



THE FILTER PRESS

Newsletter of the Georgia Section of the American Chemical Society

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Professionalism and Ethics in Chemistry Professor Jeffrey Kovac, University of Tennessee Monday, October 10, 2005, Emory University

Scientific ethics is a subset of professional ethics, the special rules of conduct adhered to by people engaged in those pursuits ordinarily called professions. The codes of professional ethics derive from the two bargains that define a profession: the internal code of practice and the external bargain between the profession and society. In this presentation Dr. Kovac will look at chemistry as a profession and describe the internal and external bargains and the code of ethics that derives from them. Many decisions made by working scientists have both a technical and an ethical component and it is important that both students and working scientists understand the moral dimensions of scientific practice. The alternatives are, at best, bad science, or, at worst, scientific misconduct.

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 post-doctoral 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 a Fellow of the Center for Applied and Professional Ethics in the Department of Philosophy, Director of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Sciences (a four-week summer residential enrichment program for high school students), and Book and Media Review Editor for the Journal for Chemical Education. His research interests include statistical mechanics of polymers and liquids, non-equilibrium thermodynamics, computer simulation, the structure and formation of coal, history and philosophy of science, scientific ethics, and chemical education. He is the author of more than 65 publications including *The Ethical Chemist: cases and commentaries for the teaching of scientific ethics*, *Scientific Ethics for High School Students*, and *Writing Across the Chemistry Curriculum: An Instructor's Handbook*. ♦

Look for the Georgia Local Section Ballot for 2006, and PLEASE VOTE by October 5, 2005.

Upcoming Events and Local Section Meetings

On Saturday, October 1st, the NW GA Council of the Girl Scouts will hold an **CSI-style event** (solved by chemistry experiments) for ~175 girls and their adult leaders at Southern Polytechnic University. This event is being supported by a \$2100 grant obtained from the 2005 Innovative Program Fund of the ACS. If you are interested in attending, contact Lissa Dulany at madesign@mindspring.com.

National Chemistry Week is October 22-28, 2005. The next Filter Press will have details of events in the area.

Tuesday, November 8, 2005: this will be a joint local section meeting with AIChE. Our guest will be John Chen, president of the national AIChE, speaking on future trends for chemical engineers and chemists.

Information about the **Georgia Local Section Member Survey** will be coming in the next Filter Press.



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Chemists in Legislative Affairs: New COLGA Website

The Georgia Section's Committee on Legislative and Government Affairs' (COLGA) new website is now live:

<http://chemistry.gsu.edu/ACS/COLGA/colga.htm>

Feel free to visit to see how you can lend your professional expertise and opinions to important decisions made at the State and National level, affecting the community of scientists and engineers around you. This new site includes information about COLGA, how to get involved, and where the ACS stands on relevant issues at the national level. Sign up for the Legislative Action Network (LAN) or download a pdf of the 2005 ACS Public Policy Priorities at <http://www.chemistry.org> at the "Policy Makers" tab. For more information contact Austin Lin at Austin_Lin@Gillette.com

Councilor Report Fall 2005 ACS Meeting Washington D.C. Lihong D'Angelo, Lissa Dulany, Rig Hernandez, and Don Hicks

All four Georgia councilors attended the 2005 Fall National ACS Meeting in Washington D.C. At the Council Meeting on Wednesday morning, candidates for different committees and regions were announced, and members of the Presidential Succession gave their reports, along with the Chairs of many Committees. Of the 13040 meeting attendees, 7584 (58%) were regular members, 2715 (21%) were students, and the remaining 21% were exhibitors & guests. 7400 papers were presented. Editor Dr. Laura Kiesel announced that the journal *ACS CHEMICAL BIOLOGY* will roll out its 1st issue in January of 2006. The fee for 2006 ACS meetings will increase to \$305.

In addition to the Council Meeting, Dulany & Hicks attended the District IV Councilors Caucus on Sunday evening. In addition, each Georgia councilor also attended separate meetings of the committees on which s/he serves, summaries of which are described below:

D'Angelo serves on the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA). At the Committee meeting it was reported that the impact of the ACS members' lobbying the Congressional Delegates was apparent. Visits to Congressional Delegates' offices by our members encouraged several national politicians to speak out on behalf of the scientific community on Capitol Hill. The Committee recommended to add a congressional liaison at each local chapter to increase this grass root effort. (*cont. page three*)

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October Meeting

Professionalism and Ethics in Chemistry

Professor Jeffrey Kovac
University of Tennessee

Date: Monday, October 10, 2005

6:30 - 7:00 PM Arrive

7:00 - 8:00 PM Buffet Dinner

8:00 - 9:00 PM Meeting and Presentation

Dinner: Buffet with choice of Georgian peccan crusted chicken with Dijon sauce, cumin roasted pork loin, and vegetarian lasagna. Sides include red skin smashed potatoes, green beans, and citrus glazed baby carrots. Salad, carrot cake, apple crisp, iced tea and water.

