

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.