Victoria Schoenwald

Cruise Report

The A22 leg of this year’s GO-SHIP cruise was my first glance into what observational oceanography is all about. I participated as a CTD Watch Stander on the night shift for 30 days which involved long hours of watching the CTD rise and fall into the water while monitoring screens taking real time data from temperature to voltage spikes from the UVP. Being a part of a modelling lab as a graduate student at the UM RSMAS, I would not have had the opportunity to go to sea if not for programs like GO-SHIP. I am grateful that all of the scientists on board were happy to allow new students to become part of their research. When I first decided to pursue a career in oceanography, I was excited about discovering the way the ocean, atmosphere, and land interreact with one another. I later realized that my interests aligned well with global climate modelling and field work would not be part of my Ph.D. experience. From the start I knew that I would want to get back into field work some way or another so when I discovered there were openings to come on the A22 leg I was very excited.

Back in Miami I was researching sea level rise and coastal flooding using global data sets and climate models. Being on the CTD team therefore allowed me to see where some of my data is coming from and how the ocean off of the East Coast of the U.S. has been changing over the years. Besides the knowledge I learned from the science team one of the most rewarding parts of the cruise was getting to know the crew. I enjoyed hearing their stories about travelling, life at sea and gained perspective on careers that I previously knew nothing about. Getting to know more people who love the ocean as much as I do has made this month an unforgettable one. This experience has reminded me why I chose to research the ocean in the first place, and I hope to have the chance to participate in more research cruises in the future.