

MBARI

Scientist to receive international award

By Nicoletta Lanese
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MOSSLANDING » On March 21, scientist Anela Choy of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute will be among 15 women to receive a competitive international award for women in science.

Choy will be granted her award in Paris at the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards, where she will be recognized with the International Rising Talents grant for 15,000 euros. She serves the sole awardee from the United States this year.

"Women make up over half of the world's population and yet are severely underrepresented at almost all levels, after graduate school, of science," Choy wrote in an email. "The absence of women from oceanography is particularly notable, and so the longstanding investment by L'Oréal to target and support women at the most critical stages of their career is absolutely one of the most valuable investments that can be made."

The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science initiative turns 20 this year and is intended to recognize accomplished women in science and raise them up as role models for the next generation. The International Rising Talents grant is a branch of this initiative, which selects 15 awardees from a pool of 275 highly qualified competitors. Those eligible are current recipients of a national or regional For Women in Science fellowship.

Choy received L'Oréal USA's national fellowship



Dr. Anela Choy poses for a photo in front of a remotely operated vehicle. COURTESY OF MBARI

in October 2016, selected for her research potential and commitment to supporting women and girls in science. She was granted \$60,000, which allowed her to extend her postdoctoral research at MBARI. The fellowship and her scientific success put her in the running to receive the International Rising Talents award this year.

"I'm humbled to receive this award, and I think it is truly a reflection of all of the wonderful colleagues that I've been able to work with at MBARI over the years," Choy wrote.

Choy studies the intricate food webs of the deep sea at MBARI. Food webs map out how energy flows through an environment — basically, who eats whom. This goes beyond basic food chains, where the teeniest invertebrates end up in the stomachs of little fish, then commercial fish and then humans who serve them up on a bed of greens. Foods webs link up these chains of consumption, illustrating all the predator-prey interactions in an ecosystem and

how they affect each other.

The feeding habits of deep sea critters are difficult to study, simply because they occur thousands of feet beneath the waves. Scientists sometimes study the contents of marine animals' guts to see what they've been chowing down on, but if their favorite foods are digested quickly, they won't be seen in these samples. MBARI has a unique solution to this problem.

For 30 years, MBARI has sent remotely operated vehicles to depths of 4,000 meters off the Central Coast. These ROVs record feeding interactions from the deep, dark ocean to the sunlit surface. For scientists like Choy, MBARI is the "best and only place in the world to do this work with such a level of detail and commitment," she wrote.

Choy uses this technology to study how human activities, like pollution, impact creatures at the bottom of the food web and the aims to trace the path of plastics through the food

web, from the moment they leave human hands, to the ocean floor and back. By seeing how these chemicals are distributed in the ocean, and how they are consumed, Choy hopes to learn how they affect human societies that rely on seafood for sustenance.

Choy has been at MBARI for three and a half years now and this fall she will move on to become an assistant professor to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. She plans to further her research on plastics in the ocean, looking closely at the small fish, squid and crustaceans at the base of the food web that serve as important food for commercial fish. She will continue to work closely with MBARI and the aquarium and is thankful to maintain her relationship to the institutions. She wrote that the collaboration will allow her to "access and probe one of the most difficult ecosystems to work in: the deep sea."

"Whether fellow scientists, ROV pilots, ship's crew or engineers — oceanography requires a solid science family," she wrote, "and for that, I'm been really grateful to have one here at MBARI and down the road at the Monterey Bay Aquarium."

Man pleads guilty to killing mother

SEASIDE

By Tommy Wright
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SEASIDE » Andrew Zapanta, 28, pleaded no contest to voluntary manslaughter, attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and resisting an executive officer after fatally stabbing his mother in the heart, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office said Wednesday.

Zapanta was under the influence of methamphetamine Dec. 11, 2016, when he engaged in an argument with his brother and mother at the Seaside home he shared with his parents, the DA's Office said. Zapanta grabbed two kitchen knives and threatened to slash his wrists. He cut his left arm almost to the bone in front of his mother and brother, who intervened in an attempt to save Zapanta's life. During the struggle to take the knives from him, Zapanta began to swing the knives wildly and stabbed his mother once in the heart. The knife penetrated

her aorta, collapsed her lung and she died at the scene. Zapanta then stabbed his brother approximately five times, causing deep wounds that required staples to heal. Zapanta's brother escaped to the home of a neighbor, who called 911.

When police arrived, Zapanta was kneeling above his dead mother asking for help. He refused to leave his mother's body and resisted arrest. He made incoherent comments after being arrested about being watched on social media. At one point he admitted to stabbing his mother but also asked medical personnel questions about what happened.

Zapanta also admitted to causing great bodily injury and using a knife as a deadly weapon during the commission of manslaughter and attempted murder. He faces 20 years in state prison and will be sentenced April 12.

Tommy Wright can be reached at 831-726-4375.

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Pair arrested for attempted murder

SEASIDE

Victim attacked with garden tool left lodged in his head

By James Herrera
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in the victim's head while he and Claudia Serrano fled the scene, according to the Seaside Police Department. The assault took place in the 1500 block of Yosemite Street in Seaside, in a parking lot of the Del

Brown and Serrano were charged with attempted murder and conspiracy. Additionally, Serrano was charged with concealing evidence.

Both suspects were booked into Monterey

HOT TUB & SWIM SPAS SHOW

<p>FRIDAY MARCH 16 12 P.M.-7 P.M.</p>	<p>SATURDAY MARCH 17 10 A.M.-7 P.M.</p>	<p>SUNDAY MARCH 18 10 A.M.-6 P.M.</p>
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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS