



American Chemical Society
East Tennessee Section

The Branched Chain

March 2008

Newsletter and Meeting Announcements
Web Page: <http://www.chem.utk.edu/~acs>

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March Meeting: Monday, March 17, 2008

“A Scientist Goes to Desert Storm”

by Dr. Steven I. Dutch

Dinner: 6:00 pm, Gondolier Italian Restaurant, 964 Dolly Parton Parkway, Sevierville
Directions: Take Exit 407 from I-40 and proceed on TN-66 to US-411 in Sevierville. Turn left on US-411 (Dolly Parton Parkway). The restaurant will be on the left after you pass Veteran’s Boulevard.

Lecture: 7:30 pm, “A Scientist Goes to Desert Storm”, Room 211 in Maples-Marshall Hall, Walters State Community College, Sevierville Campus
Directions: From the restaurant, turn left on Dolly Parton Parkway and drive past the Sevierville County High School. At the next traffic light, after passing the high school, turn right onto TN-416. There is a WSSC sign at the intersection. Walters State is on the left about one half mile from the intersection. Maples-Marshall Hall is the center building. For gps directions or online maps, use 1720 Old Newport Highway.

Dr. Steven I. Dutch, Professor of Geology
University of Wisconsin at Green Bay
Natural and Applied Sciences



Abstract: When my army reserve unit was mobilized in December 1990, I got a fascinating, if somewhat unwelcome, opportunity to view one of the great environmental disasters of history close at hand. My unit, a Civil Affairs company, was tasked with aiding civilian recovery efforts in Kuwait and moved into Kuwait only 24 hours after the cease fire. From our compound only three kilometers north of the Maqwa Oil Field, we could see up to 100 burning wells. Although press coverage depicted Kuwait as smothered in total darkness, Kuwait City was actually smoke-free most of the time. Communities on the shore south of Kuwait City experienced much worse conditions of darkness. On at least one occasion, we experienced complete darkness from horizon to horizon at midday, during which it was literally impossible to tell whether it was noon or midnight. In addition to observing an environmental catastrophe, my experience in Kuwait gave me the chance to see first-hand some of the astonishing physical effects of modern munitions. After being redeployed to Saudi Arabia in April 1991, we were sent to Operation Provide Comfort, the effort to aid the Kurds in northern Iraq. This experience allowed me to view the spectacular geology of northern Iraq, near the boundary between the Arabian and Turkish plates, as well as to observe and photograph some remarkable arid-climate meteorological events.

Biographical Sketch: Steven Dutch is a geologist who got his bachelor's degree (and a ringside seat for the unrest of the 1960s) from the University of California at Berkeley. He did his doctoral research at Columbia University, with a break for military service that included a year in Turkey. The subject of his thesis was the geology of the Sudbury, Ontario area, but in 1975, he also participated in a Columbia expedition to Antarctica. Since 1976, he has been at the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, where he holds the rank of professor and teaches "hard rock" geology: mineralogy, petrology, structural geology, and plate tectonics. His principal research interests are the Precambrian geology of the Great Lakes region, the development of computer programs for earth science education, and the relationships between science and society, particularly as expressed in pseudoscience movements. He is the author of an earth science textbook. In 1982, Dr. Dutch resumed his military career by joining the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserve. He spent six months in the Persian Gulf and Kurdistan in 1991 and six months with the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia in 1996, and retired from the military in 2001.

Message from the Chair

Greetings everyone!!!! In my last message I was somewhat pessimistic about our 2008 activities. Since then our calendar has been nearly completed in a most exciting way. I will keep you posted. We have two events scheduled for March. First up is the ACS Landmark Award at Oak Ridge and I hope that many of our members will be at the ceremony. I also hope that you have an opportunity to visit the Sevierville campus of Walters State Community College on March 17th for the lecture by Dr. Dutch.

Larry Kennard

ACS Landmark Award Two Presentations

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the East Tennessee Section of the American Chemical Society will be commemorating the production and distribution of radioisotopes and the designation off the Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a National Historic Chemical Landmark by the American Chemical Society on Thursday, March 6, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the Conference Center, Room 202. RSVP had to be in by February 25, 2008.

