



2018

CHRISTIANE HOWEY RISING SCHOLAR AWARD

To honor the life of Christiane Howey, her incredible dedication to our company, and her passion for conservation and helping researchers worldwide, we created the Rising Scholar Award. This annual award is intended to foster career development in researchers starting on their professional journeys. This award has allowed previous recipients to make an impact with projects regarding conservation, anthropogenic implications, and community outreach.

Congratulations to our most recent awardees of the Christiane Howey Rising Scholar Award, **Alex Jahn** and **Jill Brooks**. Alex is a post-doctoral researcher at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Migratory Bird Center in Washington, DC, and is planning to study the migrations of critically endangered Hooded Grebes in Patagonia with MTI Solar 9.5g PTTs. Jill is a PhD candidate at Carleton University in Ontario, Canada, and will be investigating post-release survivorship of great hammerhead sharks in Florida's recreational fisheries.



As always, the selection committee (over a dozen MTI employees weighed in on the decision) had a very difficult time choosing the winners; we had over twenty applications this year, and all had ambitious and worthy proposals. Both recipients demonstrated impressive written abilities in proposals that were well-planned and well-suited for satellite telemetry applications. Additionally, both winners included an educational outreach component and the potential for direct conservation implications, issues that were dear to Christiane.

Thank you to all of the applicants, and congratulations once again to our winners!

Interested in applying for the 2019 Rising Scholar Award?

See our upcoming Spring 2018 edition of *Tracker News* or visit www.microwavetelemetry.com for our call for proposals.

MTI Employee Spotlight

We have decided to feature one of our employees in each of our issues so that you can meet the team behind the transmitters. This issue, we introduce you to:

Hanh Le – Electronics Technician

Q: Hanh, you are approaching your 15-year anniversary here at MTI; what led you to your position here?

A: I taught physics for 8 years in my native Vietnam. When I moved to the United States, I worked for some large technology companies, where I learned to solder and first started working with circuit boards. When the last company I was working for shut down very suddenly, someone I knew told me that MTI was hiring. I came to the office for 3 interviews with Chris and Paul and was hired! It's quiet, clean, and has a good atmosphere, so I've been here ever since.

Q: Technology is quite different now compared to 15 years ago. How has your job changed in that time?

A: In the beginning, I made prototype circuit boards for new transmitters and put components on boards already in production by myself. I ran our first pick-and-place machine and placed some parts by hand; it meant I had to pay very close attention — there was no room for mistakes. I still have the same responsibilities, but our newest pick-and-place has really widened the possibilities and made the job easier. (The machine is also much quieter.)

Q: Do you have a favorite task?

A: Building solar arrays is my favorite part of my job because they're so small, delicate, and challenging. I like working with tiny details which is why sewing and embroidery are my hobbies.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory from your time here?

A: Oh, the holiday parties! I started working here a few days before the company party 15 years ago, so I didn't know most of the people there, but Chris always made everyone feel so welcome. Now I know everyone and look forward to them every year.



Bits & Pieces

*Our office
will be closed
25 December –
1 January. Happy
Holidays!*

*Reminder:
We cannot begin
building or refurbishing
your transmitters until
we have a completed
Production Form and
Purchase Order.*

*Please send us your
2017 publications
so that we can add
them to our online
Reference Library.*

*FUN FACT:
The first bird
tracked with our
original PTT was
a Bald Eagle!*

