

From: Megan Neely, Ph.D. megan.neely@duke.edu

Subject: Something to think about ...

Date: January 25, 2019 at 1:49 PM

To: biostatistics-mbstudents-firstyear@duke.edu, biostatistics-mbstudents-secondyear@duke.edu

MN

Hi All,

I had two separate faculty members come to my office today and ask if I had pictures of the MB students. I shared with them the head shots of the first- and second-year cohorts taken during orientation. Both faculty members picked out a small group of first-year students who they observed speaking Chinese (in their words, VERY LOUDLY) in the student lounge/study areas. I asked why they were curious about the students' names. Both faculty members replied that they wanted to write down the names so they could remember them if the students ever interviewed for an internship or asked to work with them for a master's project. **They were disappointed that these students were not taking the opportunity to improve their English and were being so impolite as to have a conversation that not everyone on the floor could understand.**

To international students, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE keep these unintended consequences in mind when you choose to speak in Chinese in the building. I have no idea how hard it has been and still is for you to come to the US and have to learn in a non-native language. As such, I have the upmost respect for what you are doing. That being said, I encourage you to commit to using English 100% of the time when you are in Hock or any other professional setting.

Copying the second-year students as a reminder given they are currently applying for jobs.

Happy to discuss more. Just stop by my office.

Megan Neely
Assistant Professor
Director of Graduate Studies
Master of Biostatistics Program
Dept of Biostatistics & Bioinformatics
Duke University Medical Center
Hock Plaza 11106
2424 Erwin Road, Suite 1104
Durham, NC 27705
Phone: (919) 684-8783
Fax: (919) 681-7918