenged Athletes Foundation, Special Operations Warrior Foundation, and several others. Working with these groups and meeting so many incredible men and women has been a truly humbling experience. It was actually at a veterans' event that I met my fiancé Cory and have been blessed that he shares my love of travel, adventure, and helping others. "

Where do you currently live?

Pensacola, FL

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

So many of my teachers made a huge impact on my life, so it's very hard to narrow it down. Two that really stood out for me were Mr. VanGorden and Mr. Potter.

Mr. VanGorden seemed to have a way of teaching that not only made me understand math, but love learning it as well. He also had a sense of humor that, while not understood by all, was absolutely hilarious.

Mr. Potter played a more personal role in my life as a teacher, a golf coach, and a mentor. He was caring, compassionate, and pushed me to be better at whatever it was I chose to do in life.

Thank you both for having such an enormous impact on my future.

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

Basketball made for some of the best memories I have from high school. The team camaraderie and not taking ourselves too seriously led to some appreciable and humorous moments.

I'm still good friends with many of my teammates to this day.