On Tuesday, April 15, the monthly ETS-ACS meeting will be held at the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge. Our speaker, Dr. Jim Roberto, will talk about the history and significance of the radioisotope production and distribution at ORNL that is being commemorated by the ACS Landmark award. At this meeting, a second commemorative plaque will be presented to the American Museum of Science and Energy where the plaque will be viewable by the general public. More details to follow in the next newsletter. Be sure to put this date on your calendar.

UTK Summer Chemistry Camp for Middle School Students June 16-20, 2008 ----- 1:30-5:00 p.m. *Adventures in Forensic Chemistry*

Past chemistry camps have focused on themes such as the elements, acids and bases, metals and alloys, and crystals and polymers. For a third year, our theme will be "Adventures in Forensic Chemistry." Working in small groups with UTK chemistry graduate students, campers become investigators by exploring scientific and chemical principles and techniques used to detect criminal acts. Students will examine synthetic blood, physical and trace evidence, organize

and record data, think critically, conduct simple tests and combine their data to solve a crime. Parents are invited to attend the lab wrap-up during the final 30 minutes each day. Instructors : UTK Association of Chemistry Graduate Students, under the guidance of faculty advisor Dr. Al Hazari. (Grades 6 - 8, rising) ; Fee \$ 99 ; Mon. - Fri., June 16 - 20, 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.; Dabney/Buehler Hall, Rooms 300 and 330 (Lab). For information, contact Dr. Al Hazari at 865-974-1065 or ahazari@utk.edu. For registration, call 865-974-0150 or go to <http://www.outreach.tennessee.edu/ppd/kidsu>.

NOTE : Dr. Bass, the world-renowned forensic anthropologist and founder of the "Body Farm," is speaking to the campers on Tuesday, June 17 in 300 Buehler at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Bass' talk is about 45 minutes long. EVERYONE is invited to attend the lecture. Bring your copies of his books for Dr. Bass to autograph after the talk.

2008 ETS-ACS Officers

Past Chair:	Larry Kennard	(423)585-6878	Lawrence.Kennard@ws.edu
Chair:	Larry Kennard	(423)585-6878	Lawrence.Kennard@ws.edu
Chair-Elect:	Terry Bunde	(865)981-8279	Terry.bunde@maryvillecollege.edu
Secretary:	Michael Best (07-08)	(865)974-8658	Best@ion.chem.utk.edu
Treasurer:	Rose A. Boll (08-09)	(865)974-3426	RBoll@utk.edu
Councilor:	Al Hazari (06-08)	(865)974-1065	AHazari@utk.edu
Alternate Councilor:	Arlene Garrison (06-08)	(865)974-6410	Garrison@utk.edu
Members-at-Large	Doug Hensley (08-10) Ben Xue (07-09) Duane Root (06-08)	(423)585-6881 (865)974-3443 (865)690-3211	Douglas.Hensley@ws.edu Xue@ion.chem.utk.edu Duane.Root@shawgrp.com
Historian:	Earl Wehry	(865)522-1879	EWehry@utk.edu
Newsletter Editor:	Rose A. Boll	(865)974-3426	RBoll@utk.edu

2008 East Tennessee ACS Meeting Schedule

Friday, March 6	ACS Landmark Award Presentation at ORNL at Oak Ridge National Lab, Oak Ridge
Thursday, March 17	<i>A Scientist Goes to Desert Storm</i> , Dr. Steven Dutch, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay at Walters State Community College, Sevierville Campus
Tuesday, April 15	<i>Radioisotope Production at ORNL</i> , Dr. Jim Roberto, Oak Ridge National Lab at American Museum of Science & Energy, Oak Ridge
Thursday, May 1	<i>Switchgrass to Ethanol</i> , Dr. Kelly Tiller, UT Institute of Agriculture, Knoxville <i>Awards Night</i> , at Calhoun's on the River, Knoxville

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, East Tennessee Section
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Rose A. Boll, Editor
Department of Chemistry
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-1600

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