

The International Ocean Institute announces the Award of the Elisabeth Mann Borgese Bursary, 2011

Mr Noel Vella has been awarded the Elisabeth Mann Borgese Bursary (EMB Bursary) of the International Ocean Institute, consisting of a sum of USD5,000 to be used to further his research studies over one year.

Mr Vella, who is a conservation geneticist by interest and training and is currently carrying out research with the Biology Department at the University of Malta, will be using the Bursary to seek to provide more genetic data about the bluntnose sixgill shark, *Hexanchus griseus*. The methodology employed will focus on the use of genetic analyses to be conducted on a number of specimens sampled from the central Mediterranean so as to understand the population variation within the region with a view to working on species preservation. Furthermore, analyses of some specimens from distant sampling locations will be carried out so as to strengthen the scientific data while indicating the role played by the central Mediterranean population in respect of other locations.

The EMB Bursary is financed through the IOI's Women, Youth and the Sea Programme and was established as a means of demonstrating recognition to the host country of the IOI Headquarters – Malta – for hosting the IOI Headquarters and providing facilities for staff and offices at the University of Malta's Tal-Qroqq campus. The Bursary also constitutes a further recognition and acknowledgement of the role of Prof. E Mann Borgese, founder of IOI, and of her considerable achievements.

Also present at the award ceremony held on the 17th October at IOI headquarters premises on campus, were Dr Cherdhak Virapat, IOI's Executive Director; Prof. Alfred Vella, University of Malta Pro-Rector; Ms Veronica Grech, Registrar of the University of Malta; Prof. Salvino Busuttil, Host Country Representative on the IOI Governing Board; and Ms Antonella Vassallo, the Programme Officer at IOI responsible for the EMB Bursary.



Above from L-R: Dr Virapat, Prof Busuttil, Mr Vella, Prof Vella, Ms Grech and Ms Vassallo at IOI HQ following the signature of the award agreement. In the background, a portrait of Elisabeth Mann Borgese. (Photo courtesy of the University of Malta Communications Office.)

Bursary to Ms Alicia Said in 2010 was successfully concluded following the full year period with a presentation of the Bursary deliverables in the form of a research paper and financial reporting on the costs of implementing such research. The outcome of the research will now be presented for publication in a peer-reviewed journal and will also constitute the topic of a planned public lecture in the form of a presentation.

Elisabeth Mann Borgese (April 24, 1918 - February 8, 2002), founded the IOI in 1972 as a knowledge-based non-governmental, non-profit international organization devoted to the sustainable development of the oceans and IOI works to uphold and expand the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the benefit of humankind as a whole, with particular consideration of the poor. The **mission of IOI** is to promote education, training and research to enhance the peaceful uses of ocean space and its resources, their management and regulation as well as the protection and conservation of the marine environment, guided by the principle of the Common Heritage of Mankind.

Malta is the host country of the International Ocean Institute Headquarters. As an island state straddling the centre of the Mediterranean Sea, it has a long history of dependence on the sea as well as a strong tradition of maritime, fishing and seafaring occupation. Its membership of the European Union confers on it an obligation to adhere to the European maritime and fishing policies as well as to conventions and regulations which are global in scope.

Conclusion of the first EMB Bursary 2010

The first award of the

“Reflecting on Practice: A professional development programme for informal science educators.”

Co-organised by IOI-USA in Florida, USA
August 24; <http://psgs.usf.edu/n-cosee.php>

The IOI-USA recently partnered with the University of South Florida Patel School for Global Sustainability to host a workshop presented by Centres for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) - California. Informal educators from around Florida came together to participate in the professional development workshop, “Reflecting on Practice: A professional development programme for informal science educators”. The 3-day workshop was intended to teach informal educators how to more effectively communicate their understanding of and passion for the ocean realm to the public. Informal educators are those who teach outside the classroom in venues such as museums and aquariums and there are few development programmes aimed at this group, who are a vital link to bringing informed yet approachable science to the community. COSEE California has been a leader in the Ocean Literacy Campaign since 2002. This Campaign is a wide-ranging, collaborative, and decentralized effort by scientists and educators to build a more ocean literate society. The workshop was a group effort overall, it was sponsored and presented by the Lawrence Hall of Science, it was hosted and sponsored in part by International Ocean Institute-USA (IOI-USA), the Patel School of Global Sustainability and Coastal Areas Climate Change Education, in collaboration with COSEE Florida and COSEE California.

“I feel it went very well, all the attendees said that they thought they got a lot out of it and they got a lot of resources and tools to take back and teach their fellow colleagues and staff, which was the point,” concluded Mara Hendrix, one of the key planners from IOI-USA.

Left: Photo of the Workshop event credited to Beti Gathegi, USF, Patel School USA.

Diary Notes:

- **Danielle de Saint Jorre Scholarship 2012**

Pre-announcement of call for applications and calendar of applicable deadlines; please email ioihq@ioihq.org marked “Attention: Antonella Vassallo; DDSJ 2012” to register your interest in receiving further information.

Mid - Nov 2011 Official call for applications on the IOI website, the IOInforma etc.,

Mid - Dec 2011 Reminder

20th Jan 2012 Call deadline

Mid-Feb 2012 Announcement of the Award Winner

- **IOI Operational Centre Canada Training on Ocean Governance - 2012**

The **Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management Programme 2012** training programme is provisionally scheduled for 16th May to 13th July. Potential candidates should visit the course website for information, <http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca/training.htm> and to download the application form. Completed applications must be received by **1st January 2012**. Further details will be posted online nearer the time, but please also feel free to e-mail IOI-Canada on ioi@dal.ca for more information.

Since 2000, the International Ocean Institute presents a Scholarship of Swiss Francs 10,000 annually for one woman from a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) involved in marine related research activities to improve her knowledge in the subject by attending specialised training or University Degree programmes. The scholarship has been established to honour the memory of the late Danielle de St. Jorre, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Environment and Tourism of the Republic of the Seychelles and a member of the Governing Board of the International Ocean Institute, in consideration of all she did in her short life for the benefit of her country, small island developing states and the world at large. The scholarship may be applied also to part-fund applications to attend the Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management Programme 2012 training programme.