

Communications Coordinator Hired to Help Tell UCF Research Stories

The Office of Research has hired a science communications coordinator to help share the amazing research work being done at the University of Central Florida.

Beginning Aug. 6, Robert Wells joins the division's communications team. Wells will work the executive director of communications, scientists and students and communication specialists across the university to create high-quality pieces translating science for multiple audiences.

"Running across a UCF research story in the *New York Times* or on CNN is no accident," said Zenaida Gonzalez Kotala, executive director for communication for the Office of Research and the College of Graduate Studies. "Communicators with certain expertise make it happen by working hand-in-hand with our scientists. Investing in communication is important because sharing our stories not only helps elevate the university's reputation as a research institution, but it also flags the amazing work being done here to potential scientific collaborators and funding agencies. Robert is well positioned to help us."

Wells will write science stories, press releases and work with media to share your work across multiple platforms. He will collaborate with communicators across campus to best leverage our collective efforts. Wells is no stranger to our work. He was a science writer, editor and social media manager at the University of Florida for four years and a media specialist at the University of Mississippi State before that. He was also a journalist.

Wells has spent the past four years earning a doctorate degree in science communications from UF, while also serving as an instructor within the journalism department. He received his degree this summer and has relocated to Orlando with his family.

To reach him with your research story ideas email: Robert.Wells@ucf.edu .