

This is a FREE science lecture, suitable for the general public, teachers and students of all ages: no registration necessary.

Please Note: Teachers receive certificates of attendance for one hour toward Professional Development credit for attending this talk.

Thursday, March 4, 2010

7:30-9 p.m.

Monroe Lecture Center, California Avenue, South Campus

***Naturally Obsessed:
The Making of a Scientist***
**Documentary Film and
Discussion With the Filmmakers**

This film reveals a penetrating view of what it takes to be a scientist, by helping viewers identify with the scientists themselves, understand what's involved in making a discovery, and feel the profound satisfaction of making a difference. A product of three years of filming, the film focuses on a group of irrepressible graduate students working toward their doctoral degrees, and their mentor, a tough but genial young professor. Mixing humor with heartbreak, the film tells the profoundly real yet intensely dramatic story about life in a molecular biology lab, where the students are in a race to beat the competition to discover the switch that controls appetite in the human body. "I want the viewer to stand in the shoes of a scientist at work in a lab, glimpse the world of research as it really is, and understand what it takes to fill an ample pipeline of future scientists," says scientist-turned-filmmaker, Richard Rifkind. The filmmakers shot the film in the laboratory of Dr. Lawrence Shapiro at Columbia University Medical Center, as well as the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. After the film screening, filmmakers Carole and Richard Rifkind will lead a discussion about the making of the film and the process of becoming a scientist.

About the Presenters:

Richard Rifkind, M.D., is chairman emeritus of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research and previously served as professor of medicine and human genetics at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Carole Rifkind is an author, educator and activist. She was a teacher and curriculum specialist in elementary and secondary schools, and an adjunct professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture.

Questions? Call IDEAS at 516-463-5792.