RACHEL LAW  
let borders and boundaries just be imaginary lines  
let them know we have ideas worth spreading  
let our words become reality  

northeast quad director  
2015

RACHEL LAW  
vice president 2016-2017  
Together our voices speak louder.
To Past President Charlie Klecha, Assoc. AIA; Chair of the Elections Committee,

I humbly write to you today officially declaring my intent to run for the 2016-2017 Vice President position on the National Board of the American Institute of Architecture Students.

This year National asked us all, “What does AIAS mean to you?”
For me, the AIAS is more than a family of like-minded individuals; it is more than a network of support. It carries a larger purpose; it is a collective change agent: optimistic, energetic, and agile.

“It’s impossible, that’s for sure. So let’s start working.” – Philippe Petit

Philippe Petit was the man who walked a tightrope between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in 1974. He spent six and a half years preparing to make this walk. Petit’s crazy dream and the risks he was willing to take to make it a reality speak to the power of conviction and dedication.

The underlying mission of AIAS is to empower students to further their potential – to reach for the impossible – through our ever-growing community of passionate individuals. We have fostered a culture of inspiration and perseverance with a shared vision and collective leadership.

I would be honoured to continue to develop this culture of change with my service as a member of the 2016-2017 Board of Directors.

Optimistically and humbly yours,

Rachel Law
Director, Northeast Quadrant 2015-2016 | AIAS
Architectural Assistant 2014-2016 | Nova Tayona Architects
B. Arch. Sci. (Cooperative Education) Candidate 2016 | Ryerson University
+1 647 524 9328 | rachelkylaw@gmail.com | Rachellaw@aias.org
Friday, November 20, 2015

Re: Letter in Support of Rachel Law’s candidacy for the 2016-2017 AIAS Vice President’s position.

Dear Past President Klecha, Chair of the Elections Committee,

It is my pleasure to unreservedly support Rachel Law’s candidacy for the 2016-2017 Vice President’s position on the National Board of the American Institute of Architecture Students.

Ms. Law is a highly valued student in our Department who has excelled academically, while maintaining a consistently active role in our AIAS Chapter first as Secretary (2012-2013), then as President (2013 – 2014).

As a member of the AIAS Executive Committee she has contributed to the conception and success of the Chapter’s numerous initiatives, all of which have aimed at supporting and enhancing the educational and social experiences of our students. A sampling of such initiatives include: Tips & Tricks, a series of workshops for students focusing on digital software; Portfolio 101: Portfolio Critique, a session during which faculty and professionals provided advice and insights on the production of powerful portfolios; Architectural Internship and Licensure, a seminar that brought the profession into the school with an eye to the future and practice.

As well, to ensure a breadth of perspective, our Chapter hosted the Women in Architecture Leadership Seminar, at which students heard from women who had established successful architectural practices and developed careers in the profession.

Finally, Ms. Law has applied her digital design and fabrication skills in collaborative ventures contributing to enhancing the Department’s visibility in the community through displays and installations at Nuit Blanche and at similar events.

In short, Ms. Law’s activities in the Department occur on many levels and manifest her breadth and depth of perception, abilities, and commitment to her fellow students and to the Department, all vital qualities for the AIAS’s next Vice President. For these reasons, I offer Rachel Law my unconditional support in her candidacy.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jurij Leshchyshyn, OAA, MRAIC
Professor | Interim Chair
Department of Architectural Science
Ryerson University
RYERSON UNIVERSITY | TORONTO, ON

Bachelor of Architectural Science (Co-operative Education), 2016
Recipient of Dean's List Scholar Award, 2013

PROFESSIONAL 2014-2016

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT | NOVA TAYONA ARCHITECTS, TORONTO, ON

- Prepare, develop, and edit drawings, models, images, and other documents in schematic and construction phases
- Prepare/assist in the preparation of contract specifications, documents and preliminary cost estimates by researching construction projects
- Participate in meetings with design professionals, consultant engineers, contractors and agencies to discuss and resolve issues relative to projects.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT | RYERSON UNIVERSITY, TORONTO, ON

Undergraduate Research Assistant to Prof. Vincent Hui
- INTED 2014 Conference Ryerson Representative and Presenter, Valencia, Spain
- ACADIA 2013 Conference Ryerson Representative, Waterloo, ON
- [R]ED[U]X Lab Website

