



President's Message

International System Safety Society President
Dr. Rodney Simmons

Changing With the Times

During recent years, the International System Safety Society has been adjusting to a changing environment. In many ways, we've been buffeted by a number of outside factors, only some of which we might be able to influence. I am reminded of a 1998 book by Andy Grove, former CEO of Intel, titled *Only the Paranoid Survive*. In that book, Grove talks about the importance of changing with the times, lest being left behind as a mere historical mention. Grove has also discussed the concept of the *strategic inflection point*, as depicted here.

I see the next several years as potentially transformative for the Society. While our Society has its roots in the United States, we've seen considerable interest in recent years from countries around the world. I am keen on working with all of you to position the Society as the go-to organization for guidance on best practices in system safety.

As one of the few presidents in the 50-plus year history of the Society who doesn't come from a defense/aerospace employment background — save a three-month summer faculty fellowship at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, Rhode Island — my relative “outsider” status has helped me see the value of the system safety approach when applied to a broad

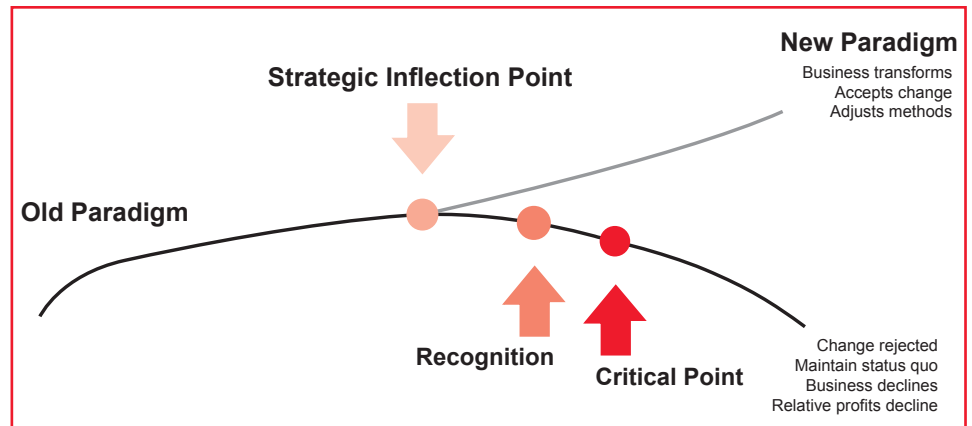


Figure 1 — Strategic Inflection Point.

array of business, industry and government sectors, in the U.S. and abroad. I believe these other sectors and regions, which have been traditionally underserved by the Society, represent an opportunity for growth.

In early December, I plan to represent the Society as a keynote speaker at the first system safety conference in South Korea, at the invitation of one of the attendees of our San Diego Conference. I hope to nurture the development of an International System Safety Society chapter in Korea. I have also been in discussion with groups in China — but it's not a one-man show.

The Society counts among its members the thought-leaders in our field, and many of these individuals spend considerable time introducing system safety concepts to those outside of our Society

through formal and informal briefings. During the recent San Diego Conference, I hosted several late-night discussions with Chapter presidents and others concerning how the Society can best serve its members and enhance its position as the professional organization that shapes the practice of system safety, both among our membership and as an “export commodity.”

Our Society now has a mentoring program under the Education and Professional Development directorate, as well as an extensive tutorial program at our annual conferences. In the spirit of exporting system safety expertise outside of the Society, Russ Mitchell and Charlie Hoes attended a stakeholder meeting in October at Arizona State University's (ASU) College of Engineering. ASU is kicking off a Global Safety Initia-

tive with the goal of incorporating safety (or, more broadly, Health, Safety and Environmental, or HSE) into their engineering degree programs. Russ and Charlie delivered the message that our Society is unparalleled when it comes to having the engineering expertise to deliver on the promise of "safety through design," as approximately 70 percent of our members have

at least one engineering degree. During the coming months, we'll share additional news about this initiative, and let you know how you can become involved.

Let me close with a note of thanks to the Conference Committee that organized the successful 33rd International System Safety Conference (ISSC) in San Diego. Planning is already underway for

the 34th ISSC, to be held in Orlando, Florida during the second week of August 2016. The Conference is a great opportunity to combine professional development with a bit of fun with the family before school starts. Start working on your paper abstract or tutorial proposal! Stay in touch.

Best wishes,
Rod

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM SAFETY SOCIETY
invites you to attend the
**INTERNATIONAL
SYSTEM SAFETY
CONFERENCE**



The 2016 International System Safety Conference will be held at Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida on **August 8-12, 2016.**

- Sessions will include peer-reviewed papers, tutorials and workshops
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be issued for training tutorials
- Education in areas of software safety, aviation, system of systems, medical, transportation, and much more

For more information: www.system-safety.org