



12 June 2017

Dear CELA Members,

Welcome to summer! I trust that you made it through another academic year unscathed and have plans for a relaxing and reviving summer break. Many of you joined us in Beijing for the joint CELA/CLAEC annual meeting at the end of May. It was wonderful to see you and meet new friends as always. We had clear skies and warm weather for most of the conference. I hope you are recovered from the jet lag of that long trip home.

Big thanks go out to Katya Crawford, our Past President, for a magnificent year for the organization under her leadership. She hands off an organization that is stronger, more efficient, financially sound, and focused on serving the membership. My goal is to try and do the same at the end of my term with the help of all of the board members and many of you.

Katya and Pat Taylor made important progress in strengthening our relationship with ASLA especially in the Committee on Education by working with ASLA Education director Susan Apollonio. CELA now has a standing seat on that committee in an effort to have closer communication and enhanced benefit for both organizations.

As a result of Katya and Secretary and Communications VP Ashley Steffens' efforts, the organization will now have two student representatives to ensure seamless handoffs and enhance communication from member schools. The student representatives will take on the duties of publishing FORUM. Stay tuned for the first such issue.

Another new initiative developed this year is a student research award. Stay tuned for the call for nominations and be thinking about which of your students you will nominate. We will also announce the winner of the second CELA Lifetime Achievement award in Los Angeles this October.

The call for CELA Board officer nominations will be coming out soon. Please give thoughtful consideration about getting involved in the leadership of this organization. We have been fortunate to have an exceptional group of people who have stepped up to the plate in the past and are always pleased to have new exceptional people join us to carry on the important work of this organization. If you have any questions about the open offices and their roles, please don't hesitate to contact either Pat or myself.

Finally, the call for papers for our next annual meeting, hosted by Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA will be coming soon. Please make plans to submit your work and join us for a wonderful Transforming the Discussion conference 21-24 March 2018.

Respectfully,

Mark Boyer, President | markboyer@lsu.edu | [225.578.1493](tel:225.578.1493)

Pat Taylor, Interim Director | dkzpd@aol.com | [817-741-9730](tel:817-741-9730)

[www.thecela.org](http://www.thecela.org)

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