1. Claire Andrade

Affiliation: Oregon State University
Current Position: Other/Undergraduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Microbiology,Biogeochemistry,Sensor Development
Research Interests: My research interests focus on benthic microbial ecology and metagenomics, sediment biogeochemistry, and environmental viromics along the Cascadia Convergence Zone in the NE Pacific Ocean. Tying these research interests to hypoxia and expanding oxygen minimum zones has been a critical part of this work. In the future, I hope to apply the microbial work I have done at methane seeps and coastal marine basins to hydrothermal vent system ecology.

2. Laura Anthony

Affiliation: Florida State University
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Macrobiology
Research Interests: I am interested in the environmental controls on deep-sea coral reproduction.

3. Steven Auscavitch

Affiliation: Boston University
Current Position: Post-Doc
Field of Interest/Expertise: Macrobiology
Research Interests: Deep water corals and sponges. Ecology and biogeography of seamounts.

4. Anirban Chakraborty

Affiliation: Idaho State University
Current Position: Mid-Career Scientist (6-15 years since Ph.D.)
Field of Interest/Expertise: Microbiology,Biogeochemistry
Research Interests: Microbial ecology, physiology and dispersal in marine cold seeps.

5. Shawn Chambers

Affiliation: University of Rhode Island
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Engineering & Ocean Technology
Research Interests: My research interests is in studying marine animals using unmanned systems. Using cameras and trying to film these creatures in their habitats in order to further the studying of them is my goal.

6. Sean Chen

Affiliation: MIT-WHOI Joint Program (Physical Oceanography)
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Physical Oceanography
Research Interests: My research interests focus on understanding the dynamics of abyssal ocean currents, particularly the connections between circulations, particle cycling, and biogeochemistry in the benthic boundary layers. Two ongoing research projects concern (i) the formation of deep sea storms induced by baroclinic instability and mesoscale eddies and (ii) dispersal of sediment plumes from deep sea mining activities in the benthic boundary layer.

7. Noah DeDeo

Affiliation: URI Graduate School of Oceanography
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Oceanography
Research Interests: My interests are in deep-sea ecology, deep-sea biology and coral reef ecosystems.

8. Kimberly Galvez

Affiliation: NOAA Ocean Exploration
Current Position: Early Career Scientist (0-5 years since Ph.D. or equivalent)
Field of Interest/Expertise: Geology,Geophysics,Cold-water corals
Research Interests: Operations of deep submergence facility operators, creating partnerships, developing skills for deep-sea exploration.

9. Ryan Gasbarro

Affiliation: Temple University
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Macrobiology,Data/Information Management
Research Interests: Ecology, biogeography, climate change using deep-sea as natural laboratory.

10. Noel Gutierrez Brizuela

Affiliation: Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Physical Oceanography,Engineering & Ocean Technology,Natural hazards
Research Interests: I seek to understand how small-scale ocean dynamics influences the long-term impacts of episodic, high-intensity processes of interaction between the ocean and other components of the Earth system. In the past this has included research on submarine landslides and tropical cyclones. I believe that small-scale seafloor-ocean interactions are underexplored but their study can help close important gaps between oceanography and geology.

11. Tanika Ladd
Affiliation: Western Washington University
Current Position: Post-Doc
Field of Interest/Expertise: Macrobiology,Microbiology,Biogeochemistry
Research Interests: Ecology of hydrothermal vent ecosystems, microbial diversity, biotic interactions, biotic controls on carbon and nutrient cycling.

12. Elaine Luo
Affiliation: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Current Position: Post-Doc
Field of Interest/Expertise: Microbiology,Biogeochemistry
Research Interests: Virus-induced carbon cycling at deep-sea hydrotherman vents.

