

AIAS' 62ND VEEP
COURTNEY
STURGIS



COURTNEY STURGIS

dsturgis@ltu.edu | 989/413.8314 | 15517 Woodworth, Redford, MI 48239

November 26, 2017

Sarah Wahlgren, Assoc. AIA, Chair of the Elections Committee
AIAS National Office
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 200006-5209

RE: Letter of Intent to Run

I, Courtney Sturgis, intend to run for the Vice President position of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) National Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 term. A close friend inspired me to be a member of the AIAS in my first year of college. Someone made me feel like I had a role and that I was important. This is definitely the next step in my career. I now see myself as the 62nd Vice President of our proud organization. I am going to work hard in everything I do, every day to inspire passionate architecture and design students across the world. I am excited to be a part of the next chapter in our organization.

I started out as an active member, always willing to make a flyer, set up an event, or go to a board meeting even though I was not on the board. The day I became the Communications Director for our chapter at Lawrence Tech, was the beginning of my dedication to the progression and success of the organization. At first, I did not fully understand that this organization was a national one. When I went to my first conference, my eyes were wide and filled with excitement. I knew where I wanted to focus my energy. I knew that one day I could be on the stage-announcing roll call. Since then, I have used every opportunity I could to be involved at the national level. I have met so many people that I don't think I ever could have met without conferences, without committees, without this beautiful connection we all share through this organization: architecture and design. I love getting onto Facebook and chatting with students from Arizona, Ohio, Iowa, Oregon, Montana, Georgia, and so on. The fact that we are national, alone, is one of the biggest advantages to the organization that I think has the capacity to grow throughout our chapters. The initiatives to broaden our membership over borders has been exciting and I am looking forward to expanding our membership through international opportunities untapped. We have so many resources within our own members.

I am continuously inspired by those fellow students near and far. It is my turn to give that back. I want to be the one inspiring them, showing them how they can inspire each other, creating passionate AIAS members day after day. I want to be that connection between chapters when they have a question about another school, about nationals, international questions, too. I intend to be the next vice president of this professional, social, and ever-growing/changing organization. I intend to inspire. I intend to inspire these passionate people. Because they did that for me without even realizing it.

Sincerely,



Courtney Sturgis
2018-2019 Vice President Candidate

COURTNEY STURGIS

csturgis@ltu.edu | 989/413.8314 | 15517 Woodworth, Redford, MI 48239

EDUCATION

B.S. in Architecture | Lawrence Technological University (LTU) - Southfield, MI

Expected Graduation - December 2017

Cumulative GPA - 3.50

F.2013 - Present

HONORS & AWARDS

National Member of the Month - AIAS

Dean's Honor Roll

Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society

AIAS 60 on 60: Disney Imagine Competition

Gary G. Balog and BSHM Architects Endowed Fellowship

LTU Honors Academic Scholarship

Norman J and Rosaline M Luttig Scholarship

September 2017

F.2013, S.2014, S.2015, F.2016

Inducted S.2016

Awarded December 2016

Awarded November 2016

Awarded May 2013

Awarded May 2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelancer | Architectural Assistant

-Worked directly beneath an architect to design and document a retail and office renovation

October 2017 - Present

AutoCAD Operator | Felino Pascual & Associates - Farmington, MI

-Drafted detailed construction documents for entrance monuments

-Planned community developments and corresponding site documents

-Identified and recorded vegetation while on job site

-Met with clients to discuss site proposals

March 2016 - November 2017

Spring Break Internship Program | Progressive AE - Grand Rapids, MI

-Shadowed design and project architects for four days over break

-Attended team meetings and client meetings

-Learned from engineers and other designers at the firm

March 2017

Student Designer | LTU College of Architecture & Design (CoAD)

-Collaborated with student peers, faculty, and administration

-Created graphics for college fliers, posters, social media, and awards

-Prepared a social media strategy for the college

March 2016 - July 2016

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Membership Committee | American Institute of Architecture Students

-National committee to motivate, recruit, and stimulate membership while collaborating with students from around the country

August 2017 - Present

Vice President | American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) - LTU

-Organized and ensured tasks were completed for the executive board

-Operated digital and physical chapter event calendar

May 2016 - May 2017

Secretary | AIAS - LTU

-Wrote minutes for the chapter at all executive board and general meetings

-Assembled chapter photos to create a portfolio that was submitted to a national AIAS competition

