



MIKE CHIAPPA

AIAS Northeast Quad Director 2018-2019
Candidacy Packet

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November 20, 2017

Sarah Wahlgren, Assoc. AIA, Elections Chair
1735 New York Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Wahlgren,

It is with great honor and excitement that I inform you of my intent to run for the position of Northeast Quadrant Director on the 2018-2019 AIAS Board of Directors. I have always believed in the power of community and that great things happen when people come together over a common purpose. Nothing has proven this more for me than my experience in AIAS.

I joined AIAS during my first semester of graduate studies at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Early on, I noticed several disconnects within the school's student body, one of which being between undergraduate and graduate students. Through becoming involved in my school's AIAS chapter (then a rarity for a graduate student), I quickly saw the potential impact that joining a larger community can have in bringing people together. I encouraged more of my fellow graduates to get involved with the chapter and slowly saw those barriers diminish. I was honored to have been elected Professional Development Director and eventually Chapter President - both firsts for a graduate student in our chapter's history.

My time as Professional Development Director gave me opportunities to connect fellow students with professionals in the field through events such as firm tours and presentations. I started an "Intern-For-A-Day" program that paired over a dozen AIAS members with professionals to shadow them on the job. Serving as liaison to AIA NJ EPiC (Emerging Professionals in Community) helped me build a strong relationship between our chapter and local emerging professionals of AIA New Jersey.

When I was elected Chapter President, a role in which I currently serve, the notion of school unity had never been so important to me given the several administrative changes taking place in the school. Having seen the role student organizations such as AIAS can play in bringing people together, I made it my mission to build a culture of leadership, advocacy, and community through making connections at various levels. This involved meeting regularly with faculty and administration to emphasize the importance of student involvement and to find ways of better communicating information to students and vice versa. Over the summer, I reached out to students from Kean University who had just started an AIAS chapter at their school. Our chapters have since formed a strong relationship, frequently sharing ideas and resources with each other.

Within the chapter, I emphasized the need for more collaboration among committees and new ways to better engage members. By retooling committees, giving committee heads more autonomy, and increasing the frequency of general meetings, our chapter has seen a significant increase in membership and member involvement. I also made significant efforts in bringing together students across disciplines through the six other student organizations within the College of Architecture and Design. By holding monthly meetings with chapter representatives from AIAS, APX, NOMAS, IIDA, IDSA, SIGGRAPH, and NJIT Student Senate, our organizations have been able to collaborate on events, hold joint competitions, and erase barriers between the disciplines. This would have been unheard of just a few years ago, but eliminating the perception of competition among organizations was a key facet in building unity among students.

None of my accomplishments are due to my efforts alone - they are the result of people turning a shared passion into action. My time in AIAS has shown me the importance of working with others in building success, how to form relationships based on commonalities as well as differences, and how to use your platform effectively to inspire change and give everyone a voice. I am eager at the opportunity to continue building success through teamwork and passion as the AIAS 2018-2019 Northeast Quad Director.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Chiappa", with a stylized, flowing script.

Mike Chiappa

MIKE CHIAPPA

230 Lake Avenue
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
201.543.8023
mbc5@njit.edu

EDUCATION

2015-Present	New Jersey Institute of Technology Master of Architecture Candidate (expected graduation: May 2018)	Newark, NJ
2010-2015	New Jersey Institute of Technology Bachelor of Arts, Interior Design Double Major, Theatre Arts and Technology	Newark, NJ

WORK EXPERIENCE

June 2015-Present	Office of Capital Planning & Project Management, Montclair State University CAD Draftsman, Part-Time Employee	Montclair, NJ
Sept. 2017-Present Sept. 2015-May 2017	College of Architecture and Design, New Jersey Institute of Technology Graduate Teaching Assistant (Teaching Apprenticeship, ARCH 555G) Graduate Teaching Assistant (Fabrication Labs Supervisor)	Newark, NJ
Aug. 2014-May 2015	Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Arts Program, New Jersey Institute of Technology Student Office Assistant Responsibilities included ensuring the successful execution of several main stage productions along with assisting in everyday operations. Additional duties included marketing, graphic design, house managing, and overseeing crew.	Newark, NJ
July-Aug. 2015	Pegasus 51 Performance Project Faculty, Guest Artist Taught course in improvisational theatre to high school vocational students, which included conceiving and developing a detailed course curriculum/syllabus and arranging a final performance showcase for students.	E. Brunswick, NJ
June-Aug. 2013	Thyme & Place Design LLC Design Intern	Wyckoff, NJ

