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As I was making my way through the video series, learning about concepts like Bernoulli's principle, electrical engineering, and even nanomaterials, I was excited about all the STEM career opportunities available. I discovered very early on that I had a passion for STEM, as my math and science classes had always interested me the most and I competed in most STEM competitions at school such as math team and Science Olympiad. Still, it came as a surprise when I found my interest was most piqued by Mrs. Monica Deangelis' video about the science of seal tracking. Although I harbor no animosity towards them, seals and other marine life have never been my passion. But while watching the video, I couldn't help but be inspired by Mrs. Deangelis' story and the seal tracking project.

Growing up in Rhode Island, Mrs. Deangelis was interested in marine life and marine ecosystems from a young age. Although she didn't enjoy math, she persevered through college as an ecology major to land a job as a marine biologist. Now, she works with a dedicated team at the navy to track pinnipeds (most notably seals). This story was inspiring for two reasons: Mrs. Deangelis persevered to achieve her dream job and she now actively works for the benefit of marine life and the entire planet. Mrs. Deangelis' work represents how STEM should be applied to the real world; people of different skills and backgrounds working as a team to solve real world problems with science. Even though math isn't her strong point, there are many mathematicians and statisticians on the team that can back her up, so everyone brings a different to the table. Furthermore, the entire team is working on something that has tangible real world benefits, which seems like a rewarding and fulfilling work experience.

The project Mrs. Deangelis and her team are working on was equally inspiring. I had known about GPS technology and the concept of triangulation for a long time, yet had never considered that it might be used for something other than navigation. I was stunned that using relatively simple technology could help marine biologists learn so much about seals, and inform them on how best to protect this species. I will admit that prior to this I thought that the Navy was all about warships, submarines, and other weapons of war, so it came as a pleasant surprise that the Navy works on constructive, non-war related projects during peacetime. It was inspiring how the Navy, and by extension the United States, uses their extensive funding and resources for something that benefits the planet.

I believe that this pursuit of knowledge could be used to drastically improve the world. It is easy to envision similar projects involving endangered species, whereby scientists could actively work to prevent extinction. This technology could be used to deter illegal hunting, identify the impact of climate change on vulnerable species, and help biologists learn more about the animals we share the Earth with. In my biology class last year, I learned about how interconnected species are with their environment and other species. Protecting endangered species with GPS technology will go a long way in fostering biodiversity and supporting vulnerable ecosystems.

In conclusion, I found that Mrs. Monica Deangelis' work is quite inspiring. She persevered through to find her calling, and is now doing something she loves. Furthermore, her work is truly a

benefit to the planet, and seems like a rewarding experience. Although GPS is not exactly cutting-edge technology, I believe that it still has many important applications, one of which is tracking and protecting endangered species. I am excited to see how this technology improves the world.