



**American Society of  
Landscape Architects  
Florida Chapter**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

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### "THE TREASURE BOX" ...FEBRUARY 2018 edition

In the month of February, we, as a nation, celebrate Presidents' day; a time to honor the birthdays and leadership of four of our Country's significant chief executives- George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln, and Ronald Reagan. Historically, beginning in 1885, this holiday was celebrated on the actual day of Washington's birthday, February 22. However, in 1971, as a part of the "Uniform Monday Holiday Act", an attempt to create more three day holidays for American workers, the holiday was permanently moved to the third Monday in February.

History lesson aside, did you know that your current ASLA FL President's birthday is also in February? It is a significant landmark 50th birthday this year !

The realization that I will be half a century old in the same week of Presidents' day, makes me reflective of professional achievements involving leadership and mentorship within our profession.

A few weeks ago, Emily O'Mahoney, our Government affairs committee chair, Daniela Romero, Miami Section Chair, Jose Fonseca, past Miami Section chair, and another past graduate of the University, were invited to speak to Marta Canaves' professional practice class at Florida International University's college of Landscape Architecture+ Environment and Urban Design. The topic of the lecture was the importance of becoming licensed as a professional landscape architect. In the discussion and question and answer panel to follow, we outlined the procedure students must take to sign up for, study for and pass the LARE exam. We were happy to announce the next LARE review seminar scheduled for March 9 -10 at ATKINS office in Orlando where six experienced landscape architects, five of whom are active on the ASLA FL executive committee, will share their knowledge and leadership.

I am always honored by sharing my professional knowledge with students, and enjoy asking the students questions about their future professional goals and dreams in return. When asked of the twenty or more students in the classroom, "who here knows what avenue of our profession they will pursue after graduation", just one student raised her hand, then quickly retracted it downward when she realized she was the only one with her hand raised.

What I learned from this experience is how very important it is for we more experienced and 'seasoned' landscape architects to share our leadership and mentorship with emerging professionals through creating internship programs within our firms, accepting opportunities to speak at the universities, sitting on student juries, or accepting invitations to attend random networking events within our sections.

Our February treasure is fostering leadership. This Presidents' day, let's keep leadership and the success that comes with being leaders in the profession, at the forefront of our thinking.

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, ASLA FL President 2018