LEADERSHIP/SERVICE

2017-Present 2016-2017	American Institute of Architecture Students - New Jersey Institute of Technology Chapter Chapter President Committee Director, Professional Development	
2017-Present	NJIT College of Architecture and Design Dean Search Committee Member (Student Representative)	
Oct. 2017	National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) Visiting Team Member (AIAS Representative)	
2016-2017	NJIT Graduate Students Association (GSA) Department Representative, Architecture	
2013 - 2014	American Society of Interior Designers - New Jersey Institute of Technology Chapter Chapter Secretary	
2012 - 2013	American Society of Interior Designers - New Jersey Chapter Student Representative, Board of Directors	
2013 - 2015	Improv Technicians President	

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HONORS

2017	Stephen Braynock Memorial Scholarship Recipient Awarded to a 3rd year graduate student who has attended NJIT continuously for the two prior years, demonstrates academic excellence, creativity and leadership, and exemplifies a positive role model.
2016	NJIT College of Architecture & Design Graduate Excellence in Design Award Recipient Awarded for design excellence to the student with the best studio project(s).
2016	AIA New Jersey 2016 Student Design Competition 1st Prize, "ReNewark" Statewide competition to design a 300 square foot micro housing unit and complex in New Jersey.
2016	American Galvanizers Association "Can You Dip It?" Video Showdown 1st Prize, "Final Review" (Co-Writer, Co-Producer, Co-Editor, Performer) National competition hosted annually by the American Galvanizers Association in association with AIAS to create a 1-5 minute short film related to the subject of galvanized steel.
2010	President's Education Award Recipient Awarded by U.S. President and Secretary of Education for outstanding academic achievement.
2012	Kimball Office Furniture "Through The Decades" Chair Design Competition 1st Prize, "The 1960's" Statewide design competition to creatively match the aesthetics of a specific decade while reinventing a classic piece of Kimball furniture.
2013	NJ Inspire (ASID New Jersey Magazine) - Spring 2013 Issue Feature, "In the Spotlight: Michael Chiappa, ASID Student Rep to the Board"
2015, 2016	NJIT College of Architecture & Design "Super Jury" Participant
2016, 2017	NJIT College of Architecture & Design Design Showcase Participant
2013, 2014, 2015	NJIT Dean's List Candidate

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

American Institute Of Architecture Students
National Office
1735 New York Ave. NW,
Washington, D.C. 20006

November 26, 2017

To members of the selection committee,

It is with much enthusiasm that I write in support of Michael Chiappa's application to serve as Northeast Quad Director on the 2018-2019 National Board of the American Institute of Architecture Students. I am in my third year as the faculty advisor of AIAS at NJIT and it has been thrilling to be involved with such an engaged group of designer-citizens led by Mike's example. Within the School of Architecture at NJIT, the AIAS chapter is an incredibly active force. The organization plays many of the roles that a conventional student government would: interacting with the school's administration; providing and managing support and production infrastructure; facilitating workshops; developing outreach opportunities; planning social events; and organizing other enrichment activities. In addition to these things, the chapter is active in supporting its members through inventively engaging in AIAS programs, including an award-winning Freedom By Design chapter, enthusiastic participation at national and regional conferences, and energetic support of professional development opportunities. Taken together, these activities and accomplishments reflect the NJIT chapter's crucial role within the institution and demonstrate the ambition, enthusiasm, and resourcefulness of a group of students full of promise as future leaders in the field. As Chapter President, Mike's leadership has been fundamental in growing the organization, strengthening the role of graduate students within the organizations, and fostering its involvement beyond the School of Architecture to connect to other student organizations within the College of Architecture and Design.

