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University of Wisconsin-Extension

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## A SPECIAL CHEMISTRY LECTURE

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For some students and an occasional professor at the UW, there are "special events" which become so popular that they are looked forward to with great anticipation. Professor Bassam Shakhashiri of the UW Chemistry Department is the "star" of the fifth annual special lecture to all 1400 students of Chemistry 103.

His performance has become so legendary that Channel 21 took the University of Wisconsin - Extension mobile television unit on campus and taped the 50-minute event. Under ordinary circumstances, the final lecture of the semester is a much anticipated one, mainly because it is the last. However, Professor Shakhashiri's style and personality bring the multi-section, combined class to an entertaining and conclusive end of the course. On Saturday, December 14, at 3:00 PM, Channel 21 will bring this unusual and outstanding educational experience to its Southcentral Wisconsin viewers.

The Lebanese-born professor, who did his doctoral work at the University of Maryland, makes this lecture special through his sense of humor and by doing a number of entertaining experiments that enhance the points all the other chemistry lecturers have been making all year long. For example, in his illustration of the effects of nitrogen, Professor Shakhashiri "hard-boils" an egg. He also mixes up an oxygen cocktail. One of the most unusual moments comes when Shakhashiri pounds rubber nails into wood with a hammer made of mercury.

The professor's showmanship is not new to television, although this will be the first "major" showing of his work. For the past five years, he and WHA-TV producer/director Allan Hinderstein have worked closely in the creation of televised materials for use in his own chemistry classes.