



Yale University | July 2019

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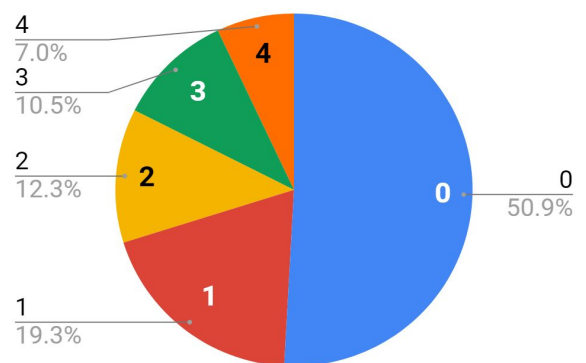
The [2019 Student Shop Managers Conference](#) was held at Yale University, July 9-11, 2019. Conference Chair Rorie Fitzsimons and the team at Yale Conference Services did a fantastic job of organizing the Fifth Annual SSMC. **Thank you Rorie!**

Here is an overview and some take-aways. If you were able to attend, we would love to hear your thoughts - post a follow-up to the [SSMC forum](#).

Attendance

The conference venue was sold out with over 120 participants: nearly 50% larger than any previous conference! This was the first conference for half of the attendees, most of whom were also new members of the SSMC. Outreach efforts over the past year contributed to more participation by diverse disciplines, affiliated professions and under-represented populations. The SSMC is growing and is becoming richer and more vibrant as a result. Only a small percentage of higher-ed making facilitators are currently members of SSMC. Help the organization to continue to grow by inviting everyone you know or meet who can contribute to or benefit from this community.

PREVIOUS CONFERENCES ATTENDED



Finances and Sponsors

Thanks to a sold out conference and the generous support of conference sponsor [SafetySpot](#) and all other sponsors, the SSMC is on solid financial footing and will be able to thrive and grow. Sponsors had informational tables at the conference and interested attendees were able to learn about their products and services. We hope that connections were made and we appreciate sponsors' respect for the non-commercial nature of the conference and the organization.

Leadership and Elections

The term of the Founding President of the SSMC, [Todd Schweisinger \(Clemson\)](#) has come to a close. Todd has been instrumental in the formation and advancement of the organization and an effective leader to the Board. On behalf of all members, the SSMC thanks Todd Schweisinger for his vision, his tenacity, his courage and his patience - Thank You Todd!!

[Amy Kavalewitz \(Rice University-OEDK\)](#) was elected President-Elect by the Board last year and has now assumed the Presidency. Congratulations Amy! I look forward to continuing to work with you and to see what's next for the SSMC.



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Leadership and Elections (cont)

Elections were held July 10-19, [candidates](#) stepped up for all positions with multiple candidates for many. Several of the candidates were new members and first time conferees. Thanks to all for your enthusiasm and service! If you expressed interest in serving on a committee your contact information will be shared with the newly elected Chairs. New Chairs are encouraged to call for committee members on the [SSMC forum](#) and you can always email info@myssmc.org if you're interested in getting involved.

2019/2020 SSMC Leadership

President: [Amy Kavalewitz](#) - Rice University

Vice President (President-elect): [Steve Earp](#) - Duke University

Treasurer: [Kody Habeck](#) - University of Wisconsin, Madison

Secretary: [Sarah Barnes](#) - Maryland Institute College of Art

Conference Planning Committee Chair: [Lewis Moore](#) - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Communications Committee Chair: [Mo Haroun](#) - NYC Makerspace, CoLiberate

Technical Committee Chair: [Dennis Tapella](#) - Washington University in St. Louis

EHS + Risk Management Committee Chair: [Elie Merheb](#) - University of Miami

Diversity + Inclusion Committee Chair: [Ashley Lamb](#) - School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Programming and Events

Each of the three days of SSMC19 was organized and led by one of the Standing Committees.

Day 1 - [EH&S + Risk Management](#) - [[PRESENTATION](#)] (Chair - [Stanley Cotreau](#), [Harvard](#))

The conference started off with Yale EH&S and shop personnel discussing changes the institution has put into place since a fatality in 2011. An extensive review of making campus-wide has resulted in numerous policies, best-practices, staff changes, and studies that can be helpful to peer operations. Yale presented at the first SSMC conference in 2015 and it was interesting to hear of progress made since then.

Here are a few examples of impactful measures discussed.

[Tool Classification Matrix](#) (AKA Control Banding)

Facilities Survey and Consolidation

[Consistent Student Shop Roles and Responsibilities](#)

[Institution-wide Tool Safety Guidelines](#) and lots more here.

Equipment Standardization



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Day 1 - Break Out Sessions

In the afternoon we broke into small groups and discussed specific topics. The group that I was in was to focus on building partnerships with EHS. In this small group we learned that EHS relations with making spaces and personnel are very inconsistent and can even vary significantly at a single institution. The majority of schools represented felt that their EHS office lacked adequate resources, personnel or expertise to make considerable positive impact. Personnel from Purdue cited positive experiences and significant contributions of EHS there, so that could be an interesting case-study to learn from. Upon conclusion the group posited whether the SSMC organization itself could collectively impact how EHS professionals collectively address making facilities. This is a big charge but perhaps something that the SSMC can strive for.

If you were at the conference what did the small group you were in discuss? Share on the [SSMC forum!](#)

European Technical Heads Organization (ETHO) - [PRESENTATION]

To wrap up day one, invited guests [Tapio Koskinen](#) (Aalto, Helsinki) and Abid Quayam (RCA, London) presented an overview of their respective institutions and the familiar issues that they face across the Atlantic. Tapio and Abid are founders and leaders of [ETHO](#), a collective of Technical Heads (aka Shop Managers) whose evolution parallels that of the SSMC. How can ETHO and SSMC partner to benefit all? Is anybody interested in a staff exchange program? How about a shared conference at some point in the future? If nothing else, all members of ETHO are invited to the [SSMC forum](#) for day-to-day sharing of information and resources.

Day 2 & 3 - Synopsis to follow.

Day 2 - Diversity & Inclusion (Chair - [Mohamed Haroun](#) - [NYC Makerspace](#), [Coliberate](#))

Day 3 - Standard Operating Procedures (Chair - Eric Pulse - [CalPoly SLO](#))

SAVE THE DATE - SSMC20

The Sixth Annual Shop Managers Conference, SSMC20, will be hosted by the [University of Hawai'i at Mānoa](#), July 7-9, 2020! Lewis Moore ([UHM MESS](#)) will Chair the Conference Committee and has big plans and new activities planned. Lewis should be reaching out soon for volunteers to serve on the Conference Committee. We hope to have an outline for the conference out sooner for 2020 since attendees may need more time to plan for funding and travel.

