

2011 Presidential Address

WE @ AOM

SUSAN E. JACKSON
Rutgers University

Seventy-five years ago two management professors had a conversation that led to the creation of a totally new organization. Today we call that organization the Academy of Management (AOM). One of AOM's traditions is for the AOM president to give an address to members during our annual conference. Initially, during the very early years of AOM's existence, the president's annual address took the form of a short report providing members with basic information about operational issues. In these very brief reports AOM presidents provided answers to some simple questions, such as: How many people are members of AOM? How many people are attending the conference? How many people have (or have not) paid their dues? These reports informed members about the basic health of the organization, provided information about how the organization was changing, and generally contributed to establishing a cohesive community of scholars with a shared understanding of their organization.

In the seventy-five years since AOM was created, the annual presidential address has evolved and changed. The speeches have become longer, more substantive, and generally more interesting. In place of the one-page reports AOM's first several presidents delivered, most recent AOM presidents have delivered a well-crafted, provocative lecture that is subsequently published as a scholarly journal article. In other words, the annual presidential address has evolved into a work of scholarship. These works of scholarship have enriched our intellectual lives, and for that we all are grateful! There are, however, some drawbacks to our current tradition. One is that AOM members now have less knowledge about who we are as an organization. Do you know how many people belong to AOM? Can you describe who we are? How are we similar and different from each other? Can you explain how AOM is organized? Do you

know what AOM leaders view as our most pressing strategic issues? Do those who have been members for several decades understand how AOM has been changing recently? How well do newer members understand the history and traditions of AOM? Do we all understand what is expected of AOM members and what we consider ethical professional behavior?

To celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of AOM's conception, this year's presidential address returns to the practice of offering a report providing members with information about AOM as an organization. Motivating the development of this year's report was a simple desire: to promote greater understanding of our organization and the issues we face. With that objective in mind, the 2011 AOM Presidential Address covers the following topics:

- Who founded AOM?
- How have we evolved over time: who are we the members, and where are we located?
- How are we organized, formally and informally?
- What can you do to increase the likelihood of having your scholarly paper accepted for presentation at the AOM annual conference?
- What does an AOM career look like throughout its four stages of "getting started," "striving," "established," and "old dog"?
- How does AOM collaborate with other similar organizations, such as the India Academy of Management and the Africa Academy of Management?
- What actions do we take to show our commitment to our stated values (e.g., cultivating ethical and responsible behavior, respecting multiple perspectives, building cooperative relationships with other associations, and promoting high-quality research, teaching, and practice)?
- How can you access the educational videos AOM has begun to produce and distribute, and how might you use them?

The 2011 presidential address is a return to AOM's old practice of reporting on the state of

our organization, but with a new twist: it is available only in video format. You can access the thirty-minute video, titled "We@AOM," by going to <http://meeting.aomonline.org/2011/>. Whether you are a new AOM member or you have been a member for several decades, consider using these resources to obtain more information about topics addressed in the video:

- ✓ Learn about AOM's Strategic Plan (<http://strategicplan.aomonline.org/>) and how you can get involved in projects that address important issues of concern to our organization.
- ✓ Visit the website of AOM's newest affiliate member, the Indian Academy of Management (INDAM) at <http://www.indianaom.com/>.
- ✓ View the teaching videos available in our Online Teaching Resource Library (<http://connect.aomonline.org/groups/584d18641c/summary>) and consider submitting your own video for possible inclusion.
- ✓ Learn about the 2013 Academy of Management Africa Conference (<http://meeting.aomonline.org/international/southafrica/>) and consider attending.
- ✓ Discover the excellent Ethics of Research and Publishing Video Series (<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL65B059BC12E75502>), which provides an easy and interesting means for learning more about our ethical standards and what we do to ensure our members uphold these standards.
- ✓ Visit the Ethicist Blog on AOM Connect (<http://aom.org/aom.asp?id=268>) to see what

questions our members are discussing and submit your own questions or ideas.

We at AOM are pursuing a worthy vision: *inspiring and enabling a better world through our scholarship and teaching about management and organizations*. Achieving our vision will require the commitment and active involvement of the entire worldwide community of AOM members. I invite you all to join us on this important journey. Whatever you are passionate about, whatever your talents, we at AOM welcome your involvement. So, whether or not you watch the 2011 presidential address video (<http://meeting.aomonline.org/2011/>), consider learning about specific AOM activities by visiting the following useful websites:

- Volunteer opportunities: http://aom.org/aom.asp?ID=1&page_ID=139
- Annual meeting: <http://meeting.aomonline.org/>
- Journals: <http://aom.org/aom.asp?id=44>
- Career placement services: <http://aom.org/aom.asp?ID=39>

Or join a conversation on

- AOM Connect (for members-only content): <http://connect.aomonline.org>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/aomconnect>
- Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/aomconnect>
- LinkedIn: <http://linkd.in/aomconnect>
- Google+: <http://bit.ly/aomplus>