ASSOCIATIONS 2012-2016

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

Director, Northeast Quadrant 2015-2016
- Sit on the national board of the AIAS as a representative and liaison to the 50+ chapters in the Northeastern region
- Help to facilitate communication between chapters and aids the host chapters in planning the regional Quadrant Conferences
- Sit on national committees, acting as a liaison for the board; responsible for reporting to the board and keeping the committee on the visionary track of the organization

Chapter President, AIAS Ryerson 2013-2014
- Both the spokesperson and administrative head of the chapter, representing the AIAS within Ryerson University
- Coordinate and facilitate the Executive Team and volunteers in organizing a robust programming for the 2013-2014 year, involving educational workshops and seminars, guest lectures, and networking events with professionals and other architecture students
- Liaise with DAS faculty members to improve the student-faculty relationships within Ryerson University
- Secure financial sponsorship for annual programming, including bursaries for conference attendees [Grassroots, FORUM, etc.]
- Foster community partnerships to sponsor events

Chapter Secretary, AIAS Ryerson 2012-2013
- Keep records of chapter events and meetings, including writing and distributing meeting minutes to all members
- Organize department-wide events as an active Executive Committee member

Committees and Task Forces:

2015-2016 AIAS National International Task Force | Liaison
2015-2016 AIAS National Membership Committee | Liaison
2014-2015 AIAS National Membership Committee | Member
2014-2015 AIAS National Special Events Task Force, Leadership Summit | Member
2013 AIAS National Elections Committee | Co-chair (Primary Observer)
2013-2014 AIAS National Governance Committee | Member

ACCOLADES

ABBARCH Architecture (Ontario) Inc. Award
- Award for academic achievements and extra-curricular activities that demonstrate leadership, ability and propensity for professional collaboration, commitment and attitude

Sepp Hamikkainen Memorial Award
- Award for academic excellence in Construction Management and exemplary leadership in academic and/or community involvement

Vestacon Limited Award
- Award for academic excellence, exemplary leadership in academic and/or extra-curricular activities

Robert Greenberg Memorial / Ryerson Architectural Alumni Association Award
- History and Theory

The Canadian Institute of Steel Construction Ontario Region Scholarship (CISC)
- Steel Structures Design

AIAS National Chapter Leader of the Month – November 2013
R. LAW
B. ARCH. SCI. 2016, CO-OP
RYERSON UNIVERSITY, TORONTO, ON
+1 647 524 9328 | RACHELKYLAW@GMAIL.COM | RACHELLAW@AIAS.ORG

2011-2015 [R]ED(U)X LAB | RYERSON UNIVERSITY, TORONTO, ON
PROJECT LEAD
- Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2014: STOMATA
- Grow Op 2014: Chlorophyllum
- Toronto Design Offsite 2013: Opticianado at the Junction
- Toronto CANstruction 2013 and 2014

FABRICATION + ASSEMBLY ASSISTANT
- The Stop’s Nightmarket 2013
- Stantec Installation 2013: Best Foot Forward
- Nuit Blanche 2012: Aura
- Come Up To My Room [CUMTR] 2012: Gladstone Hotel

2011 LAN @ RYERSON DIGITAL FABRICATION WORKSHOP | RYERSON UNIVERSITY, TORONTO, ON
LaN / Live Architecture Network
- Instructed by LaN: Monika Wittig + Shane Salisbury
- From CAD to CAM Fabrication Technologies, Parametric Design Development (Grasshopper + Fabrication)

STUDY ABROAD 2015
FRANKFURT OPTION STUDIO
European Cities and Architecture - Germany - Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich; France - Paris

2013 KULTOUR
West Coast Architecture - Vancouver, BC; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR

PUBLICATIONS 2013
"Key Take-Aways: Digital Fabrication’s Role in Experiential Learning" | Co-author for the 8th International Technology, Education and Development Conference 2014 (IATED) in Valencia, Spain [peer-reviewed]

"Museums as Centres for Innovation" | Co-author for the 8th International Technology, Education and Development Conference 2014 (IATED) in Valencia, Spain [peer-reviewed]

AIAS CRIT Magazine No. 76: Winter 2013 | CRIT-on-AIR Panelist

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY
digital 2D Graphic Software: AutoCAD 2014, Adobe Creative Suite CS6
Microsoft Office 2013

fabrication Digital Lab: Laser Cutter Universal, 3D Printer Dimensions, 3 Axis CNC AXYZ 5010
Workshop: Paper, Cardboard, Wood, Plastics
Describe your origin story as a student leader. What prompted you to get involved? What advice would you give others who have yet to realize their potential for leadership?

