



“See, Mom? I’m a SCIENTIST!” — 7th grader, Sherwood Githens MS

RT-MRSEC Graduate Student Fellows and staff joined area scientists to participate in Sherwood Githens Middle School’s Family Science Fair Night on January 29, 2015.

“Writing Without Ink” is an outreach demo that was created by students working in Dr. Stephen Craig’s lab. They created a thin film of silicon rubber that can be “written” on with a stylus or by shining a blue laser light on it. The color change can then be “erased” by shining a white light over the colored area for several minutes. This demo provides a visual example of some the self-healing materials being developed in Craig’s lab at Duke University.

“The most rewarding part for me was seeing the students’ eyes light up when they realized that they were performing chemistry with their own hands and that science could be fun,” said RT-MRSEC Graduate Fellow Emilee Renk.

“Even better, some called their friends over to see the demo, because they liked it so much. When their friends asked what was happening, the students excitedly explained the chemistry before Cameron and I had a chance. It was encouraging to watch the kids make the connection between the color change and the chemistry happening.”

Sherwood Githens Middle School is located in south Durham, NC, and the student population is 47% African American, 26% Hispanic, 17% White, and 5% Asian. 69% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Over 130 people attended the event.