

ASTRONOMY AND MYSELF

Hello, my name is Francesca Dresbach, I'm 18 years old and I'm attending the fifth and last year of a scientific high school, at "Liceo scientifico F. Lussana" in Bergamo, Lombardia, Italy.

Since I was a kid my greatest dream was to go in space but unfortunately is very difficult if you're 7 years old. Nevertheless I had some nice experiences that brought me even closer to space and astronomy.

This year for example I had the chance to work as intern in an astronomical observatory near Bergamo, called "La Torre del Sole" where there are also a planetary and a solar laboratory used to observe and study the sun. The staff taught me how to open the observatory dome, how to point the telescope and how to direct the mirrors for the reception of sunrays. In the following days they allowed me to do it by myself. In the solar laboratory, where the sunrays reflected from the mirrors where projected I could study the sun surface, that in those days (14-18/07/14)



THE OBSERVATORY

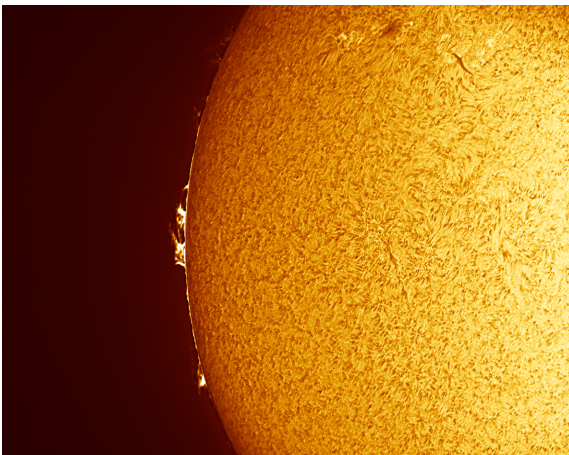


IMAGE OF THE SUN THAT I GOT WITH H-ALFA FILTER, LATER PAINTED

was oddly spotless. The following week I observed our star with a special filter in H-alfa waves, hydrogen, I shot short films and with computer software I got a very clear image. I had some other great experiences working as volunteer at "Bergamoscienza" a scientific festival, with conferences and laboratory completely free, that takes place in my city every year and lasts two weeks. Last year for example I had the chance to introduce and present a conference of Giovanni Bignami an important physic that studies cosmic radiation and was president of ASI, Italian space agency. Working as volunteer I had also this year some pretty amazing experiences. I assisted at a

conference of Luca parmitano, Italian astronaut that last year went on the ISS and me and the festival volunteers met with Parmitano to talk about whatever we wanted. I had the great chance to talk in person with a man who spent 6 month in orbit!! During our meeting arrived Michael Brown, awarded with nobel prize in medicine in 1985, in town for the science festival, and the two start a conversation about astronomy and medicine.





ME WITH MY FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS PARMITANO



PARMITANO AND MICHAEL BROWN "CHATTING"



Also when I was younger I've never hidden my interest for astronomy. Me and my brother used to stay awake all night waiting to observe lunar eclipses, and I always loved go camping, because in the night stars were clearly visible, thing that never happen in cities. One time, in middle school, the Italian teacher asked us to write a test about our hero, and while everyone else wrote it about a soccer player, a singer or an actor, I talked about Neal Armstrong. And when the teacher asked them what their dream was they said "become a doctor, or an architect" while I just wanted to go to the moon. In the future I'd like to study astrophysics o aerospace engineer and I this will help me to realize my dream. I'm not English so I apologise for some possible mistakes and I really hope you'll enjoy my presentation, because astronomy is really my greatest passion and I'm sure this camp is going to be an amazing experience.