




Monday Matters - science communication for graduate students

From Dodge, Gail <gdodge@odu.edu>

Date Mon 9/15/2025 8:00 AM

To Dodge, Gail <gdodge@odu.edu>

Cc Whitfield, Tiffany L. <tlwhitfi@odu.edu>; Greene, Lesley H. <LGreene@odu.edu>

 3 attachments (2 MB)

Elias Zerhouni - odu Event-1.pdf; Elias Zerhouni, story for ODU event.docx; 10.03.25 Dr. Joseph Francisco (Platsoucas) - corrected.pdf;

Dear Colleagues:

Today's message is aimed primarily at graduate students who are **interested in learning more about science communication**.

Tiffany Whitfield (Director of Marketing and Communication for the college) is interested in working with graduate students to produce more website articles related to research. You can use your expertise in the discipline to help us write and post more research stories, thus increasing our visibility. You would receive training on how to write for the public and would receive byline credit for your articles that are completed. Tiffany will send appropriate articles to the press as well. This opportunity will help you improve your communication skills directed to a diverse audience and strengthen your writing. I know Tiffany would like to have representation from each of the seven departments in the College of Sciences.

Your duties would include:

- Interviewing a faculty member or graduate student about their work and doing an initial draft of the article. Tiffany may ask you to write about a specific person's research, but it will also be possible for you to suggest an interesting topic.
- Receiving feedback from Tiffany, who will assist in producing the final version. You may need to follow up with a new draft.
- Attending training/workshops, led by Tiffany, to get started and as needed throughout the academic year.

The time commitment would be approximately 1 hour/month for training plus the variable time involved in research/writing the article. We hope that each student can produce at least one article per semester.

If you are interested in participating in this new program, **please send a letter (email) of interest to Tiffany at tlwhitfi@odu.edu by September 26**. Our hope is to provide some compensation to students for successfully completing articles. However, we are not allowed to pay international students who are here on a student visa and have an assistantship for 20 hours/week. Your faculty advisor/department must confirm that you are making good progress toward your degree and are in good academic standing in order for you to participate.

Best Regards,
Gail

College calendar: <https://www.odu.edu/sci/calendar>

Upcoming Events and Deadlines:

Sept. 25 (12:30): Brown bag with the Dean to discuss academic leadership [OCNPS 142]

Sept 26 (10 am): Talk by Dr. Elias Zerhouni (15th Director of NIH, Author of *Disease Knows No Politics*) [Planetarium] – RSVP, see attached

Oct. 2 (12:30): College-wide meeting with Ken Fridley, Vice President for DivRED [OCNPS 200]

Oct. 3 (3 pm): “Water in the Atmosphere: The Molecule that Changes Everything” Dr. Joseph S. Francisco, University of Pennsylvania [see attached flyer]

Oct. 3 (4 – 5:30): Science Friday – Speakers: Sarah Elkhe (PSYC) and Rui Ning (CS) [PSB 1100]

Oct. 9 (7:00 pm) *Planetary Defenders*, a new documentary produced by NASA to be shown in the Lê Digital Theater and Planetarium

Oct. 11 (10 – 1): Reign in Science – college-wide science outreach event for the public [Elkhorn Ave]

Nov. 7 (4 – 5:30): Science Friday – Speakers: Mary Still (PSYC) and Rishi Drolia (BIOL) [PSB 1100]