



FLORIDA CHAPTER ASLA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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American Society of Landscape Architects Florida Chapter

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Greetings, Florida Chapter!

As I begin my term as the Florida Chapter President, I want to begin by thanking all of you for being members of our organization, and an additional thank you to those of you who have taken the additional step of being a part of our leadership in the Florida Chapter. As you are all aware, the way to make a difference is to be involved.

Having recently attended the ASLA Annual Conference in New Orleans, I am energized by the impressive representation and accomplishments of the Florida Chapter on display there. Three specific examples come to mind.

First, I was thrilled to be on hand as Dr. Ed Gilman was given an Honorary ASLA Award in a ceremony on the opening night of the conference. This is the highest award that ASLA can bestow on a non-member. Dr. Gilman has been a wonderful asset to our organization for many years. His career as an educator and expert in Environmental Horticulture at the University of Florida is unmatched.

Second, our outgoing Trustee Emily O'Mahoney was one of two members nationwide to be presented with an ASLA Outstanding Service Award, during the Sunday morning general session by President Chad Danos and Executive Director Nancy Somerville. Emily was being honored primarily for her work on several ASLA Professional Practice Networks, but those of us who have served with her within the Florida Chapter know that her contributions to our organization are immeasurable. Please take the time to congratulate her and thank her for her ongoing service. Her term as Trustee has ended, but Emily continues to be involved with the Florida Chapter.

Thirdly, it was an honor for me to attend the Fellows Investiture Dinner and celebrate former Florida Chapter President Kenn Bates becoming a Fellow. Kenn served many years in the leadership of the Florida Chapter, and the contributions that he has made to our organization are greatly appreciated.

The inspiration and energy that I garnered from these specific examples of the strength of the Florida Chapter reminds me of the goals that I spoke about in the ballot for my election. These include promoting Education and Membership Growth, and Continued Excellence in Advocacy. These goals are all interrelated and by advancing the cause of one, we can positively affect them all. Our past two Florida Chapter Presidents, David Ferris and Jonathan Haigh, set a great example and identified the importance of our relationship with the two Landscape Architecture programs in the state of Florida.



Education

I plan to continue and expand our relationships with the University of Florida and Florida International University. We can have a positive impact with these programs in many ways. We will once again hold an Executive Committee meeting at each of the universities, and I encourage each of you to reach out and be involved in any way you can with these programs. I would propose that we work to combine our fledgling Future Landscape Architects of America initiative with an outreach to the current students at UF and FIU. I would also challenge the students and faculty in both programs to be more actively involved in the Florida Chapter of ASLA. The benefits of this stronger relationship will be realized by all of us immediately, as well as in the future. We need to work together to promote the profession, strengthen these programs, and ensure that there continues to be growth in enrollment and graduates entering the work force.

Advocacy

We have already been very active this fall in regards to Advocacy. Our Government Affairs Committee continues to monitor issues that affect Landscape Architecture. I have also expanded this effort by forming a sub-committee of the GAC that deals specifically with FDOT related issues. This sub-committee is intended to give the Florida Chapter a larger voice and educate the Department of Transportation about the many areas of expertise that Landscape Architects practice in. If you have a passion for legislative issues and would like to volunteer on our Government Affairs Committee, please reach out to Richard Klar, Member At-Large for Advocacy and Licensure. I would also encourage each of you to be involved locally with your own legislators. These relationships are one of the best ways for us to promote our profession.

I am excited by the opportunity to make a positive impact on our profession and work together with all of you for the Florida Chapter. I appreciate the opportunity and honor of representing you. If you have read this message and are inspired to assist the Chapter in achieving these goals, please contact me at president@flasla.org.

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2016-2017 Florida Chapter President
St. Petersburg, FL