

## Speaker Series Reflection

### Michael Chung

#### **What you learned from the entire speaker series (5)**

Overall, what I took from the speaker series is that science is a dynamic, iterative, and rigorous process that requires resourcefulness to be successful. Obtaining a diverse skill set that includes quantitative, qualitative, and interpersonal experiences will compliment one's ability to finding creative solutions to problems. Additionally, this series highlighted that science is not perfect. It is an ever-evolving field that has a multitude of issues and grey areas regarding how ethics, regulations, portrayal in the media, and socioeconomic statuses affect how science is done. Science is supposed to be objective, but it is done and read by people, and people are inherently biased. Understanding these issues is vital to effectively reducing biases, and to better communicate the significance of our findings and how to best move forward with results.

#### **Three vital pieces of information were given to you to succeed as ecologists (6)**

The three main points that really resonated with me were:

1. Creativity from Dr. Shannon Hennessey

I connect creativity with resourcefulness especially when it come to science. There have been numerous times in my life where I have thought of, or otherwise witnessed in person, the development of innovative solutions to a problem at hand with limited resources available. There is a particular sense of accomplishment to this type of problem solving that I thoroughly enjoy experiencing and sharing with others. Additionally, being creative in this sense can also optimize resource use and ensure there is little wasted efforts in both academic and life endeavours. Through practicing creativity, you can then become more effective and efficient scientists.

## 2. Embracing and getting curious about uncertainty from Emma Atkinson

This point is essentially what got me into science. Going out to answer an unknown is the very basis of what science is to me and while some see it as an audacious task, I see it as an exciting goal to achieve. I think that there is an inherent curiosity that drives this, and I believe that recognizing this driver will help me keep my mind set on why I started this career path in the first place and further help me overcome obstacles and achieve academic goals.

## 3. Connecting with people doing the thing I want to do from Dr. Sean Godwin

Lastly, I think this point helps put life into perspective a bit. There are only so many opportunities that come by and it can be hard to recognize the possibilities that lie behind them. On the other hand, if you make the opportunities yourself you can gain a sense of control in what is sometime a very chaotic world. I think that not only finding but creating these opportunities and starting these networks early can be a great investment down the road. No one but myself is responsible for that and recognizing that this is completely within my control can help initiate the first discussions to do so.

## **What information from the lectures you were able to use during the course (4 points)**

From the lectures, I have been able to realize the importance of the chance BMSC gives students to become experienced in the field and lab. This opportunity can really advance careers as it lays down the foundations of science practices so I feel like I have been able to better understand the purposes of assignments. From this I feel like I can better understand how to answer and apply this information. Building community has been a prevalent theme in this course with many team assignments and same with recognizing the importance of computer programming literacy and how it can be applied. Additionally, having an open discussion of multiple viewpoints has been another common theme in class with both social issues and science practices. In recognizing its importance, it has helped me take a more multifaceted approach to answering questions and understanding the problem at hand.