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November 3, 1998

For Immediate Release:

EIU CHEMISTRY STUDENTS TO GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS AT MATTOON MALL

CHARLESTON -- Did you ever want to know how fireworks get their colors? Or why they make the noise they do?

In commemoration of National Chemistry Week, students from Eastern Illinois University are prepared to answer those questions, as well as others, with demonstrations scheduled to take place at Mattoon's Cross County Mall.

Audience members will also view demonstrations that illustrate the use of chemistry in everyday life, including how colors in nature can be changed, how the carbon dioxide in one's own breath can change the color of a liquid, and the chemistry of common household items.

The one-hour demonstrations are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 5) and 10:30 a.m Saturday (Nov. 7) on the stage in the mall's south concourse.

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Other activities of the week will include a bake sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday on the first floor -- near the elevator -- of Eastern's Physical Science Building. Items for sale will include baked goods, wallet-sized periodic tables, thermochromic pens (change color from the heat of your hand) and T-shirts designed by members of Eastern's chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society -- the university's chemistry club. The back of the shirts read: "Chemically altered ... or mentally enhanced ... you decide."

All proceeds from the sale will go toward the funding of SA-ACS annual activities including speakers for the chemistry department's seminar series, career information for club members, out-reach programs/demonstrations at local schools and conferences and field trips to visit chemists at work.

Now in its 11th year, National Chemistry Week -- sponsored by the American Chemical Society -- allows chemists to share their world with their communities, including museums, shopping malls and schools, via demonstrations, hands-on chemistry activities, contests, electronic bulletin boards and workshops.