

THE MAD SCIENTIST'S CLUB: SCIENTIST PROFILE

MARINE INVESTIGATOR

DARLENE KETTEN

SENIOR SCIENTIST AT WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE IN MASSACHUSETTS, HARVARD RESEARCHER

She studies whales and dolphins that have beached themselves on the Massachusetts coast.



Job Description

Darlene examines the bodies of marine animals that have beached themselves to find out how and why they died. Darlene works in forensics, diagnosis, and the science of hearing, especially for marine mammals. Some tools that she uses are X-rays, and ultrasound.

Biography

When Darlene was young, she liked to read and see new places. She liked to study languages and math. In school, she was at the top of her class. Since there were no computers in her high school, she learned by reading and taking classes. Now computers are really important to her work, and she uses them all the time.

Darlene didn't collect anything special, and didn't decide to become a scientist until she was in college. She has often wanted to quit, but learned that the perfect experiment is not very likely. She expects the unexpected and then some.

Darlene's advice to young scientists is:

"Do science and the type of science that excites you, not the science that is popular or has a high priority with everyone else. Science fields are fashionable just like most things in life, and the research areas go in and out of fashion and funding. It is horrible to work on something as demanding as science just because someone will pay you to do the research. The real joy of science is to discover something new in an area about which you are passionate. Enjoy yourself since science has its own magic."

To find out more about Darlene's work, click on:

[http://www.myhero.com/myhero/hero.asp?hero=Darlene Ketten 06](http://www.myhero.com/myhero/hero.asp?hero=Darlene%20Ketten%2006)