Within the numerous contributions listed above, I would like to single out a few because I think they are emblematic of the qualities that make this organization unique and are evidence of Mike's leadership abilities. As a large public school of architecture in a state with limited resources, the AIAS chapter plays a fundamental role in supporting our students' efforts. Under Mike's stewardship, the chapter oversees and maintains the Print Room, including several plotters, printers, usually running at full capacity and providing a service that the school depends on to meet its educational goals. Where other schools might organize this internally or contract with a third party provider, at the NJIT School of Architecture, this is done entirely through student volunteer labor. By doing it this way, aside from demonstrating a remarkable commitment to the school's culture, AIAS members also acquire significant management and project-based experience that is difficult to find within a traditional classroom setting. That students would have the wherewithal to take on such responsibilities is a testament to their dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm.

While the Print Room functions as a necessary piece of institutional infrastructure, the AIAS Shop provides a crucial piece of social infrastructure. Also operating under Mike's guidance and functioning as café, supply shop, and meeting place, the Shop fills a significant gap within the life of the school. While there are other food sources on campus, the difference between such a place within the building and one fifteen minutes away means that students can minimize disruption to their work while also getting to know other members of the school's community. Like the Print Room and 3D Print Lab, the Shop is run entirely by volunteers.

The NJIT Chapter of the AIAS provides other forms of social infrastructure in its efforts to help grow the community here. They actively host design workshops in which upper level students meet with more junior students to share ideas and suggestions for their projects. Likewise, recurring tool-based seminars and workshops allow students to teach other students in efforts to remain current with contemporary applications. Even though we are only a short ride from New York City, the demands of each semester can sometimes make it difficult for students to take advantage of this resource. AIAS plays an important role here as well by organizing office visits, cultural excursions, and social activities. Not only does this broaden students intellectual horizons, it is also a reminder of the importance of maintaining a healthy life balance. In terms of professional development and support, the NJIT chapter of the AIAS facilitates IDP opportunities, portfolio workshops, meetings with practitioners, mock interviews, and other forms of support and peer mentorship designed to help our students find rewarding and stimulating positions during summers and upon graduating.

The NJIT chapter of AIAS Freedom by Design is an especially exciting arm of the organization that has undertaken initiatives with a broad reach and with an emphasis on public spaces, economic disparity, and education. These projects have allowed the chapter to develop a more entrepreneurial sensibility with which they both seek out projects but also through which they have been able to launch their own projects (like the DIY Emergency Handbook). Through their inclusive and public nature, these FBD projects expand the possibilities of the organization's mission while creating more opportunities for students to get involved with substantial projects at a range of scales. This is a positive model for the FBD program in general because it presents new audiences with whom to share the transformative potential of design.

It has been an honor to work with the AIAS and I plan to continue supporting them however I can. Mike has proven himself to be an excellent leader and I have no doubts that he will continue to work untiringly to improve the world around him. AIAS National would be lucky to have him and I know he would take full advantage of the chance to grow in this new position. I recommend him highly and without any reservations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse LeCavalier', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jesse LeCavalier
Assistant Professor, College of Architecture and Design
jlc@njit.edu

RESPONSES TO CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

01.

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?

I was five or six the first time my mom, a recently-retired K-3 special education teacher, took me with her on "Bring Your Child To Work Day". I would spend the day watching her teach and interact with her students, giving each one love and respect as if they were her own. It was through her that I learned what it means to be a leader and treat others exactly how you would want to be treated. I was nine when my dad became my coach in Little League, where he is still active to this day. Through him, I learned the importance of volunteering and how much satisfaction can come from giving back and helping others succeed. Those values had a significant impact on me early on and helped form my desire to be a leader.

It wasn't until college that I saw the impact getting involved could have and the importance of taking that first step toward leadership. There's something so rewarding about trading ideas with people who share your passion for something and seeing those ideas get turned into action. I love watching my fellow chapter members grow as leaders (whether they realize they're doing so or not) and knowing that they're taking those steps for the right reasons. I didn't join AIAS with the intention of becoming Chapter President or running for a position on the National Board of Directors; I joined because I wanted to make a difference and be a part of something bigger. Leadership shouldn't be a goal in itself, but rather the result of working toward a goal.

