



## COMMUNICATING SCIENCE THROUGH STORY-TELLING: FROM PLATO TO CRISPR WITH ANDREI CODRESCU

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 | 5:30 PM  
MTSU SCIENCE BUILDING

5:30 - Reception, SCI Mezzanine  
6:30 -Public Lecture, SCI 1006

Leading science organizations, such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Chemical Society, have recognized Science Communication as an area needing improvement in order to address issues such as the STEM skills shortage in the workforce, and the proliferation of pseudoscience on social media. Story-telling is a recurring characteristic of effective science communicators, such as the late Carl Sagan and actor-turned-communication-guru Alan Alda.

Story-telling is a time-honored tradition in Tennessee, so it seems appropriate to bring an acclaimed story-teller to Murfreesboro to speak about “Communicating Science through Story-telling”, and to include it as a signature event in the 3rd annual Tennessee STEAM Festival. Andrei Codrescu is a master story-teller with a longstanding interest in science and technology. He will demonstrate how to put the A in STEAM with a visit that will integrate the two cultures of art and science for a few spell-binding days.

*Andrei Codrescu* has been a commentator on NPR’s All Things Considered since 1983. He is an homme-de-lettres whose novels, essays and poetry have been infiltrating the American psyche since he emigrated from his native Romania to Detroit in 1965. His website [www.codrescu.com](http://www.codrescu.com) lists 45 books published, one of which (“Road Scholar”) received a Peabody Award and was made into an award-winning film. He founded Exquisite Corpse: a Journal of Books and Ideas. He taught literature and poetry at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Baltimore before being named the Mac Curdy Distinguished Professor of English at Louisiana State University from 1984 until his retirement in 2009.

### ADDITIONAL EVENTS:

Thursday, October 17 | 4:30 pm | Honors Building Student & Faculty Workshop: *Communicating Science through Story-telling from the perspective of a Scientist*

Friday, October 18 | 4:30 pm | Honors Building Student & Faculty Workshop: *Communicating Science through Story-telling from the perspective of a Writer*

**STORY-TELLING CONTEST!** To celebrate the International Year of the Periodic Table, high school or college students can submit a story involving *any element* for a chance to win a cash prize. \$250 awards will be given to the best story about a chemical discovery in 2019, *and* the best story about the impact made by chemistry on society in 2019. Stories must have the name of an element in the title, be less than 1,000 words, and be submitted to [pmacdougall@mtsu.edu](mailto:pmacdougall@mtsu.edu) by COB 10/21/2019.

The MTSU Distinguished Lectures Committee and the Virginia Peck Trust Fund are acknowledged for funding of the lecture and workshops. The Nashville Section of the American Chemical Society is acknowledged for funding of the story-telling contest. Additional support was provided by the Tennessee Academy of Science, MTSU’s Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Liberal Arts, and University Honors, as well as the Departments of Chemistry, English, and Philosophy and Religious Studies.