

North brook Middle School ,6th grade students were very enthusiastic to attend and participate in a lecture/demonstration ,”State of Matter” on Oct 26, presented by Mr. Joshua Gowin and Ms. Ann Ketek, graduate students in neuroscience at the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences-Houston (GSBS). This event is part of an initiative of the Rice University Chapter -Houston Medical Center of Sigma Xi Research Science Society , a national organization of research scientists who are implementing the national mission to enhance science education in the public schools.

The session of 100 students in the school auditorium was very interactive so that students,in addition to the lecture and power-point visuals, role-played the position and activity of atoms and molecules in solid ,liquid and gaseous states, learned the science of plasma television and were encouraged to ask questions to the presenters.who had developed creative ,lively and interesting means to teach scientific principles.

The presentation (three more are scheduled this year and next)was funded by a grant to Northbrook Middle School by the Sigma Xi Chapter with the cooperation of GSBS Outreach Program directed by Dr Thomas Goka , the school principal, Ms. Laura Schuhmann ,Ms Martha Armstrong ,Librarian,Dr Elizabeth Smith ,scientist and Dr Eugene Brams,scientist and project coordinator and school science teachers. This project is part of a larger effort funded by Sigma Xi which began last year with an initiative called the Science Corner in the Library ,a collection of videotapes in a wide variety of science topics supported by classroom lectures and continually available to all students and faculty.