13. Penny McCowen
Affiliation: US Geological Survey and University of Florida
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Macrobiology,Benthic Ecology
Research Interests: I am interested in the macrofauna living in the benthos of deep-sea habitats, especially hydrocarbon seeps and canyons, as well as the utility of environmental DNA metabarcoding in community analyses compared to traditional taxonomic approaches. I also have interests in food web studies using stable isotopes and trace elemental analyses of fish otoliths.

14. Michael Meneses
Affiliation: MIT-WHOI Joint Program
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Macrobiology,Physical Oceanography,Data/Information Management
Research Interests: Benthic ecology, biodiversity, metacommunities, trophic interactions, conservation in the deep sea.

15. Amy Phung
Affiliation: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Engineering & Ocean Technology
Research Interests: I'm interested in finding ways to fuse camera and sonar data in real-time to improve the perception system for autonomous manipulation.

16. Victoria Preston

Affiliation: Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Engineering & Ocean Technology
Research Interests: My research interests lie in advancing in situ sample collection of spatiotemporal biogeochemical phenomena in marine environments (e.g., hydrothermal vents, fronts, coastal plumes). I'm particularly interested in advancing autonomous and remote vehicle autonomy, in addition to human and robot decision-making at sea.

17. Eesha Rangani

Affiliation: Scripps Institute of Oceanography
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Macrobiology,Microbiology,Invertebrate Biology
Research Interests: My research interest lies specifically with phylogenetics, currently, I work in the Rouse lab describing the phylogeny of deep-sea invertebrates. My research focuses on Nereidid worms. These worms occur in a variety of habitats, including the deep sea. Many deep-sea specimens from the eastern Pacific have been collected with the potential of being new species. The new samples show similarities with both genera Nereis and Neanthes. My project will be focused on resolving the phylogenetic position of these deep nereidids using mitogenome data and morphology. Additionally, my research interests also expand into extremophilic deep-sea microbes and their diversity. As a part of my research, I will also be examining the stable isotope signatures from nereidids to understand their diet and relationship with microbes. As a part of my intermediate goal, I want to participate in research that covers microbes from serpentinine environments. Broadly I would like to develop a career path that leads to a profession in astrobiology. Therefore my key interest lies in researching deep-sea environments that are analogous to deep space.

18. Adela Roa-Varon

Affiliation: Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History
Current Position: Post-Doc
Field of Interest/Expertise: Evolutionary Ichthyologist
Research Interests: My research program in Fish Evolution & Systematics is focused primarily on increasing our understanding of marine biodiversity by conducting systematic, taxonomic, and life history research on marine organisms of economic and ecological value. I investigate evolution at multiple spatial and temporal scales by integrating morphological, ecological, fossil, and genomic data to better understand how fishes have diversified, persisted in diverse habitats, and developed a wide array of life history strategies. I often focus my questions on gadiform fishes because of their economic importance (e.g., codfishes, hakes, codlings, rattails) and because they are found in a diversity of habitats ranging from the poles to the tropics and from shallow waters to the deep sea. They are an excellent model system for elucidating patterns in marine diversity, while providing critical information for fish conservation.

19. Nina Yang

Affiliation: University of Southern California / NOAA Ocean Exploration
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Microbiology,Biogeochemistry
Research Interests: Broadly, I am interested in marine microbial ecology, the role of microbial communities in marine biogeochemical cycling, and the impacts of climate change on microbial abundance, community structure, and activity. My PhD dissertation research focuses on the physiological and molecular responses of nitrogen-fixing cyanobacteria, specifically Crocosphaera, to different environmental variables including nutrient availability (e.g. iron and phosphorus) and temperature (ocean warming). I am interested in applying the wet lab and computational skills I have gained during my PhD towards understanding marine microbial ecology and community dynamics in other environments, including the deep sea.

20. Alexander Yin

Affiliation: University of Rhode Island
Current Position: Graduate Student
Field of Interest/Expertise: Engineering & Ocean Technology
Research Interests: Bio-Inspired, Remotely Operated Vehicles, Ocean Monitoring