

**Subject:** Monday matters - town hall on Thursday

**Date:** Monday, September 20, 2021 at 8:00:51 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Dodge, Gail

**To:** Dodge, Gail

**CC:** Whitfield, Tiffany L.

Dear Colleagues:

I hope that your semester is off to a smooth start. I have not heard of many problems, possibly because those are being solved in the Departments.

Just as a reminder, ODU's COVID information page is here: <https://odu.edu/status/covid-19>  
From that page you can find the FAQs and the covid testing dashboard. The dashboard also includes information on vaccinations for students, faculty, and staff. My understanding is that students who do not report their status will not be able to register for courses in the spring. Consequences for faculty and staff have been discussed, and in some cases implemented.

I have planned a Town Hall event this week on Thursday, Sept. 23 at 12:30. I will do this via zoom. The link is here:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://odu.zoom.us/j/95649094868?pwd=RWRKU29ucDNvd2owQ2JoL2ViUTN2UT09&from=addon>

Please join me on Thursday to discuss whatever is on your mind. I will bring a big pad of paper to note problems that need to be solved!

Finally I would like to ask you to save the date for our first public science lecture since the start of the COVID pandemic. On Thursday evening, Oct. 14, we will hear from alumnus Mark Thiemens. He will be speaking at 7 pm in the digital theater in the new chemistry building. Title and abstract are included below.

Best Regards,  
Gail

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Gail Dodge  
Dean, College of Sciences  
Old Dominion University  
[gdodge@odu.edu](mailto:gdodge@odu.edu)  
757-683-3432

Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Science Lecture**

**Lê Digital Theater & Planetarium**

**[Uncovering the Origin and Evolution of Life and the Solar System Using Isotope Ratios](#)**

Through the discovery of a physical chemical mechanism that alters isotope ratios in a mass independent way we have uncovered new facets of nature. These developments have been applied to the study of a variety of environments, including California, Tibet, China, South Pole, and Mars over timescales ranging from the present to before the solar system was formed. The applications include climate, origin of life, and Mars evolution. The journey through these scientific disciplines begins in

part at Old Dominion University.

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**Mark Thiemens, Ph.D.**

Distinguished Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Chancellors Associates Chair

University of California San Diego

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark\\_H.\\_Thiemens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_H._Thiemens)