

**PRESS RELEASE – A Conversation about Alternative Fuels:
Biodiesel and Corn Ethanol**

Is the oil crisis for real or is it just a fabrication to make more money for the oil industry? If it is real, how serious is it? Could we really run out of oil? When? Then what? What do you think America should do? What are you going to do?

Dr. Jim Byford is a University of Tennessee at Martin Professor studying the development of corn ethanol, Dr. Tim Burcham is a University of Tennessee at Martin Professor studying the impact of biofuels (biodiesel and ethanol), and Mr. Parks Wells is Executive Director of the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council. These experts will be available for an open discussion and conversation about the current status and future direction of today's petroleum dependency and the role alternative fuels will play in our future.

Join the discussion. These men are on the leading edge of biofuels development and promoting policies that will impact our future and the future of our children. Ask them your questions. Give them your opinions. Share your experiences.

A Science Café will be held at Joe and Deana's Bypass Café in Dyer, Tennessee on Thursday night December 20 at 6:00 p.m. Joe and Deana's is located on the Highway 45 Bypass North of Dyer, between Trenton and Union City.

What is a Science Café?

A Science Café is a lively science discussion that takes place in a nontraditional setting. Scientists speak briefly and the audience engages directly with them in a discussion and question and answer session. Cafés take place in a wide variety of public places such as coffee shops, pubs, restaurants, and galleries. These informal venues provide an opportunity to engage members of the public who might not attend a formal university lecture. While adults may be too busy to go to a lecture, the science café model allows the scientists to come to them.

The goal is to get non-scientists to talk about science with the same sense of passion and fun as non-athletes discuss sports. While not expecting scientific research to be as popular a topic as the Super Bowl, science cafés are an effort to bring cutting-edge work out of the laboratory and to the lay public so they can understand and enjoy the latest developments. Many people receive exposure to science through museums, zoos, etc. but most of these present basic science, not current research.

The café model is based on the old European salons, where small groups of people gathered over drinks to casually discuss science and philosophy. There was a revival of the café movement in 1998 when a group called "Café Scientifique" began holding events in Leeds, England. The movement built up great momentum in the UK and beyond. Today there are over 50 throughout Europe. There are also cafés in India, Brazil, Canada, Australia, and Singapore. (<http://www.cafescientifique.org>) The movement has recently moved to the United States with dozens of new cafes opening every year since 2002.

The American Chemical Society is promoting science cafés to expand scientific literacy among local citizens and to stimulate thinking among non-scientists about questions of the day which have a scientific underpinning. Events are being planned across Tennessee for 2008 in Memphis, Knoxville, Kingsport, and other cities.

The Thursday night café at Joe and Deana's Bypass Café in Dyer will be the first such event for Tennessee!

This event is sponsored by the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society which represents counties in West Tennessee, Western Kentucky, and Southern Illinois.
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