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Marine population ecology
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Guest speaker quiz

Listening to all of the guest lecturers in this course gave me a new perspective on what it might be like to have a career in research, and which specific fields might be of interest to me. One of the most important things that I learned from the guest speaker series is that there is no one "right way" to be a scientist. The four speakers were very different people with different skillsets, but they have all become successful researchers by finding careers that fit with their skills and interests. I was also interested to see the path that each speaker took to get from their undergraduate degree to the research that they are doing now. None of their career paths were straightforward, and many of them started out studying something completely different from their current research focus. However, they also talked a lot about how their past experience, whether from classes or other work positions, provided valuable experience that they still use in their research now. Finally, it was interesting to see how even though the guest speakers all shared very different experiences, there were a few themes in common. They all mentioned the importance of networking and collaboration, and most also mentioned the importance of computer skills in ecology.

One key piece of information that I took away from Shannon Hennessey's lecture was that science can be creative. She discussed how creativity can lead to new ideas for innovative research. This was interesting to me because I often find that there isn't a lot of room for creativity in science; many of my classes so far have had very strict guidelines on assignments which makes it difficult to come up with creative solutions. However, the classes at Bamfield provide more opportunities to think outside of the box, especially for the Directed Studies project where we are creating our own experimental design. I am excited to practice using creativity in science this semester. This will also be useful to me in my future career; I want to find a career in science education, and being able to think of creative ways to explain or demonstrate scientific concepts will be very valuable.

Another key piece of information that I found useful was said by both Emma Atkinson and Sean Godwin. In both of their lectures, they mentioned the importance of computer skills, including programming and statistics. Emma said that computer skills are a good complement to field skills, and Sean said that learning to use R and basic modeling are both important for ecology. This was important for me to hear because learning computer skills isn't something that I enjoy, but it will be helpful in almost any career that I go into; when I have looked at job postings in the past, coding experience with R or Python is often a requirement for positions that I am interested in. In my courses at Bamfield, I have had lots of opportunities to practice using R for data analysis, and I will make it a priority to keep developing those skills throughout the semester. I am also planning to take a computer science course in my last semester at UVic to get a better understanding of coding, and will look into statistics courses as well.

Finally, one of the pieces of information from Karlisa Callwood's lecture that was important to me is that many people have an inherent distrust of researchers. Karlisa discussed this in the context of doing surveys or interviews, but it also applies to science communication; people will not believe science unless they have confidence in the person who is sharing that information with them. This is important to me because I am passionate about science education, and it is something that I am very interested in as a career. So far, most of the science communication that I have done has been during classes, where I am presenting to other people in my class and there is no distrust to overcome. However, I will have to keep this in mind if I do choose to go into a career in science education. I have to expect that people will

be skeptical of the information that I am presenting, and find strategies to build trust. I want to practice this when I do the biodiversity sampling presentation for this class, and I will also find more opportunities to practice science communication at UVic, or through volunteer positions.