

## Joan Moreaux

### Guest Speaker Lecture Quiz

#### ***What I have learned from the entire speaker series (5 points):***

I really enjoyed the guest-lecture component of this class. The most valuable thing that I've learned is that there are a lot of different people with different skillsets in the science world, which gives me hope that I can find a job that suits my personality and my abilities. In fact, all four guest speakers had different background and research projects, but I noticed that they all had complimentary skills (artistic, science communication, etc.) that they used in their science career. Additionally, most of the guest speakers highlighted the importance of working in partnership with the people directly affected by the science we do. Karlisa spoke about her interviews with local fishers and how they are most impacted while Emma and Sean both work in partnership with the indigenous communities of Broughton Sound. Finally, they all spoke about how good communication makes good science. This will be important for me as I will soon be developing my masters research (brace yourselves I talk about masters), I will try and incorporate diverse opinions that I might not have considered before.

#### ***Three vital pieces of information were given and how I will use them inside and outside of this course (10 points):***

1. Connect with people doing the things you want to do/build connections (Karlisa and Sean)  
Both Karlisa and Sean, as well as Alex and Cole, spoke about the importance of building connections and making other aware of your skillset, even before you need a job or a research supervisor. Doing so can lead you to some work, volunteering, or research opportunities that will help you in your career development. I feel like this is something I have started to apply in my life about one year ago, by emailing a lot of professors I liked as well as some researchers working with marine mammals (it is no secret that I like charismatic whales). This got me my job with DFO and a directed studies program at UBC. However, now that I am looking for research supervisors for my masters, I get cold feet about emailing professors. All four of you have given me the courage to start networking again. If by any chance you know anyone working with whales, or any cool research supervisors, let me know!
2. Get curious about uncertainty (Emma)  
Another source of stress for me currently is finding a research question for my masters. The guest lectures (and you guys) have reminded me that no question is stupid, and that interesting research may come out of those questions. I think of it like an onion to peel: every layer is a question and the when you take one off more questions arise. While I have been in this course, I try and take the questions that you have asked in class and see how I could apply them to my study organism. For example, from Alex's introduction, I have thought about mapping the ocean floor and correlate how this could affect feeding behaviours of mom and calves compared to adult humpback whales. I also now ask myself why there isn't a complete population model for humpbacks. As I am not the most creative person, it is hard for me to think outside the box. However, Emma made me realize that I don't have to be creative to find good questions, I just need to be curious.
3. Learn basic programming and modern statistics (Sean)  
The first time I took a stats course with R, I said to myself never again. Unfortunately/fortunately for me, it has become very common that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year classes use programming and basic statistics in biology. Coding skills seem to be sought after by employers and research supervisors and will make your life as a master student much easier. Thanks to this class, and DS/ADA, I feel more

confident in using R-studio to use statistics and I am enjoying it more and more. I have also learned about the must do's and don't's such as always having a hypothesis before plotting graphs and looking for correlations. A I will take Sean's advice and continue seeking classes that uses R to continue develop my skillset. (And thank you Cole for taking the time to answer all of my questions!!!)