

January 30, 2014

Hi Professor Shakhashiri,

My name is Matt Windsor, and I graduated from Sam Gellman's group in 2010. In my thesis, I wrote an extra chapter describing my work for non-scientists, and earned the WISL Thesis Award. Writing the chapter for non-scientists helped me realize just how much I enjoy and value communicating science to the public.

During the Chem Luminary awards at the ACS meeting in Indy this past fall, I had a chance to introduce myself. I said thank you for the award and for opening my eyes to my passion for communication. At the time, I was a postdoc at Vanderbilt University looking for jobs in the science communication/policy realm.

I'm contacting you to say that I have since found a job at a professional society for vision researchers. My job is in part to encourage other scientists to share their passion for science with the public and policymakers. For example, I'll be recruiting volunteers to do demonstrations at the [USA Science and Engineering Festival](#) this spring. I'll also be collecting stories from researchers affected by the recent cuts to government funding, and organizing a workshop at our annual meeting to teach scientists how to get involved in their local communities.

Looking back, I'm not sure I would have discovered my passion for science communication if it wasn't for the opportunities provided by the UW Chemistry Dept. and WISL. Thank you.

If I can support your efforts to secure additional funding to keep the WISL Thesis Awards going, please let me know.

Matt Windsor, Ph.D.