Ardon Z. Shorr

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Creative scientist, founder of science communication program

- Developed 12 workshops in science communication, teaching over 500 faculty and graduate students
- Recognized by NSF-funded program as one of the top 30 innovators in science communication nationwide
- In research, created interdisciplinary tools to expose animals to altered gravity, compress with microfluidics, align with 3D-printing, and machine learning image analysis, leading to three first-author papers in prep

Work Experience

Public Communication for Researchers
2012 – 2017

Co-founder, Lead Writer & Designer

- Developed 12 workshops in a curriculum on science communication
- Taught faculty in Computer Science, 500 students across all STEM departments
- Developed five-year strategic plan, advertising campaigns, graphics, website, blog
- Contributing author to national recommendations on STEM education
- Worked closely in a team to organize events, manage $10,000 annual budget
- Recognized by Graduate Student Service Award 2015, profiled by NSF

Rorus, Inc.
2014 – 2015

Co-founder, Chief Technology Officer

- Built a chemistry lab, synthesized nanoparticles for a new water purification technology
- Directed communications for successful grants, presentations for investors, technical white papers, scripts for videos, startup contests
- Startup accelerator training in AlphaLab Gear, Pittsburgh, and Founder.org, Stockholm

Education

Carnegie Mellon University
2018

Ph.D. in Biology expected September 2018
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow
Certificate in Teaching Excellence

Oberlin College
2009

B.A. in Neuroscience with Chemistry Minor
B.A. in Music Theory with Honors Thesis

Research Summary

Life on Earth evolved under the influence of gravity. After gravity deprivation, astronauts come back with health problems that resemble premature aging. It's still unclear how living things sense gravity, in part because experiments focus on only a few animals at a time. So I lead an interdisciplinary team to develop new devices that can deliver mechanical force to hundreds of fruit flies, and software tools to analyze the results. By learning how living things sense mechanical force, we can develop new treatments for mechanical dysfunctions, such as age-related diseases and space travel.

Workshops Developed in Science Communication

Presentation skills	Telling science stories	Crafting metaphorical explanations
Scientific graphic design	Distilling your message	Why are facts not enough?
Vocal delivery	Talking to the media	Motivated reasoning and cultural cognition
Getting jobs outside academia	Theater techniques	Intro to strategic frame analysis

Presentations

Faculty Media Training	Carnegie Mellon University School of Computer Science
2D Story Analysis	Stanford University Human-Computer Interaction, San Francisco, CA
Finding your Expert Blindspot	Harvard University Strategic Data Project, Boston, MA
Explaining Complexity	GSL Labs, San Francisco, CA
Clear Thinking Made Visible	AAAS Conference 2015, San Jose, CA
Telling Research Stories	Webinar, Texas A&M University
Science Communication	Keynote speaker, Indiana University Science Communication Symposium 2018
Why are Facts not Enough?	Speaker, Institute for Religion in the Age of Science, Star Island, NH
"Oh, I get it"	Panelist, SXSW edu 2017, Austin, TX
The Protein Hustle	Director, Dance Your Ph.D.
Understanding Music	TEDxCMU, Pittsburgh, PA

Writing in Science Communication

Editorial Consultant	Grant & Jay 2017. *Breaking Through Gridlock*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers
Contributor	*GradSciComm: Integrating Science Communication into STEM Graduate Education*
Author	*A 5-Year Plan to Build a Science Communication Center*
Author	Op-ed: *Grad School is Hard on Mental Health.* Chronicle of Higher Education
Author	Blog post: *A Biologist's Prayer* at ScienceNonFiction.org

Honors and Awards

Graduate Research Fellow, National Science Foundation
First place, McGinnis Venture Competition for Pittsburgh Startups
TEDx talk named editor's choice with over 120,000 views

Skills

Presentation	Statistics	Graphic design	Programming
Keynote	GraphPad, Mathematica	Affinity Designer, Pages	Java, LaTeX, ImageJ