Peter K. Dorhout
President
Oral Report to Council
Wednesday, August 22, 2018

(SLIDE 1)
Good morning fellow Councilors. This has been an exciting year as President, and this meeting was no exception. Here in Boston, I found myself running from one side of town to the next. I learned that just as in the colonial America days, there really is no one way to get from here to there. I enjoyed hearing about nanoscience, nanotechnology, and beyond. Thank you to all the programming folks - organizing the technical sessions for this meeting was no small task.

Of the many sessions I sponsored as Presidential events, let me highlight two: Moving the safety values forward and Project SEED. Many of you know that, along with being a chemist, I'm an avid woodworker. I spent part of my evening on this Fathers' Day in the emergency room after losing an altercation with my table saw. Despite having the safety mechanisms in place, and being very practiced with my tool, I still had an accident.

(SLIDE 2)
My next slide shows me explaining my injuries at an event at NORM in Richland, Washington. As I noted in my C&EN Comment. I am fortunate that I am still able to highlight TWO initiatives.

My point: you can recognize and assess risks, and minimize those risks, but sometimes, nothing is as important as planning for accidents. Be Prepared and RAMP up safety.

I am especially thankful to the many volunteers across the Society who have taken up this mantle with me. From our committees and technical divisions, to other volunteer members who are joining the call, we are beginning to make a difference. Joining with me this fall to issue a collaborative call to action is the Chemical Safety Board in a joint safety letter to all educators with important safety reminders, particularly for classroom demonstrations, along with references to important safety materials and best practices.

(SLIDE 3)
As for my second item, you know, this year we are celebrating one of our hallmark programs that has been building a diverse pipeline of chemistry professionals: Project SEED is 50 years old, and has served over 10,000 young people. Its complementary program, ACS Scholars, designed to support and mentor undergraduates, is pleased to announce and celebrate its 300th alumnus or alumna to attain a PhD. I've taken a web site screen, shot shown on the next slide, and I encourage you to visit the site and learn more about our outstanding Scholars alumni. We have had a long way to go over the years, but we have also come a long way to ensuring that thousands of emerging scientists have had the opportunity to realize their professional potential. There is still much more to do to ensure access to higher education and the exciting world of chemistry.

Fellow councilors, thank you for all you do for our members.

This concludes my report.

American Chemical Society

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Report of the 2018 ACS President

Peter K. Dorhout, Ph.D.
2018 President
American Chemical Society

Council Meeting
Boston, MA
August 22, 2018

RAMP up Safety

ACS NEWS

COMMENT

Leading change through a culture of safety

PETER K. DORHOUT, ACS PRESIDENT

I'd like to begin this Comment with a safety message: Many of you are aware that I am a hobbyist woodworker. With that hobby comes a certain risk for injury. Even with all the safeguards in place and proper use of techniques for ripping boards, a guide block slipped on a board I was cutting on my table saw, and two fingers on my left hand suffered minor cuts. If you were at the 2018 Northeast Nanomaterials Meeting in June, you probably remember seeing me wearing bandages.

I talked about my injury with woodworking colleagues and assessed how we could conceive of better, safer methods for making these types of cuts in the future. We also discussed how we should all have first-aid equipment available in our woodworking shops to improve the response to an accident should one occur. We applied RAMP to the situation and are turning a negative outcome around and making our work safer. (RAMP is an acronym for the four elements of the chemical safety process: Recognize the hazard, assess the risk, minimize and manage risk, and prepare for emergencies.)

This culture of safety doesn't apply to just what we do in our vocation but how we think and act everywhere. At the fall ACS national meeting in Boston, I'll be cosponsoring a presidential symposium with the Division of Chemical Health & Safety (CHAS), "Moving the Safety Values of the ACS Forward." This symposium will focus on how members have been working together on the recommendations of the ACS Safety Summit that we held in February.

In a July 9 Comment in C&EN, Ralph Stuart, chair of the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS), described many of the other activities that ACS members have been engaging in to lead the safety culture landscape for ACS. Ralph highlighted how CCS and CHAS have been partnering with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine and the Association of Public & Land-grant Universities (APLU) to advance a culture of safety in academic research.

As a leader within APLU's Council on Research, I have been advocating for methods by which the council's members, primarily university vice presidents and vice chancellors for research, can be change agents for improving the culture of safety in response to the 2016 APLU publication "A Guide to Implementing a Safety Culture in Our Universities."

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To recognize best practices and institutional leaders who are advancing a culture of safety, APLU partnered with the Campus Safety, Health & Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) and on July 10 announced the CSHEMA Research Safety Awards. I hope you will take a few minutes to read more about these awards and consider the best practices being highlighted.

While many of the projects recognized by CSHEMA are broadly applicable across disciplines at colleges and universities, there were a few awards specific to chemistry departments, and I would like to call attention to just a few:

In the Innovation Award for Safety Culture category, Washington University in St. Louis received an Award of Honor for the chemistry department's multipronged approach to improving research safety culture. The department has become a model for other departments at the university.

In the same category, the department of chemistry and biochemistry at Northern Illinois University received an Award of Merit for forming a Student Advisory Safety Committee (SASC), led by graduate students, to create and enhance cultural changes around safety. Student-led safety programs are not new, but the implementation at NIU contains some very creative approaches to improving safety culture.

The joint safety team concept, similar to a SASC, is one that has been promoted by CCS and CHAS through workshops led by graduate students. If you or your students are interested in learning more about how to develop a joint safety team, you may participate in the three-hour workshop offered at the ACS national meeting in Boston on Sunday, Aug. 19. Registration for limited spaces is available at www.dchas.org/2018/04/13/jst-workshop.

In the Innovation Award for Process Improvements category, Carleton College received an Award of Merit for developing a Custodial Training Guide for the custodial department staff who work in chemical laboratories but who have not typically benefited from the same training and communications as students and faculty. The program was adapted from a similar program at the University of Iowa and is an example of sharing safety information, which is promoted by the CCS Communications Subcommittee and recommended by the ACS Safety Summit.

These are just a few examples of the ways that chemistry departments are leading change.

Nothing can have a greater impact on the public trust of chemistry than demonstrating to the world that we care about our students, our colleagues, and our communities by promoting a culture of safety. If you have ideas or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me at p.dorhout@acs.org.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of C&EN or ACS.

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Celebrating 50 years of SEED

Realized the 300th PhD recipient this Spring!!!