

Bridging the Gap from Scientist to Science Journalist

Mondays May 5th, 12th and 19th, 2008

3:30-5pm

Registration Required for Room Location

Have you vaguely considered a career in science journalism, but you don't have any training or exposure to the field? Have you found that you're more interested in sharing today's exciting and important scientific discoveries with the public than in working away at the lab bench?

Join us for a series of 3 sessions designed to introduce you to the broad field of science journalism, the style and grammatical tools of the trade, and a local environmental journalist's perspective and experience as a reporter for the Sacramento Bee. In addition, you may have the opportunity to develop ideas for your own journalistic piece in a constructive environment.

In order to keep the sessions most productive, registration is limited to the first 35 participants. Please visit <http://gsps.ucdavis.edu/DowdRegistration.htm> to register.

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Session 1: Monday, May 5th, 3:30-5pm:

Mitchel Benson, Director of UC Davis News Service and former Wall Street Journal reporter; and **Sylvia Wright**, UC Davis News Service Senior Public Information Representative for Environmental Science and former Science & Medicine Editor of the San Jose Mercury News.

These Pulitzer Prize winning writers will share their respective and varied journalistic experiences. Also included: an introduction to today's variety of audiences, formats, and styles for science journalism; training for a career in science journalism; how to choose a topic/target your audience; and finding your journalistic "voice".

Session 2: Monday, May 12th, 3:30-5pm:

Dr. Gary Sue Goodman, Assistant Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, University Writing Program.

A group analysis of the "hook" and stylistic techniques in a recent piece by Michael Pollan, author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and a *New York Times Magazine* feature writer, often writing on science and the environment. Dr. Goodman will also discuss the writing process and lead the participants in "freewriting", a valuable technique for quickly getting your ideas out without being distracted by grammar, punctuation, etc. Participants will leave this session with specific questions and writing strategies to consider when creating their own journalistic pieces.

Session 3: Monday, May 19th, 3:30-5pm:

Chris Bowman, Sacramento Bee Environment & Energy Reporter; former Nieman Foundation for Journalism Fellow at Harvard University and recipient of the Senator John Heinz Fellowship with the International Center for Journalists.

Mr. Bowman will discuss the life- and work-styles of a science journalist based on his ~20 years of experience at the Bee, emphasizing current trends and opportunities. In addition, he will revisit the entire process of creating one of his more successful recent articles for the Bee. Some of his more influential reporting exposed rampant pollution in California by the world's largest cheese plant and raised concerns about high levels of naturally occurring asbestos in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

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Contact Wes Dowd (wwdowd@ucdavis.edu) for further information.

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