Overcoming the fear of inadequacy or not being good enough is essential in realizing your potential to lead. I think people can be intimidated by the title 'Leader' because they think there's some magic formula others possess and they don't. I've gone through much of my life believing that everyone who came before me knew what they were doing and that I'm just somehow trying to fit in and not get caught. That "Imposter Syndrome" or perceived lack of expertise can prevent finding out what one is truly capable of. Talent can be taught and skills can be learned, but the ability to work hard for something you care about can only come from within.

02.

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?

I believe that mental health is the most important and under-discussed issue affecting architecture students today. A recent NSSE survey showed that architecture students work the most hours per week than any other major, coming in first place by a healthy margin. Furthermore, a 2016 study by Architect's Journal found that a quarter of architecture students in the UK are seeking or have sought treatment for mental health issues. Worries about deadlines, sleep, work, student loans, time management, and being properly prepared for the future can all have tremendous impact on one's ability to succeed and function at their best.

Though more and more studies are being conducted in the subject, it is still something many are hesitant to discuss openly and honestly. Given the large voice AIAS already has in the studio culture conversation, the topic of mental health should be one we bring from the journals to the studios. AIAS has been a great resource for connecting me with other architecture students and showing me that I'm not alone in the problems I face. As Northeast Quadrant Director, I would work to begin a more open dialogue about the subject. I would advocate for more integration of mental health into studio culture policies, propose ways for chapters to start the conversation, and help chapters spread the word about various local resources and help centers near them.

RESPONSES TO CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE (CONTINUED)

03.

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?

One of the greatest benefits of joining an organization such as AIAS is the exposure you get to so many different types of chapters, people, and cultures. This exposure is growing tremendously due to the strides AIAS has taken to increase inclusivity and expand their geographical footprint. With chapters in now over a dozen countries, seeing AIAS grow from a national organization to a global one has me incredibly excited for the future. The next step is ensuring each chapter in every country has a voice and the proper resources to succeed. I believe that further developing the AIAS Global Council and International Conference are important steps toward increasing representation and cultural awareness on a global scale.

I have learned so much from chapters and people with whom I have little in common. Those differences can often be the key to recognizing your own weaknesses and helping others learn from your strengths. The relationship formed between my chapter and the nearby and recently-established AIAS Kean chapter over the past year is a prime example of chapters learning and growing from each other based on their differences.

The best way to engage beyond your chapter is by attending the various AIAS conferences held throughout the year. However, the high costs of attending can prevent many chapters from being able to send members. As Northeast Quad Director, I would make sure each chapter is able to send as many members as possible to AIAS conferences by providing information and resources related to fundraising, recruitment, soliciting donations, and entering competitions. I would continue to build Slack as a vital communication platform for every chapter in the Northeast Quad through expanding the channel, offering lessons to anyone new or struggling to navigate the app, and finding new ways to actively engage team members. I would also seek to continue and further expand upon several recent initiatives by current Northeast Quad Director Amy Rosen, such as regular director updates and a chapter mentor/mentee program based on each chapter's strengths or struggles.

04.

Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS to engage in a new way. Either with other organizations, with school faculty and administrators, with the profession, with the international design community, or any other audience or venue.

Throughout my time in AIAS, I have noticed that many faculty members seem to be largely unaware of what AIAS is - some are unaware that it is a national organization, some believe it is a subset of the local AIA, and some have never even heard of it. There is quite a disconnect with what students understand the AIAS to be and what faculty understand it to be. Though our chapter makes great effort to inform the faculty of our mission and value to the school (as do many chapters), too much of it often ends up falling on the chapter's Faculty Advisor. I would still like to explore ways that the AIAS can provide resources for chapters to more effectively educate and engage faculty and administration.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006
202.808.0075 | aias.org

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 graduate 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: Michael Chiappa

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: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 11/21/17