May 2015 - May 2016

Communications Director | AIAS - LTU

-Updated members through social media, website, newsletter, and fliers

-Created a graphic standard to effectively communicate chapter brand

-Designed and managed chapter website

May 2014 - May 2015

Student Representative | LTU CoAD Faculty Council

-Discussed curriculum, faculty, and facility issues with a committee of faculty and other student representatives to create change within the college

S.2016-S.2017

Sketch-Up Workshop Assistant | LTU Architecture

-Taught Sketch-Up software to area high school students with an LTU professor to create their dream home

S.2015

SKILLED IN

AutoCAD

Revit

Sketching

Adobe Illustrator

Sketch-Up

Diagramming

Adobe Photoshop

Adobe After Effects

Hand Drafting

Adobe InDesign

Rhino

Hand Rendering

Microsoft Office

Web Design

Wood shop Proficient

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1. 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 have been a student leader since day one. In elementary school, I was in the student council as many times as I could be. Small tasks at a young age developed into years of student leadership. When I began college, I never hesitated to continue that stewardship to lead and be involved in my school and greater community. The AIAS has so many different avenues to be involved. There is something for everyone at every stage of his or her career. If there is something missing, we are actively working to provide a solution. We are always searching to improve and listen to our peers. I have never stopped wanting to make the world a better place by enabling the voices of my peers. By empowering those that have potential, we have been able to rise together and have a positive impact in our community.

My best advice is to go for it. Go to the things you may not think you are welcome to at first, ask the uncomfortable questions, and go for the leadership position even if you think you may be inexperienced. The amount you will grow in pursuing the position, the solution, whatever it is, it is worth so much it is inexplicable. You will surprise yourself and be proud of how far you have come.

2. 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?

Diversity is definitely our most important issue; it stems into each of the other focuses of our advocacy. We should continue our work with the global council and really push toward being an international organization. Instead of constantly focusing on the value we give to our members, we need to flip that perspective and think about the value the organization gains from them. People of all different backgrounds: those with career shifts, families, of different ethnicity, race, education level, or culture, they all offer new perspectives to push our organization forward. We should be focusing on conversations with our own members and using their knowledge, their voices, to expand globally. Diversity is the first resource we have. It is the reason I have been so dedicated to this organization. The people I meet at every conference are so different in so many amazing ways. These people are inspiring, wonderful people that aim to make a difference in our profession as architecture and design students. We have potential in the people we already have...to push our membership and our organization forward, to the next chapter. This is only the beginning of that chapter, international expansion. There are endless possibilities.

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3. 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?

Our members should engage with one another and learn from each other's uniquely diverse differences. This would help them realize the value in each other and show them their own potential. Through these avenues, we will push our organization forward and connect our geographically and culturally diverse membership. Diversity is our strongest asset as an organization. There is so much to learn about within our own membership. In parallel, the best thing about design is that it is international. We admire the same architects and designers. We admire the same styles. We study the same fundamental foundations. Where we are diverse is what makes our profession so strong. Enabling that diversity now will create strong leaders for the future of our profession. We can have these conversations face to face or digitally, even though we are thousands of miles apart. We are our own resource. I would propose an avenue within our social media and digital media strategy that opens up conversations that are internationally focused. We need to keep our eyes and ears global and diverse.

4. 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.

If we are trying to expand internationally then it only makes sense to expand our resources internationally. We should be collaborating and connecting with international firms and design companies. We should be spreading news about design culture and opportunities around the world. There is a large amount of United States-residing students that would love to expand their horizons internationally, so I think it is a great opportunity to tap into that and facilitate their ability to achieve their goals. We could focus on not only partnerships with companies and firms, but also universities that already collaborate with our chapter's schools for study abroad opportunities.



November 7, 2017

**Re: Courtney Sturgis
Letter of Support, Vice President AIAS**

**To: Sarah Wahlgren, Assoc. AIA, Chair of the Elections Committee
AIAS National Office
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006-5209**

I would like to formally present a letter of support for Courtney Sturgis in regards of her campaign for the AIAS Vice President position on the AIAS National Board of Directors. I, generally, refrain from giving my support for nominations or applications unless a student has clearly demonstrated their abilities in regard to the objective, integrity of character and track record to deserve recognition. I feel strongly that Courtney both achieves and surpasses those standards.

