



**AMERICAN  
CHEMICAL  
SOCIETY**

Southern Nevada Section



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# “SCIENCE IS FUN AND THE JOY OF LEARNING”

**Professor Bassam Z. Shkhashiri**

**The William T. Evjue Distinguished Chair for the Wisconsin Idea**

**Director, Wisconsin Initiative for Science Literacy**

**Department of Chemistry**

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**2012 President, American Chemical Society**

**Event: Annual Award Ceremony**

**Place: UNLV Tam Alumni Center**

**4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV**

**Time: Monday, May 2, 2016**

**Dinner: 5:30 – 7:00 pm**

**Talk: 7:00 pm**



**[Bassam Z. Shkhashiri](#)** is professor of chemistry and the first holder of the William T. Evjue Distinguished Chair for the [Wisconsin Idea](#) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Shkhashiri is best known to the public at large for his annual program, “[Once Upon a Christmas Cheery, In the Lab of Shkhashiri](#),” seen on PBS stations around the country. The science-oriented entertainment show has played to packed houses at such varied places as UW-Madison, the National Academy of Sciences and the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, the halls of the U.S. Congress, and Boston's Museum of Science. He is well known internationally for

his effective leadership in promoting excellence in science education at all levels. He is an advocate for policies to advance knowledge and to use science and technology to serve society. He promotes the exploration and establishment of links between science,

arts and the humanities, and the elevation of discourse on significant societal issues related to science, religion, politics, the economy, and ethics.

From 1984-1990 Professor Shakhashiri served as Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) for Science and Engineering Education. As NSF chief education officer he presided over the rebuilding of all NSF efforts in science education after they had been essentially eliminated in the early 1980s. His leadership and effectiveness in developing and implementing national programs in science education have helped set the annual NSF education budget at its current level of about \$900 million. His NSF strategic plan launched systemic initiatives and most of the other NSF education programs of the last two decades.

Professor Shakhashiri is the recipient of over 35 awards, including the 2002 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology, “for his tireless efforts to communicate science to the general public, and especially children.” In 2007 he received the National Science Board Public Service Award and was cited for “extraordinary contributions to promote science literacy and cultivate the intellectual and emotional links between science and the arts for the public.” In 2008 he received the inaugural [Emerson Science Advocacy Medal](#) from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and was cited for “distinguished, sustained, and lasting contributions in the development of the sciences.” In 2013 he received the Carl Sagan Award for Public Understanding of Science from the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. He is the youngest recipient of two of the American Chemical Society’s (ACS) most coveted recognitions—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 has been a member of the ACS since 1962.

In 2012 Professor Shakhashiri served as president of the American Chemical Society, formed the [ACS Presidential Commission on Graduate Education in the Chemical Sciences](#), the [ACS Climate Science Working Group](#), and the [ACS Global Water Initiative](#) Working Group.

In 2015 he marked the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his annual Christmas Lecture, which is in the tradition of the great British scientist Michael Faraday (who presented a total of 19 series); this is only one example of Dr. Shakhashiri’s advocacy for public engagement and for achieving science literacy among the general public.