

RMC CHEMISTRY PROF WILL DO “MAGIC SHOW” AT CHICKS IN SCIENCE

For more information:

Gavin Kirton

Assistant Professor, Chemistry

B.S., B.S. Murdoch University

Ph.D. Australian National University

Phone: (406) 238-7377

Email: gavin.kirton@rocky.edu

BILLINGS – Rocky Mountain College’s Gavin Kirton, an assistant chemistry professor, will present a “magic show” at the annual Chicks in Science event Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010. The event is a celebration of “science and girlhood,” according to Kim Schweikert, Kids on Campus and outreach coordinator with the Montana State University-Billings College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at MSUB’s Alterowitz Gym. Girls in fourth through eighth grades can register from 1 to 3 p.m. at Rimrock Mall. The first 500 girls to register receive a free gift bag.

The chemistry magic show will start at 1:30 pm. It is collaboration between Dr. Kirton and Dr. Tom Lewis of MSU-B, a biochemistry professor. Student volunteers and chemistry club members will run parts of the show from both campuses. The show will include a carbide cannon, mystery water making many colors, elephant's toothpaste, mini fireworks, and oscillating colors.

The event is designed to expose girls to the fun aspects of science and math and encourage them to pursue educational studies in these areas. With about 50 booths featuring professional women currently working in those careers, girls also have a chance to build relationships, she said.

The event was developed three years ago to encourage girls to enter math- and science-related fields. Studies show that between the fourth and eighth grades, girls start losing interest in math and science. Yet, industry surveys indicate that many emerging careers will require an understanding of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and the problem-solving, critical thinking, adaptive and collaborative skills gained through the study of these subjects.

At the event more than 1,000 copies of “Women: A Celebration of Strength,” and Chicks in Science folders and pencils will be given away. There will also be door prizes.

Booths this year include an array of businesses and organizations. They include KTVQ, Audubon Conservation Education, Energy Laboratories, United Way, IBM, as well as MSUB and RMC.

#

2/08/2010