Location: Emory University, lower lobby/atrium of the New Math & Science Center Building, 400 Dowman Drive, Atlanta, GA 30322.

Directions:

From 85 (just north of Atlanta) take the North Druid Hills Road exit (going Southeast about 0.5 mile). Take a Right onto Briarcliff Road NE and go for about 2.5 miles. Turn Left on North Decatur Road & go ~0.7 miles. Turn Left onto Dowman Drive (a landmark is Glenn Memorial Church ahead of You on the left past Dowman Drive.)

Now that you are on campus, follow Dowman Drive around and downhill to the left. You will see the Math & Science Center on the left and the Lower Lobby/Atrium entrance will be obvious from the street. Make a note of it, as there is no parking next to the building and you will need to park and walk back.

At the bottom of the hill, turn Right off of Dowman onto Dickey Drive and then take an immediate Left onto Fraternity Row. The visitor's parking lot will be immediately on the left. Please park and walk back up the hill to join us for dinner.

Cost: \$15 per person; \$8 for high-school teachers or full-time students with ID. Payment should be made to the ACS Georgia Section and will be collected at the door.

RSVP: David Sherrill, 404-894-4037, or acs@chemistry.gatech.edu (preferred).
Deadline for reservations and cancellations is 5:00 PM on Thursday, September 29.

Councilor report (cont. from page 2)

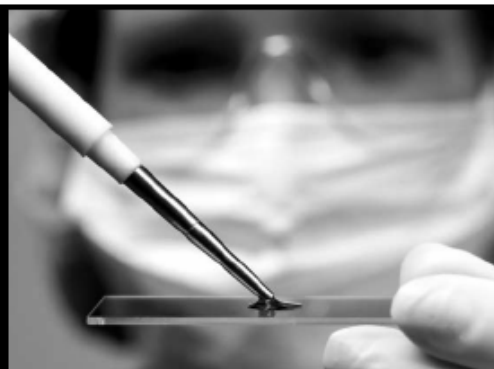
As a councilor, Dulany represents the Georgia local section by serving on the elected Committee on Committees (ConC), which serves the HR function in the national ACS committee structure, aligning volunteers (councilors and non-councilors) for service on national committees, and providing guidance to the chairs and staff of the committees to which the liaison serves. Dulany is the ConC liaison to both the Committee on Chemical Abstracts (Friday evening) and the Membership Affairs Committee (all day Saturday and Sunday). Then ConC itself meets Monday & Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons.

Hernandez serves on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC), and co-chairs the joint Local Section/Divisional Activities Subcommittee. Through the latter, he is helping to provide connections between the technical programming efforts of the divisions to the local sections. Meanwhile DAC is focusing on how to best serve members (both current and new) with multidisciplinary interests in terms of programming and the divisional structure. These questions are being investigated by a number of groups in the ACS in the hope of maintaining the vitality of society.

Most of Hicks' time in D.C. was also spent representing Section members by attending meetings. This included ~2 days at the Constitution & Bylaws Committee (C&B, on which Hicks serves), 0.5 day at a Council Policy Committee meeting, and special sessions for Councilors presented by the Nominations & Elections Committee (N&E) on (a) a Q & A by candidates for Director-at-Large and (b) the election procedures survey. Some preliminary results of the survey (of all Councilors and selected ACS members) on proposed changes in election procedures showed that most respondents felt candidates for national ACS offices should have significant ACS service (as opposed to a chemist figurehead with a great CV) and that candidates should be selected by Councilors from a group including both N&E favored nominees plus any petition nominees. Many councilors [including Hicks], openly challenged the N&E Chair's statement that more than half of respondents felt that the number of signatures currently needed by petition candidates should be increased. When asked for data, N&E would not commit to immediately furnishing survey data to Councilors. Hicks also attended the Board Task Force on ACS Executive Compensation, and 0.6 day at meetings of the Committees on Science (COMSCI), Local Section Activities (LSAC), and Education (SOCED), as well as special sessions of the Division of History of Chemistry (HIST) and the Chemical Heritage Foundation. A 10-minute one-on-one confidential meeting with ACS Chair-Elect Ann Nalley was absolutely fascinating.

This report will be concluded in the next Filter Press.

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