*Maya Prabhakar (University of Arizona)*

As a paleoclimate student with a background in geology, moving my fieldwork from land to sea has been a sizable shift. The Thompson, and GO-SHIP, is a great introduction to ocean research. I attended as a CTD watch-stander to better understand how CTD data is collected since I use it often in my research. I have thoroughly met my goal. We, the attending students, have prepped casts for deployment and for sampling, giving us a good understanding of the mechanical workings of the rosette. Monitoring casts has allowed us to see the change in station oceanography in real time and provided good conversations. The limitations of the subsequent data and uncertainties are better categorized in my head when thinking about the datasets I use from GO-SHIP and similar projects. Our graduate curriculum is light in physical oceanography, so being able to ask questions consistently for a month provided a useful learning experience. I am primarily interested in noting the data from the Gulf Stream because I focus on the Arctic and the Fram Strait, which are heavily influenced by the Gulf Stream. This cruise has brought about several questions related to my field of study which I plan to explore when I am.

I have been consistently fortunate to work for, and with, numerous women and racial minorities during school. This is a strong contrast to the ship. I am still fortunate to be working under two amazing women acting as chief scientists during this leg and I have loved being able to ask questions and discuss science with them and the other women on board, but I have run into multiple occasions during this leg where I have been patronized consistently by a handful of people, often on topics I have training and experience in. It has reminded me to be grateful as a racial minority and a woman to work in the labs I do and collaborate with the people I currently work with. It is an unfortunate epidemic in the whole of science, but I note it as a distinct failure of the GO-SHIP cruise.

Being able to actively learn and bring a background of geology to the cruise has been a lot of fun and a welcome change from the zoom learning of a covid-19 world. I have gained numerous skills and insights that will help me navigate future fieldwork and create new discussions in my lab. I look forward to publishing the geochemical data from this cruise.