

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jeffrey Kovac

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 College Scholars the interdisciplinary honors program in the College of Arts and Sciences. He was Director of the Tennessee Governor's Schools for the Sciences and Engineering, a five-week summer residential enrichment program for high school students from 1994-2012 and Director of the Tennessee State Science Olympiad Tournament from 2008-2012.

His interdisciplinary research interests include statistical mechanics, equilibrium and non-equilibrium 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 six 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), *Refusing War; Affirming Peace: A History of Civilian Public Service Camp #21 at Cascade Locks* (Oregon State University Press, 2009), *Roald Hoffmann on the Philosophy, Art, and Science of Chemistry* (Oxford, 2012) and *University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College Scholars: A 40th Anniversary History* (Van-Griner, 2014). A second edition of *The Ethical Chemist* will be published by Oxford University Press in 2017.

Dr. Kovac's honors and awards include Phi Beta Kappa (Reed College, 1970), the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship (1970), and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2001). At the University of Tennessee he has been honored for advising (The College of Arts and Sciences Advising Award and the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Advising), teaching (The College of Arts and Sciences Senior Faculty Teaching Award and the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Teaching), and outreach (College of Arts and Sciences Outreach Award and the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Academic Outreach). 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 Lectures at Oberlin College (2001) and the Erza A. Hale Lectures at Rochester Institute of Technology (2008). In October 2015 he was elected to a six-year term as a Senator of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

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 two grandchildren.

Dr. Kovac was also an accomplished soccer referee who officiated more than 2000 games at the youth, high school, college, amateur and professional levels in between 1978 and 2012. He is still 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, having served on the boards of the Alliance for a Better Tomorrow and the Actors Co-op. He is a long-time member of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church where he has twice served on the Board of Directors and on numerous committees.

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