

## **Report of the Immediate Past President**

**Bassam Z. Shakhashiri**

**Indianapolis – Fall 2013**

Immediate Past President Bassam Z. Shakhashiri began his report by acknowledging that he is a 50+-year member of the Society and then presented a check for what normally would be his national meeting registration fee to Executive Director Madeleine Jacobs in support of the ACS Scholars Program. He stated that it has been a great honor to serve as an elected national officer, and that he has spent the last two and half years representing and speaking for ACS in a variety of settings. He said his greatest satisfaction came from the deep and outstanding programmatic interactions everywhere on scientific, educational, professional, and learned matters.

Dr. Shakhashiri called Council's attention to various and highly successful initiatives that were in keeping with his theme of "Advancing chemistry and communicating chemistry." The ACS Climate Science Initiative, including the Climate Science Toolkit and the Climate Science Challenge Grants, has been enthusiastically received and will continue to function under the Committees on Environmental Improvement and on Science. The first round of grants, totaling \$30,000, was distributed last spring, and a second round of grants will be awarded this fall. The proposed ACS Global Water Initiative is in the development stage, and it is hoped that the ACS will expand its efforts to educate the public and decision makers on topics related to water, especially those that are pertinent to chemistry. Implementation of the report of the ACS Presidential Commission on Advancing Graduate Education in the Chemical Sciences is underway and focuses on five main audiences: faculty and academic leaders, public and private funders, industry leaders, graduate students and postdocs, and the ACS Ph.D. Completion and Placement Profile project.