Department of Chemistry Seminar

“Ten Lessons from a Lifetime in Science”

Drawing on more than four decades as a leader and communicator of the scientific enterprise, Madeleine Jacobs describes what she has learned about work and life. Jacobs served as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the American Chemical Society for more than 11 years and a total of 24 years at the American Chemical Society, where she was also Editor-in-Chief of Chemical & Engineering News magazine. This talk describes how to build a satisfying career while balancing a demanding professional life with a personal life and staying true to one’s core values. Be prepared to nod with recognition, laugh, and even cry, from her first tip, "Never do anything just to please your mother," to Lesson Number 10, "Experiment!" Jacobs was a chemistry major at the George Washington University (B.S. 1968, D.Sc. honoris causa 2003) and a member of the GW Board of Trustees.

Bio

Madeleine Jacobs has had a distinguished career as a science journalist and executive working in a wide variety of scientific organizations spanning government and the not-for-profit world. For half of her 47 year career, she worked for the American Chemical Society. Jacobs was Executive Director and CEO of the American Chemical Society from January 2004-February 2015. After retiring from the American Chemical Society, Jacobs was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, an organization of presidents, presidents-elect, and recent past presidents of about scientific federations and societies. She held this position from March 2015 through December 2016. She is the author of more than 300 editorials and major articles in Chemical & Engineering News and the author of dozens of other stories on research that have appeared in Physics Today, Smithsonian, Smithsonian News Service, and other publications. She has received more than three dozen national science writing awards. In addition, she has been the recipient of two dozen named lectureships at U.S. universities and companies.

Madeleine Jacobs

Executive Director & CEO
American Chemical Society (retired)

Friday, October 6, 2017
SEH B1220
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Refreshments will be served at 1:45 p.m.