

a) The guest lecture series really put into perspective what being a scientist can look like. I think all the presenters represented the fact that their journeys to becoming an ecologist were unique, and following your passions will bring you to a work environment which you can enjoy and thrive in. This was really inspiring and settling for me as I am curious about the field but nervous about getting involved as I am unsure of what I exactly want to pursue. It gives me hope that placing effort and passion in work I currently enjoy will lead to a fulfilling career. Further, I think all the speakers, in some way or another, highlighted that being an ecologist is more than just honing in on the biology of the system. I learned being an ecologist requires considering the sociological implications in tandem with the biological ones. Relationships, economics, and biology are all a part of being an ecologist in many ways (especially in systems of harvest or charisma). Overall, this entire series gave me a glimpse of what being an ecologist realistically looks like outside the scope of being a professor, and what skills to improve to increase my chance of success as I attempt to obtain something like this in my life.

b/c) One of Emma Atkinson's major take always was Embrace and get curious about uncertainty. Explaining that this is where interesting questions come from as uncertainty can be great and useful so long as you can embrace feeling out of your depth. I think this information can be applied both now in this course and in others. Emma is fundamentally addressing the fact that the learning process thrives off uncertainty and vulnerability. For example, when tackling how to code and create matrix models in this course I felt overwhelmed, but instead of turtling and not learning, I used her advice and this sense of uncertainty to fuel my learning process. Outside of this course, this frame of mind is very applicable to addressing what scientific questions I may want to ask in graduate studies. Instead of shying away with uncertainty, I should let uncertainty drive curiosity and research into systems that inspire me. Overall, this should help guide me into a career which I love and enjoy.

Dr. Sean Godwin's major point for young scientists was to connect with people doing the things you want to do, and not waiting until you need jobs or things fall into your lap (or don't); Being proactive in seeking out what I want for my future. I think this resonates in what we have learned in this course and what other guest speakers have indirectly said in this course. On the first day it was mentioned that science was all about relationships and communication. These points highlight the importance of building relationships with the people who can help you get to be the scientist you want to be. As such, during this course, and throughout this Bamfield experience, I want to interact with mentors who have connections with things that inspire me, and I can see a future in. Outside of this course I think I can apply this skill to any future work that I am interested in (let that be in the field of science or not). Sean highlighted that showing passion and being candid in seeking out a future you want can go a long way. I think Dr. Karlisa Callwoods career represents a good example of how following your passion and desires can lead you to a career which satisfies your professional skills and goals.

Both Dr. Godwin and Emma explained that coding skills, to compliment your ecological work, are essential to a future in this field or in science in general. This course displayed the importance of the coding techniques being taught and provided me time to actively practice and develop these skills. These guest speakers, the course, and Bamfield as a whole, has reinforced the fact that this is an important part of my future as a scientist. As coding is not

something that I find comes easily to me, or is intuitive, I have already acknowledged the importance of this struggle and hope utilize this (incorporating Emma's uncertainty point) to drive more consistent practice with this material outside of this course. In MPED it has already been mentioned that free courses are available. This will allow me to learn at a focused pace and in an environment (without the consequence of grades) which may be more conducive to my learning process. I plan on taking these courses to better prepare myself for graduate level studies and future research.