



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY KENTUCKY LAKE SECTION

SUBJECT: September Kentucky Lake Section Meeting

DATE: Thursday, September 18, 2008

PLACE: Union University
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

Directions and maps may be found at the following webpage:

<http://www.uu.edu/about/map/index.htm#Directions>

SCHEDULE:	5:30 p.m.	Social	Coburn Dining Room
	6:00 p.m.	Dinner	(Barefoot Student Union Bldg.)
	7:00 p.m.	Presentation	White Hall, Room 312

PROGRAM: Otis Rothenberger & James Webb
“Is It Chemistry or Magic?”

MENU: Chicken Salt-n-Buka or Herb-Roasted Pork Loin
Fresh Stir-Fry Vegetables, Potatoes au gratin
Spring Mix with Raspberry Vinaigrette and Fruit Salad
Chocolate Chess or Apple Pie

PRICE: \$ 10.00 (students \$ 5.00)

Message from the Chair:

Thanks to everyone who came to the August Annual Cookout, our kick off of our 50th anniversary celebration. This was our biggest meeting so far this year. A special thanks to our cooks (Jeff, Russell, Harold & Brent), who did a great job as usual!

Our next meeting promises to be very entertaining. Drs. Webb and Rothenberger will be presenting “Is It Chemistry or Magic?” I, regretfully, will not be able to make it to the meeting because I will be on my honeymoon. I look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting, where we will be continuing our 50th anniversary celebration.

Sandra Thompson

Otis Rothenberger & James Webb

Biographical Sketch

Otis and Jim Bio: We use a common bio.* Otis Rothenberger and Jim Webb are Emeritus Professors of Chemistry at Illinois State University with more than eighty years of combined experience in the field of chemical education. For the past twenty-five years, their partnership as co-presenters has brought the excitement and fun of chemistry to more than 20,000 adults, young adults, and children throughout the USA. Otis is an organic chemist. Although his current research interests involve the history of chemistry, his educational specialty is the presentation of chemistry to nonscientific audiences. During his active teaching career at ISU, Otis coordinated the large lecture section non-majors chemistry course. He also served as the cooperative education coordinator. His interest and expertise in the area of chemical demonstrations was a natural complement to his large lecture teaching responsibilities. Jim is an analytical chemist. He currently remains active as a research partner supporting several ISU research groups. During his active teaching career at ISU, Jim taught a full spectrum of analytical courses. He also served as the laboratory coordinator for the 100 level majors and non-majors laboratory courses. The presentation partnership of Otis and Jim was inevitable. They share a common sense of humor. They also share the belief that the excitement of chemistry can be presented with both humor and dignity. Most importantly, they share the experience of learning their craft from two generations of ISU students. Since their presentations use "chemical magic" as a serious teaching tool, the presentations appeal to a wide range of audiences. Otis and Jim have served as chemical education consultants to a number of educational organizations, including the Chemical Industries Council of Illinois, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory's High School Teachers Workshop, and the American Chemical Society.

ABSTRACT

Is It Chemistry or Magic?

When professional firefighters or law enforcement officers visit public school classrooms, they dress and act according to their professional roles. More often than not, the chemist's visit involves funny T-shirts, cute hats, and silly behavior. Thus, many chemical outreach presentations support the very stereotypes that the profession has come to deplore. The presentation "Is It Chemistry or Magic?" illustrates that chemical outreach programs can convey the profession's important messages with drama, humor, and dignity. Further, the presentation illustrates that these messages can be conveyed with very simple and inexpensive materials that can be packed in the trunk of a single car. Otis and Jim have presented this talk at colleges, high schools, junior high schools, and elementary schools throughout the United States. They are committed to the idea that chemical outreach is the responsibility of every member of the profession. The tour presentation of "Is It Chemistry or Magic?" is offered as a public outreach presentation or a presentation to teachers and other interested ACS members.