

## **Council Oral Report ACS President (Dallas, TX)**

My fellow Councilors,

Getting the painful stuff out of the way at the beginning, I'm afraid that it is my thankless duty to inform you that the "tradition" which Bassam sought to establish of having the president donate to ACS the sum which he/she would have paid for national meeting registration has died. Adios tradition.

However, the tradition of presidential travel is alive and well. In my first month I visited Thailand, where in addition to delivering a scientific lecture at PACCON 2014, I had the pleasure of meeting and holding discussions with some incredibly committed members of the ACS-International Chemical Science Chapter of Thailand, who hosted the first joint symposium of an international chapter and an ACS division, Agricultural and Food Chemistry two weeks ago.

In Malaysia, I had a tremendous experience of taking part in an all-day ACS BOOST Program (Building Opportunity Out of Science & Technology) attended by 120 graduate students of which 80% were women! Their enthusiasm for ACS surpassed that of a revival tent meeting. I believe that we signed up more than 20 new ACS student members that morning.

If anything, this enthusiasm for ACS was exceeded by the mass of students on the Rio Piedras campus of the University of Puerto Rico for their first ACS on Campus event. It was a tremendous success, and I stand in awe of what Ingrid Montes has accomplished for ACS in Puerto Rico.

I will be attending the IUPAC International Conference on Green Chemistry in South Africa this summer, and to prepare me to actually work at this event I will be trained for several days in Golden, Colorado in July. This has got me to thinking about ways to introduce students to green chemistry and has led to the idea of presenting students with actual or imagined industrial processes (current or past) and have them produce alternative greener processes with degrees of sophistication obviously depending upon the level of the participants. My intention is to obtain these problems from our membership and to use C&EN, chemistry blogs and cash rewards to gain submissions.

I was shocked to learn that people not only read my January article in C&EN, but wrote me a lot of letters about what I said. I was not surprised that many people from industry expressed the view that the ACS didn't have enough to offer them. Now whether or not you agree with that view, the fact that it exists means that it should be of serious concern. President-Elect Diane Schmidt and I will be organizing one or more sessions with concerned industrial members, not CEOs or the like, but people who are still actually doing chemistry, listen to their concerns and then come back to ACS to seek real answers as opposed to platitudes. We would appreciate hearing from you with thoughts about this initiative. I especially like the idea of having this joint effort with Diane, which will guarantee that the effort extends over at least a couple of years.

This concludes my report.