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Senior Service Award Recipient Dr. Basaam Shakhashiri

Introduced by Susan Phillips on January 18th, 2006

How many thousands of young people have had their interest in science ignited by one of Dr. Shakhashiri's compelling presentations? Actually, some of those presentations literally do ignite more than just young minds. When the lab table or podium lights up, young minds open to the world of science.

As Dr. Shakhashiri describes himself, he is a "scientist by training, a teacher and public servant by trade, an advocate by conviction, and an optimist by nature." As a Professor of Chemistry at UW-Madison, he finds outlets for all four of these callings, to which he adds a fifth, entertainer by avocation.

A resident of Madison for over 35 years, more than half his life, he is proud to have been naturalized as a US citizen by the late Judge James Doyle on May 24, 1974. Who would have thought that an immigrant from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean who came to the shores of Lake Mendota would be selected "2005 Coolest UW Professor!"

Basaam has initiated numerous programs

to encourage careers in science. Most recently he led the Celebrating Women of Science. He asserts, "we need talented individuals—men and women—to go into science."

Over the years, this man has raised thrilled, countless audiences with his personal love of science. He is the first holder of the William T. Evjue Distinguished Chair for the Wisconsin

Idea. He is known internationally for his leadership in promoting excellence in science education at all levels. He has authored numerous scholarly publications and is cited in the Encyclopedia Britannica as "the dean of lecture demonstrators in America." Dr. Shakhashiri is a consultant to government agencies, industry, and private foundations on matters related to education at all levels.



Dr. Shakhashiri (center) pictured here with Club President Bob Sorge (left) and Senior Service Guest Introducer Susan Phillips (right).

Photo Credit to John Bonsell-Veal

Dr. Basaam Shakhashiri has devoted his life to charming students into investing their futures in science. His firm belief is that science makes the world go around and anyone with an inquisitive mind belongs in that world.

Our congratulations to Dr. Shakhashiri on receiving our Rotary Senior Service Award.