Abigail Gancz (Anthropology)
I am a 2nd year anthropology Ph.D. student in the Weyrich Lab. Using reconstructed DNA from ancient human skeletons, I study how human microbiomes change over time in relation to the health and disease patterns of past societies. The goal of this research is to use the past to inform the future by leveraging the evolutionary history of humans and human-associated species to better understand how health changes over time. When not at work, I love reading science fiction novels, playing board games with friends, and exploring Pennsylvania.

Amrita Arcot (Nutritional Sciences)
I am a 2nd year nutritional sciences graduate student in the Murray-Kolb lab with a special interest in social data analytics. Our lab focuses on iron status (iron deficiency and iron deficiency anemia) and its impact on cognitive and behavioral development in vulnerable populations. I am conducting secondary data analysis to determine iron deficiency, iron deficiency anemia, and anemia prevalence in children within the Pennsylvania Foster Care System. There is limited research on nutrition status among children in foster care; therefore, we hope our study sheds light on nutrition needs among this population. Outside of research, I am a registered dietitian (RD) who previously worked as a clinical RD in the Greater Philadelphia Area. I love reading historical fiction, knitting, and biking in my spare time.

Ashlee McGovern (Chemistry)
I am a 4th year chemistry graduate student in the Aronson research group. Self-propelled 3D printed particles, or microswimmers, are a new interesting class of active matter designed to be capable of biomimicry, meaning they artificially replicate behaviors seen biological microorganisms. Through shape-programmed swimming, I incorporate nature’s swimming strategies into synthetic microswimmers for applications in fluid transport and cargo delivery. Beyond research, science communication, science inclusion, and teaching are my passions. I discovered these passions through leadership opportunities I found within teaching and Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) here at Penn State. Outside of the science realm, I enjoy staying active and cooking.

Gabriella Sallai (Mechanical Engineering)
Gaby Sallai is a 2nd year graduate student in the mechanical engineering department at Penn State University. She received her undergraduate degree from Franklin & Marshall College in Physics and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. She currently works for Dr. Catherine Berdanier in the Engineering Cognitive Research Lab (ECRL). Their work focuses on understanding engineering graduate students’ experiences in graduate school. They are particularly interested in why graduate students consider departing from or choose to depart from their PhD programs with Master’s degrees.

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