*Holly Olivarez (University of Colorado Boulder)*

NSF Graduate Research Fellow

Environmental Studies Program and the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR)

As a graduate student who statistically models the variability of air-sea CO2 flux using in situ surface ocean *p*CO2 observations, I am very grateful for the experience and perspective I gained from being part of the A22 hydrographic research cruise. From the science to the people on the ship, being here has helped me grow as a human and as a scientist. Even though I have worked in an observational environment before, it was not related to oceanography. The ocean knows no borders and sharing passion and curiosity for this critical system on Earth with fellow scientists and ship crewmates was priceless. I learned of the many ways one small, overlooked detail (either due to inexperience or fatigue) can disrupt or invalidate a rosette full of freshly collected seawater, or how moving a cast time to accommodate dinner for samplers impacts the ship crew, too. I learned about folks who care so deeply about “good” data that they devote their career to the science of taking accurate and precise measurements.

I also learned that those who have been at sea for much of their career, either as a scientist or as a ship crewmate, can teach me more than I’ve learned in any classroom or textbook. I suppose the real challenge then becomes finding the intersection between those who teach in a classroom, who lay the groundwork for future real-world application, and those who teach us in the moment as we are doing the actual science.

My PhD research is based on the simulated Earth system but grounded in real world observations. Without observations, scientists’ simulations of the Earth system would be purely theoretical. This experience has given me the perspective and recognition of real-world observations as the foundation of what I do. This is something I will not forget as I forge ahead in my career. Thank you to all involved in the GO-SHIP project and thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it.