

## Letter from the President

Fragrant flowers from a magnificent Star Magnolia in my garden are once again on display, serving as a reminder of why I love living in and practicing my chosen profession in the beautiful state of South Carolina. God has indeed blessed us with a rich palette of colors and textures to enrich the spaces and places that we create! Experienced and emerging professionals all across the Upstate, Midland, and Lowcountry regions are enjoying a welcome season of prosperity. In our busyness, let's not forget that we have an awesome responsibility as landscape architects to serve others. Yes, we are obligated to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, but we are also skilled with the expertise and creativity that can make a lasting impact in our neighborhoods, communities, and cities.

I'm honored to be the first two-year term president for the South Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In October 2017, I had the opportunity to represent our chapter at the Chapter President's Council and my first national ASLA Conference in Los Angeles, CA. In April, I will return to Washington, DC with our Trustee, Bill Eubanks, for the Spring Chapter President's Council and National Advocacy Day. Chapter leadership has been a very rewarding experience for me, both personally and professionally. I encourage each of you, whether a student, an emerging professional, or a seasoned practitioner, to get involved on some level in our great organization. We all have much we can give as well as learn from each other.

In January, your Executive Committee, along with several of our annual sponsors, gathered together in Maggie Valley for our annual leadership retreat. Planning for our calendar year as well as strategic planning for our organization was the primary purpose of the retreat. We ended our weekend with a ski and tube outing at Cataloochee Ski Area! Serving our members is the heart of your 2017-2018 SCASLA Executive Committee leadership. Let me take this opportunity to introduce them:

Clint Rigsby (Seamon Whiteside), President 2017-2019  
Natasha Sexton (Sexton Design and Development), Treasurer  
Christa Jordan (City of Augusta), Secretary  
Bill Eubanks (Seamon Whiteside), Trustee  
Josh Tiller (J.K. Tiller Associates), Past President

### Committee Chairs:

Chris Haynes (Davis & Floyd), Emerging Professionals  
Kristina Harvey (ADC Engineering), Public Relations  
Sarah Marrs (Jacobs), Sponsorship  
\*Holley Bloss Owings (Earth Design), Advocacy  
\*Andrew Cheatham (KBS), Advocacy  
\*Jamie Hairfield (Stantec), Membership  
\*Michael Ethridge (Berliner), Continuing Education  
\*David Lycke (PMB/PLaCE Studios), Fellows  
\*Kathleen Duncan (J.K. Tiller Associates), Awards

### Regional Chairs:

Maria Ghys Drawdy (Maria Ghys Designs), Lowcountry  
\*Scott Holder (City of Columbia), Midlands

- \*Patrick Livingston (The Landplan Group South), Midlands
- \*Chris Watson (Seamon Whiteside), Upstate
- \*Chris Lambka (Toole Design Group), Upstate

*\*Denotes an Ex-officio Member of the Executive Committee*

This really is a great time to become an active member of SCASLA! Your leadership is excited about the future of SCASLA and hopes that you will be encouraged by our efforts to promote advocacy and awareness, encourage emerging and young professionals, as well as seasoned practitioners, with improved member services and support, including an array of opportunities for continuing education, service, and fellowship. We are looking for volunteers to implement many of our initiatives so please let us know if you would like to get involved. I also encourage you to visit [www.scasla.org](http://www.scasla.org) to learn more about each of your leaders and our chapter sponsors.

Our chapter could not operate without sponsors. We have worked diligently to incorporate feedback from sponsors into our plans for the coming year. Many of you attended the inaugural Southeast Regional Conference (SERC) in Charlotte, NC last summer. The event was a tremendous success for each of the participating states, with just shy of 300 attendees, not including exhibitors. South Carolina was well represented with several of our state's firms receiving design awards for their work in the region. Leaders from SC, NC, and GA joined forces for the first time to plan and execute this high-quality event which was designed to attract landscape architects from beyond our traditional tristate region. Feedback from attendees validated that the event was a refreshing change. We are committed to building on the conference's success as we look toward the second Southeast Regional Conference, which will be hosted by South Carolina in 2019. Stay tuned for details.

Because of the intensive effort required to plan this regional event every other year, we will not be having an annual conference in 2018. Instead, we are planning a series of three one-day events, across the state where our members can receive most of their required continuing education hours for the year. The first one-day event will be held in Greenville, SC on March 23. We are very excited about this opportunity for our membership from across the state to gather and learn together in a refreshing and fun format. This year's annual awards program will coincide with the one-day event planned for later this year. See below for details about the first one-day event to be hosted in the Upstate. We hope that you'll make an effort to attend each one.

In addition to our one-day events, our regional chairs are planning a series of quarterly lunch and learn events designed to provide you with additional continuing education hours while serving as an outreach to allied professionals, real estate developers, and/or regulatory officials. Topics for these events will typically be of interest to our profession as well as others with whom our discipline often intersects. Our hope is that these events will strengthen our relationship with these groups and serve to educate others about the value of our profession. Be on the lookout for details about the first of these events planned for your particular region and make plans to attend, if for no other reason, to network and advocate for your profession!

Finally, see below for additional continuing education events which SCASLA is promoting on behalf of sister organizations. As we are made aware of these opportunities, and if we feel they will be of benefit to our members, we will pass along to you.

There are several other things I'd like to make you aware of. First, in an effort to more effectively support our state's only accredited landscape architecture program, we remain in close communication with faculty leadership at Clemson University and are encouraged by the excitement within the program regarding its growth and future. If you are interested in sitting on a jury or providing progress critiques for students as they prepare for their exit project presentation, please let us know. Second, SCASLA will be participating in Advocacy Day at the State House on May 2. This is a very insightful look into how politics play a role in our, often taken for granted, right to practice landscape architecture. SCASLA will host a breakfast and participants will observe a legislative session. Plans are also in the works to host a social for legislators where we will have the opportunity to personally encourage legislators to support our profession's right to practice. This event will coincide with our chapter's second one-day continuing education event so we hope that you will make participation in our Advocacy Day events a priority! Finally, members of SCASLA will be receiving a membership survey in the near future. By completing the survey, you will be helping our team to assess how we can better serve our existing and future members. We want to hear from you but, more than that, want you to know that your leadership is committed to taking your responses seriously.

Thank you for entrusting us with this responsibility. It is truly a privilege to serve you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clint Rigsby', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Clint Rigsby, ASLA