

Spring 5-1-2023

The President's Column

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Recommended Citation

Gates, Crystal (2023) "The President's Column," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 71: Iss. 1, Article 15.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol71/iss1/15>

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The President's Column

“You’re braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”
– Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A. Milne

Spring has long been considered a time for fresh starts and new beginnings. Trees are green, surfaces are yellow, and libraries are tweaking old ideas and showcasing innovations. Recently, I’ve had the pleasure of observing the butterfly life cycle. From finding the eggs on the underside of a leaf, to the caterpillar growing and eating all of its available resources, to seeing them split and emerge within their chrysalis, to breaking free as a butterfly – the process is a study in patience and timing. The story of the butterfly is beautiful. Libraries and library workers have much to learn from this process.

During these trying times of book challenges, political attacks, waves of new laws, and budget concerns, it is more important than ever that our profession exercise patience and use wisdom to determine the right time to issue critical responses to our stakeholders, our communities, and our elected officials. We MUST be better at telling our story than others are. We MUST tell our story every chance we get. We MUST stand together. Libraries all over the region and nation are going through various hardships, but those hardships do not define us. Rather, they provide us with opportunities to engage.

SELA provides a wonderful opportunity to stand together not just at a local level, but also at a regional or even national level. Together, libraries will be successful. It may take additional patience, and it may seem as if we are moving backward, but eventually we will emerge more beautiful and more essential than ever. We are second responders, we provide essential services, we are professionals –

it is time to share those ideas outside of ourselves.

If you are new to SELA, I invite you to get involved, consider joining our mentorship program, serve in our leadership, and attend our events. If you are a SELA veteran, reach out to those you know who may benefit from joining our association. Networking is one of the best benefits of professional associations. Let’s get to know each other. We can share our burdensome loads and build each other up with our successes. We’ve long been great at sharing others’ stories. Now, it’s our time. Let’s go tell OUR stories.

“The nicest thing about the rain is that it always stops. Eventually.” – Winnie-the-Pooh



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renew your membership?

SELA has special new member and student rates.

