



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY KENTUCKY LAKE SECTION

February 2010 Kentucky Lake Section Meeting

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The Inn by the Lake
Gilbertsville, KY
Thursday, February 25, 2010

Social @ 5:30, Dinner @ 6:00, Presentation @ 7:00

*The Inn by the Lake is located at 2184 US Hwy 62
(exit 27 off I-24, go south, ½ mile on left)*

*The price is \$10 (Students \$5)
Menu: Country Buffet*

Presentation:

“What is an Ethical Chemist?”

By

Jeffrey Kovac
University of Tennessee

See Reverse Side for Biographical Sketch and Abstract

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Be sure to visit the KLS website for additional announcements:

<http://kentuckylake.sites.acs.org>

If you would prefer to receive the KLS-NEWS via e-mail, contact Brent Montgomery at:

montgomeryjb@pgdp.usec.com

Biographical Sketch

Jeffrey Kovac was educated at Reed College (B.A., 1970, Chemistry) and Yale University (M.Phil, 1972 and Ph.D., 1974, Theoretical Chemistry). After two years as a postdoctoral research associate at MIT he joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee where he is currently Professor of Chemistry and Director of Undergraduate Studies. In addition to his position in the Department of Chemistry he is the Director of the Tennessee Governor's Schools for the Sciences and Engineering, a five-week summer residential enrichment program for high school students, and Director of the Tennessee State Science Olympiad Tournament. He serves as Coordinating Editor for *Foundations of Chemistry*. His research interests include statistical mechanics, equilibrium and nonequilibrium thermodynamics, computer simulation, history and philosophy of science, scientific ethics, chemical education, the scholarship of teaching and learning, and the history and philosophy of pacifism and conscientious objection. He is the author of more than 100 publications including four books: *Scientific Ethics for High School Students* (Institute for Chemical Education 1997), *Writing Across the Chemistry Curriculum: An Instructor's Handbook* (Prentice Hall, 2001), *The Ethical Chemist: Professionalism and Ethics in Science* (Pearson Prentice Hall 2004), which has been translated in Japanese (Kagaku Dojin 2005), and *Refusing War; Affirming Peace: A History of Civilian Public Service Camp #21 at Cascade Locks* (Oregon State University Press, Fall 2009).

Dr. Kovac's honors and awards include election to Phi Beta Kappa (Reed College, 1970), the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship (1970) and election as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2001). At the University of Tennessee he has been honored for both advising (The College of Arts and Sciences Advising Award and the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Advising) and teaching (The College of Arts and Sciences Senior Faculty Teaching Award and the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Teaching). In 2008 he received the L. R. Hesler Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service. He has delivered several endowed lectures including the Arthur F. Scott Lecture at Reed College (1991), the Peter B. Sherry Lecture in Chemistry at Georgia Tech (1995), the Fairchild Lectures in Ethics and Religion at the University of Southern Mississippi (2000), the Mead-Swing Lecture at Oberlin College (2001) and the Erza A. Hale Lectures at Rochester Institute of Technology (2008). Dr. Kovac is married to Susan Davis Kovac, an attorney who is Regional General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. They have two children: Peter, a graduate of Oberlin College (B.A., 2001, Mathematics) and Rachel, an honors graduate of DePauw University (B.A., 2004, English-Writing), and one grandchild. Dr. Kovac is also an accomplished soccer referee. He has officiated more than 2000 games at the youth, high school, college, amateur and professional levels. He is also a licensed soccer referee instructor and assessor, and served for ten years as State Director of Instruction for the Tennessee State Soccer Association. Dr. Kovac is active in the community, serving on the board of the Actors Co-op. He is a long-time member of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church.

ABSTRACT

What is an Ethical Chemist?

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Almost all decisions made by chemist, and all other scientists, have an ethical dimension. In both the practice of chemistry and the education of students it is essential that chemists understand the moral complexity of real-world situations, apply the relevant moral standards, and have the moral courage to make difficult choices, or the foundation of trust essential to the scientific enterprise will erode. In this presentation I will develop the fundamental concepts of scientific ethics and show how they apply to both the practice of chemistry and the relationship between chemistry and society.