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202.808.0075 | aias.org

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: Michael Chiappa

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: 11/21/17

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



AIAS

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006

202.808.0075 | aias.org

**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): Mike Chiappa

Chapter: New Jersey Institute of Technology

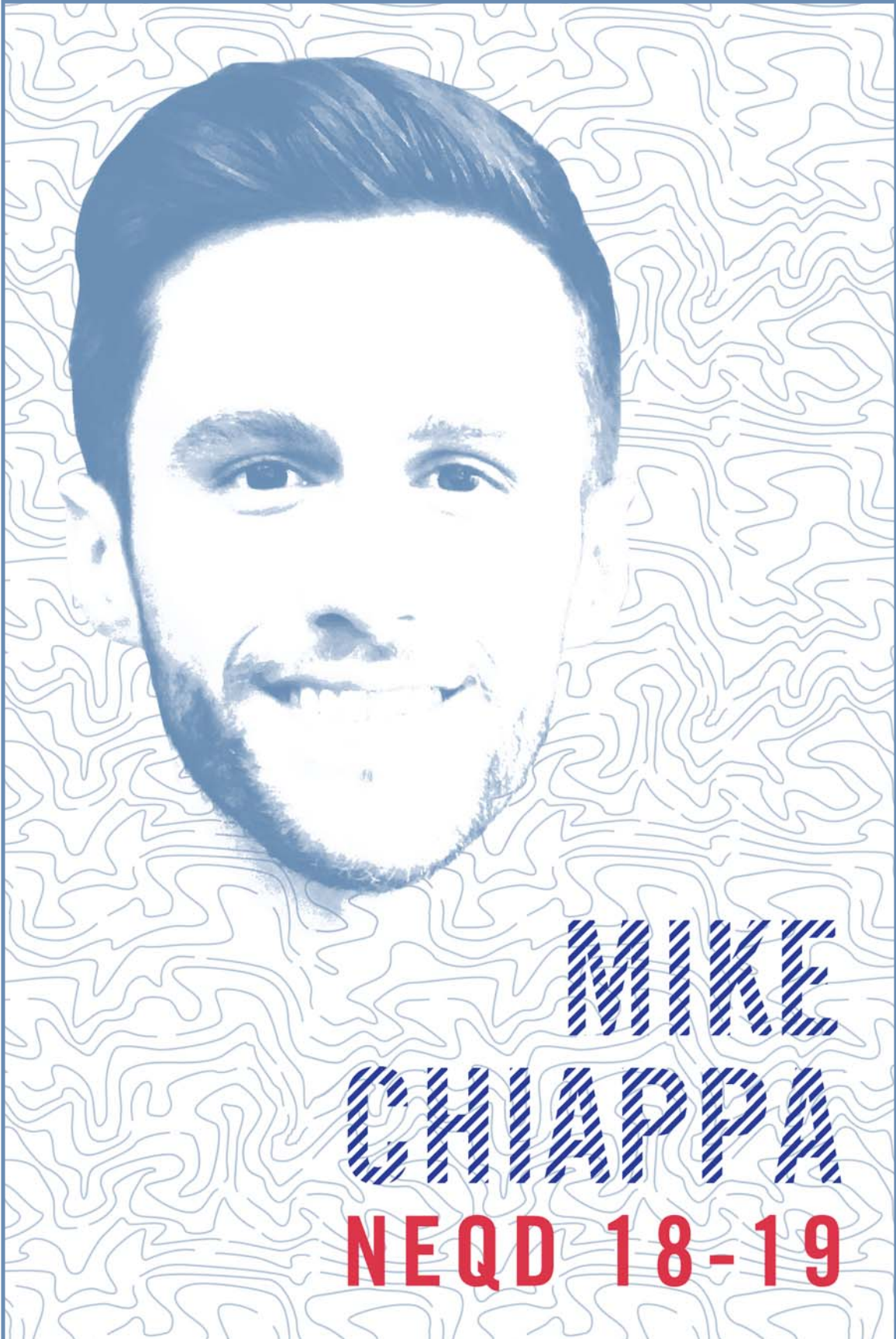
Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Chapter President

Email Address: mbs @ njit.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 201 - 543 - 8023

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: Mike Chiappa
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: mikechiappa
- Other:



**MIKE
CHIAPPA**
NEQD 18-19