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## **Application for the Dolores E. Fisher Award**

My name is Barbara Zennaro, I am a 25 years old Italian girl with the passion for the sea. My love for the sea and the environment begun in the summer 1996, when working as a volunteer to monitor bottlenose dolphins resident in the island of Sardinia, Italy. That summer I realized how important was the public awareness toward the sea, a subject that is not taken into consideration in schools. I wanted to study the sea and the ocean, not an easy task in Italy since we lack this kind of schools. But I am a dreamer with an innate sense of adventure. So I moved in England, where I learned English, and then I moved in Wales where I entered the Ocean Science undergraduate program of Bangor University. Through an exchange program during my second year with Oregon State University, I was introduced to the master's program in Marine Resource Management, where I am currently enrolled. In fact, after I graduated in Ocean Science, I realized how important it was that the scientific knowledge would find its way to public and the politicians to make intelligent science-based decisions. I thought this master would teach me that skills I was missing.

Presently, I am in Oregon State University on the way to finish my second year of the Marine Resource Management master's program, with a minor in Earth Information Science and Technology (with a focus in GIS and Remote Sensing). I will finish the due coursework next term (spring term, therefore in May I will be here in Corvallis at OSU) and I will try to defend my thesis at the end of the summer. Also this summer, I will have an internship for a "discovery tour" agency, accompanying tourist on small boats, to teach them about the marine ecosystem.

I am currently working in Newport, at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, registering whales calls and localizing marine earthquakes whose noise was recorded by various arrays of hydrophones anchored on the bottom of the ocean. In my thesis I am looking at correlation between marine earthquakes events and sea surface elevation changes, a very hot topic recently, considering the rapid climate changes our planet is currently undergoing. Once I finish the analysis, I intend to produce a set of classes to introduce this subject to schools and other public entities.

My goal for this master is to learn how to effectively make public the scientific work. I feel that video production often represents the faster and easier way to get to the public; therefore, through the help of Oregon Sea Grant I worked on the filming and production of two short documentaries to gain more useful skills. The first documentary presents the students that Sea Grant found and the second documentary is meant for incoming students and it is an introduction to the Marine Resource Management Program from a student point of view. Throughout the video production, I not only learned how to film,

interview and edit a documentary, but I also learned how to address questions and problems to the public.

One of my dreams is to be able to create one day a document (book or movie) that would be able to speak to most people increase their awareness on the role as a community on the ecosystem. After all, we are all on the same boat!

My current main goal is to successfully complete my master. After this, I am planning on going back to Italy for few months to check on my family (Italian culture!) and then I am planning to continue my education with a PhD, probably in New Zealand, in marine geology and scientific communication.

Presently, my tuition fees are paid as part of my teaching assistantship contract for the class "Exploring the deep ocean" taught by Dawn Wright and Bob Duncan. In the past, my tuition have been paid by the International Cultural Scholarship Program, a program that covers part of the tuition in exchange of public speeches to introduce kids, university students, elderly etc to the culture of the sunny and tasty Italy, in my case. I also received two awards of the start of the year, the Warren W. Denner Memorial Graduate Student Award and Keith H. Wrolstad Memorial Fellowship in Geophysics and Marine Geology and the Laurel scholarship that further reduced the cost of my tuition fees.

I have been offered a teaching assistantship for an undergraduate level biological oceanography class for fall 2005 and I believe that this offer will benefit me a lot, giving me the opportunity to improve my teaching skills and also giving me more time to work on my thesis so that I can spend the summer working on other internship and hopefully going on a oceanographic research vessel.

The Dolores Fisher Award will be used to cover part of house rental expensive and to buy some book needed for my thesis.

There is a possibility I will have to return home to Italy soon for family reasons, in this case I have to graduate during the summer term, and the Dolores Fisher Award will help me to cover the summer tuition fees. The cost of my tuition for this summer will be of \$916 for 4 credits (3 credits thesis, needed to defend the thesis + 1 credit for an internship with Marine Discovery Tours).

I am sorry I am not able to tell you at the moment what my choice will be: I would love to be able to stay here longer for fall term to be able to gain more experience in teaching and on cruises, but also my family need me in Italy, so I should try to finish soon.

I hope that in this short letter I have been able to let you know more about myself. I am a very friendly person and genuinely curious about life. I love traveling; I am fluent in Italian, English and Spanish, with a good understanding in Portuguese and a fair knowledge of Japanese.

I felt that since I left Italy, my view of the world changed. I feel now more open to different cultures and I realized how confronting those with my culture helped me to learn more about myself. I left Italy when I was 18 and I was a dreamer, now I am 25 and I believe that the only impossible dreams are the ones that you do not fight for.

Thank you for helping and motivating students.