

S. DEXTER SQUIBB LECTURE SERIES

In Chemistry

PRESENTS



Bassam Shakhashiri

**William T. Evjue Distinguished
Chair for the Wisconsin Idea at
UW-Madison**

**University of Wisconsin-
Madison**

Madison, WI

Monday, September 29, 2014

7:00 pm

Science is Fun and the Joy of Learning

This public talk will include demonstrations to show how science can be communicated to all segments of our society. Come learn about combustion, liquids that glow in the dark, polymers, and other spectacular scientific phenomena. You will sit at the edge of your seat and will see science in action.

Highsmith Union, Alumni Hall, Room 159

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Tuesday, September 30, 2014

12:30 pm

Science and Society: Our Opportunities and Responsibilities

We live in the most advanced scientific and technological society in history. New discoveries have led to personal and societal enlightenment, to improvements and benefits in our daily lives, but also to new societal problems. Education is the key to societal progress. In one part of my talk I shall discuss the rationale for enhancing the learning experiences of students and I will offer specific suggestions for consideration as we all contemplate ways to improve both our technical skills and judgment. We must showcase science at its best in addressing human needs locally and worldwide. We must aim to promote science literacy. Science literacy is necessary for the democratic process to work. By science literacy I mean an appreciation of science, an understanding of the benefits of technology and the potential rewards and risks associated with advances in both, as well as a recognition of what science is capable of achieving and what it cannot accomplish. Science literacy enlightens and enables people to make informed choices; to be skeptical; to reject shams, quackery, and unproven conjecture; and to avoid being bamboozled into making foolish decisions where matters of science and technology are concerned. Science literacy is for everyone--chemists, artists, humanists, all professionals, the general public, youth and adults alike. The level of science literacy in any society is a measure of what it values and its resolve to put these values into practice.

Highsmith Union, Alumni Hall, Room 159