Each person has their own narrative; their own story of successes and failures that lead to growth. I have been fortunate enough, through my university career, to have been offered many opportunities for growth.

It was on my first day of freshman orientation at Ryerson University that AIAS as an organization was presented to me by the then Chapter President. To grow with a community through a certain culture of fostered leadership was an ideal of the AIAS became what drove my passion for it – from the beginning to this very day.

It wasn’t until my first Grassroots in 2012, however, that I was exposed to the breadth and depth of the AIAS and the many passionate individuals that make it such a fulfilling experience. I am proud to say that I have found a mentor and a friend in every single AIAS member I have encountered since then. Each saw something in me that I could not have recognized without their insights; they saw the potential for leadership – they saw potential in me. With over five years of involvement in the AIAS, I have come to find this organization to be a strong network of love and empowerment; a true support system that encourages each other to rise to every occasion.

To the many leaders to come after me, let me say this: allow people to see your potential – to see you. The AIAS is a movement, a culture, driven by a shared vision and an infinite amount of collective leadership. You are, as an individual voice, an imperative part of the equation.

In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to student loan debt, studio culture, intern development, leadership, technology, and diversity. What one issue do you personally find the most important? How would you make progress on this issue as an elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors?

Sixty years ago, architecture students gathered to on the AIA convention floor and demanded to be heard. They demanded the ability to advocate for the direction of their futures. It is now our obligation to uphold this effort, and use it well.

The AIAS has become the official platform for student advocacy, having equal footing as AIA, NAAB, NCARB and ASCA. As the tectonics of the architectural profession and academy shift, we have also seen a shift in pertinent issues at hand. It is important that we, as academics and future professionals, stay informed and not only bring these issues to light, but research and explore solutions.

Personally, advocating for sustaining a healthy studio and design culture is the most relevant issue at hand. The AIAS is in a position to educate students, universities, and the design profession about the importance of an open environment for the communication of ideas.

Whether they are sensitive issues pertaining to diversity and inequality, student loan debt, or other difficulties in the industry, it is our duty to consistently revisit them with debates, discussions, and fresh perspectives. It is the only way to allow for well-informed advocacy to take place. As this information spreads across our chapters globally, our voice will not only be heard behind a podium, but also emphasized in a local context through personal experiences and individual stories.

Our organization is unique. We rely heavily on our members. Let them be the ones to show that we have ideas worth amplifying.
The AIAS has over 160 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size from just a few students to hundreds. How would you use your position on the Board to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership? What resources would you propose to better serve Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students around the world?

Architecture is a practice that relies heavily on interdisciplinary collaboration with a team of various strengths and perspectives. The AIAS, in turn, is a forum for such diversity in opinions, experiences, and global points of view.

In Canada, we are severely lacking in a platform that allows us to connect with our sister departments. There is next to none in terms of collaboration between universities. This closed communication line isolates students, and results in the loss of a whole nation’s potential to affect change in architectural practice and education. This, as I see it, is the main reason why Ryerson University students before me reached out to the AIAS to become a part of something bigger; something that gives them purpose. And one of the many reasons why I dedicated myself to the AIAS whole-heartedly.

The AIAS is the channel for students, no matter their geographical origin, with a solid foundation built for the exchange and execution of ideas. To open up this channel to architecture students across the globe, to give their perspectives, will only make us stronger. Louder.

This past year, the AIAS made a bold step in creating the International Task Force, investigating this exact issue – how to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership. As the liaison for this task force, I have been a part of many discussions about strengthening our international chapters. What I find most interesting is that their needs are very similar to our local chapters. They are merely looking for a network that is willing to reach beyond the bounds of borders, to bridge more gaps, to widen our horizons.

I cannot say this enough – our best resource is our knowledgeable membership. As an organization that represents many, it is time for the many to help in opening this new door for architecture students around the world. To go beyond borders, we must work as a unit to share our stories, our successes and failures, to create that one connection that will catapult the rest.

Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS to engage in a new way, either with other organizations (ASLA, AIA, etc.), with school faculty and administrators, with the profession, or with the international design community.

As students of architecture, we are not only pupils of design, but also scholars of the world. So why are we always so hesitant to embrace new innovative ways of thinking and new creative opportunities outside the traditional design community?

One of the most untapped opportunities the AIAS has right now is expanding our network beyond architecture. With on-going discussions about non-traditional paths in architecture, it is imperative that we start connecting with the rest of other leadership organizations both students and professional in the design industry, and perhaps even beyond that.

We are design advocates, but more importantly we are leaders seeking a platform for development and growth. Let’s connect interested parties to each other, showcasing particular foci of different student perspectives and their resulting work in leadership, their respective industries, and their respective communities. This could be an invaluable experience for students looking to broaden their own perspectives on the possibilities that architectural education paired with the AIAS can create.
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS

Elections are a critical step by which the American Institute of Architecture Students is governed. Annual elections, as outlined in the Bylaws and the Rules of the Board, ensure that the membership of the organization participates in the selection of the best candidates to serve on the national Board of Directors.

Individuals elected to the Board of Directors represent the membership and ensure the continued success of the organization. Therefore, participants who are involved in the elections process, including candidates, Board members, and elections committee members, are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and good judgment.

Confidentiality is required of all participants in the elections process. Participants should not discuss details of the elections process to the general membership before, during or after FORUM. Elections information that is considered public knowledge, and therefore can be shared with the membership, occurs during the General Business Sessions and at the General Assemblies.

Campaigning is strictly prohibited prior to FORUM. Conversation between chapters regarding candidates should not take place. Campaigning will only begin at the first General Assembly of FORUM.

Campaigning during FORUM shall be professional. Candidates and candidate support groups should be respectful in their campaigning efforts. Disrespectful campaigning will be a violation of the Elections Code of Ethics, and will be grounds for immediate review by the Elections Committee.

Campaigning materials should follow the Election Guidelines, and should be distributed in appropriate venues only. Appropriate venues include FORUM General Business Sessions, General Assemblies, and Quad Breakouts.

As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Elections Chair.

ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS AFFIRMATION

To promote the highest level of professionalism during elections, we ask that each participant in the elections process review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation and thank you for your support and dedication to the organization.

Name:  

I do hereby affirm that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the AIAS Elections Code of Ethics and the Elections Guidelines.

Signature:  

Date: November 22, 2015

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS
In July 1993, the AIAS Board of Directors adopted a “Public Policy on Uncompensated Interns.” The policy has been subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board and reads as follows:

The AIAS maintains that employers must properly compensate all employees. Compensation must be in compliance with the regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

In 2010, AIAS crafted a public statement on intern compensation in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the American Institute of Architects, which reads as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. Because of current economic transformations, some architects have both solicited and accepted the services and labor of interns without pay. We strongly urge architectural firms and other for-profit employers to respect the law and comply with the ethical standards of our profession, and we strongly encourage interns to refuse to accept employment without pay, and to notify the Department of Labor in cases where employers propose such an arrangement. For more information on labor laws and professional ethics, please see the AIA Code of Ethics and the U.S. Labor Department standards under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduates doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to determine their own hours and degree of involvement. The AIA has established guidelines for service that are provided on a Pro Bono basis. They can be found under the member section of the AIA website.

POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS AFFIRMATION
As a way of confirming that the AIAS is not promoting or being promoted by architects employing unpaid interns, we ask that each participant in an official AIAS function review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation in our event and thank you for your support of our position against unpaid internships. This position is supported as well by the Board of Directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Name: Rachel Law

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employ interns, I further affirm that I do not use unpaid architectural interns in my professional practice when applicable by federal wage and hour laws.

Signature: __________________________

Date: November 22, 2015
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM
Candidate contact information will only be used by the Elections Committee to communicate elections-related information. If provided, social media handles will be shared when candidates are posted publicly on AIAS website and social media.

Name (as preferred): RACHEL LAW

Chapter: Peerson University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any):

Email Address: rachel.klaw@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: +1 (647) 524-9328

Social Media Account Handles (optional):
  o Facebook: RACHEL LAW
  o Twitter: @rklaw
  o Instagram: @rklaw
  o Other: