

## Leanna Manuel

After watching the video Whale Acoustics with Dr. Regina Guazzo, I was stunned at the similarities between us in her personal background, which instantly inspired me that much more. She had considered taking a separate path following her musical talent after high school, which most likely would have led to a drastically different lifestyle. Yet, following the basic plan of life, she went to college, and there she found her current career path. Becoming a Marine Biologist, Dr. Guazzo came across a passion for whale acoustics where she could include her musical skills to compare and communicate whale sounds and songs. This enabled her to use her talents together to reach her myriad of accomplishments in her field of work. Those very accomplishments inspire many young learners, including myself, to work to achieve similar goals.

I have always had a passion and fear of the ocean and its creatures much like Dr. Guazzo. I always wanted to conquer my fear through exploring the unknown existence and space in the ocean. However, I grew up thinking a career with the sea could not be as successful as a career with STEM backgrounds, including doctors, especially working in new medicine. With these kinds of thoughts, I developed a certain interest in school subjects such as science. Over time, I have become someone who wishes for a future in the field of science. Yet, the fondness of the ocean is something I believe will always continue to be evident in my life. Before starting high school and watching Dr. Guazzo's video, I never would have thought combining my two fascinations would be a possibility.

I am encouraged daily seeing those who can pursue successful careers in things they love to do. Dr. Guazzo enjoyed both the ocean and music. She managed to include her musical talents in her whale acoustics research. I too, aspire to have the ability to make a difference in the world with a career out of my two interests benefitting both the world, as well as myself. At the end of her video, Dr. Guazzo mentions the lack of knowledge in the ocean, which in fact, brings forth my enthusiasm to the topic. Knowing the dedication and time taken by naval researchers inspires me to work hard to discover my greatest potential. I can only hope that I can go higher than the expectations others, and I have for myself one day. Furthermore, seeing so many people around me make progress towards their futures.

Nowadays, all different kinds of fields are constantly continuing to develop to fit new technologies and ideas. These types of changes are made by people who have become proficient in their knowledge in STEM and other salient skills. These types of people inspire me as well because they have strived to learn the technique they need to better the world.

In the year 2040, I envision the world being consumed by technology based on the rate of new ideas over the years. Medicine in hospitals could advance, such as new cures found. I can imagine the possibilities of transportation following the build of electric cars becoming more common. In regards to the Navy and Marine Corps, they could become stronger with new technology, especially involving weapons and global security. In-depth research could take place with better technology, leading to beneficial knowledge. For example, the secrets of the world, like the ocean. Biologists like Dr. Guazzo can test hypotheses using this new technology. With so many possibilities and inspirations in this world, I am more and more determined to learn how to use STEM skills every day. Ultimately, with the purpose of investigating, and uncovering more of the unknown ocean in the future, starting now.