

Bassam Z. Shakhshiri is the 2012 President of the American Chemical Society. He also is the first holder of the William T. Evjue Distinguished Chair for the Wisconsin Idea at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A native of Lebanon, Shakhshiri earned his A.B. in chemistry from Boston University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. After three years at the University of Illinois, he joined the UW faculty in 1970.

In 1977 he became the founding chair of the UW System Undergraduate Teaching Improvement Council, in 1983 the first director of the Institute for Chemical Education, and in 2002 founded the Wisconsin Initiative for Science Literacy. From 1984-90, as Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Shakhshiri led the rebuilding of NSF efforts in science and engineering education. "His NSF strategic plan launched the systemic initiatives and most of the other NSF education programs of the last two decades."

He is famous internationally for his leadership in promoting excellence in science education at all levels and especially for his development and use of demonstrations in the teaching of chemistry in both classroom and other settings. His multivolume series, "Chemical Demonstrations: A Handbook for Teachers of Chemistry," has been translated into several languages. The Encyclopedia Britannica calls him the "dean of lecture demonstrators in America." Professor Shakhshiri has given over 1300 invited lectures and presentations worldwide and received over 35 awards including the James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry (1983) and the ACS George Pimentel Award in Chemical Education (1986). He is an elected fellow of the Alabama, New York, South Carolina, and Wisconsin Academies of Science and has received seven honorary doctoral degrees.

Like Whitmore, Dr. Shakhshiri has been an outstanding spokesman for chemistry including areas of public policy and education. Among his other awards are the 2002 American Association for the Advancement of Science Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology, the ACS Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach, the Chemical Pioneer Award of the American Institute of Chemists, and the National Science Board Public Service Award where he was cited for "extraordinary contributions to promote science literacy and cultivate the intellectual and emotional links between science and the arts for the public."

Bassam Z. Shakhshiri



Sunday, July 29th at 5:30 pm in Eisenhower Auditorium

*2012 Frank Whitmore Lecture on
Chemistry Education and Public Policy*

And

*First Plenary Lecture
2012 Biennial Conference
On Chemical Education*



Chemistry: A Key to Human Progress

*Dr. Bassam Z. Shakhshiri
William T. Evjue Distinguished Chair for the Wisconsin Idea
University of Wisconsin-Madison*

The opening reception in Alumni Hall (HUB) follows the lecture

Sponsored by:
*Central Pennsylvania Section,
The American Chemical Society*

Hosted by:
*Department of Chemistry
The Pennsylvania State University*



The **Frank Whitmore Lecture on Chemistry Education and Public Policy** honors Frank C. Whitmore, Dean of the Penn State College of Chemistry and Physics from 1929 until his untimely death in 1947. Sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Section of the ACS and hosted by the Penn State Chemistry Department, this lecture honors Whitmore's service to the ACS which began in the Central PA Section and the Organic Division and culminated as 1938 ACS President. The award also honors his service to chemistry as its chief public spokesman for over a decade and as one of the three coordinators of the WWII organic chemistry war effort. Finally, it recognizes Whitmore's contributions as a teacher, educator, and formulator of policy in chemistry education and curriculum reform. Previous Whitmore Lecturers included Ronald Breslow and Richard Zare.