Academically, Courtney is well accomplished. She has a strong foundation to transition into professional practice and has a sensitivity for the user of designed spaces. Her presence in studios and lectures is always positive and she interacts exceptionally with other students, faculty and the academic material.

Beyond her academic responsibilities, Courtney has worked tirelessly for the good of our architecture students through the Lawrence Tech AIAS over the past several years. She held the role of Vice-President for this organization and has consistently endeavoured to maintain the involvement of students in the governance of the College of Architecture and Design. During the time Courtney has been involved in the AIAS, it has maintained a very strong voice in the College, operating as a respected partner when considering issues that affect the quality of life for our students.

In regard to governance and as part of AIAS, Courtney served as the AIAS representative to the CoAD Faculty Council from 2015-2017 (four semesters) – a body that I led during that period as Chair. The Faculty Council is the main body of shared governance in the College and the position gave Courtney the responsibility to represent the needs and concerns of a large portion of the student body. She became a valuable resource for this body by which to address student concerns and issues at the College administrative level. There were several instances when her

voice provided key insights to curriculum issues and degree refinement. Courtney was always active and engaged as a representative.

Over the past several of years, I have watched Courtney grow into the person she represents today. In a studio situation, she is always willing to collaborate with others, but stays focused on final quality of the goal. She is able to blend her social interactions and interpersonal skills with a dedicated and passionate approach to whatever she does. She will not be meek but speak her mind. She does this in such a way that others are engaged positively, and the combination of many approaches become a single strong vision under her guidance.

Please accept my wholehearted support for Courtney in her campaign for a new challenge, one that I feel she is well equipped to be successful.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Plowright', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sincerely,

Philip Plowright, RA, PhD

Professor

College of Architecture and Design,

Lawrence Technological University

pplowright@ltu.edu



November 16, 2017

Sarah Wahlgren, Assoc. AIA, Chair of the Elections Committee
AIAS National Office
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006-5209

RE: Letter of Support for Courtney Sturgis

Dear AIAS Elections Committee:

I am very pleased to write this letter of support for Courtney Sturgis and her interest in serving on the national board of directors, as Vice President.

During my time at Lawrence Technological University, I have been fortunate enough to work with Courtney on numerous on-campus and off-campus projects through our local AIAS chapter.

She has been successful with recruiting new AIAS members through her passion for the AIAS organization and the profession. Courtney's effective communication, vision and decisiveness have prepared her for a role as a leader. She has worked to better the community through her participation in Freedom by Design.

It is with my utmost belief that Courtney has the power to energize those around her with her enthusiasm, dedication and work ethic and that is why I believe she is an ideal candidate for the position of Vice President.

Sincerely,

Karl Daubmann, AIA, FAAR
Dean + Professor, College of Architecture and Design
Executive Director, Detroit Center for Design and Technology

Lawrence Technological University

College of Architecture and Design | College of Arts and Sciences | College of Engineering | College of Management
21000 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075-1058 | 248.204.4000 p | 248.204.3727 f | ltu.edu

HamiltonAnderson

November 22, 2017

Sarah Walgren, Associate AIA
Chair of the Elections Committee
AIAS National Office
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20006

Re: Letter of Support for Courtney Sturgis (4th Year Architecture Student, Lawrence Technological University)

Dear Sarah:

I am delighted to prepare this letter on behalf of Courtney Sturgis. I met Courtney last year when I presented a scholarship check to the AIAS Chapter of Lawrence Technological University. Since then, I have monitored her progress in studio reviews and in my interactions with our AIAS Chapter. Today she is an impressive fourth year student in the Comprehensive Design Studio which I teach. Courtney has performed at a very high level in this capstone studio while also serving on the Membership Committee of our AIAS Chapter. In the several studio conversations we have shared this semester, I have learned of her ambitions to serve at the national level. She has explained her desire to grow the membership of AIAS "...by inspiring others and helping them realize their own potential to inspire others as well." This quality of Courtney's--putting service above self--is special and worth celebrating by affording the leadership opportunities she seeks. If elevated to this position, Courtney Sturgis will certainly create more engaged AIAS Chapters by leveraging her desire to serve others with her infectious spirit and her love of architecture.

Courtney already has many leadership accomplishments that are worth highlighting:

While a student at Lawrence Tech-

- Courtney has served as *Student Representative* of the Lawrence Tech Faculty Council and as *Sketch-Up Workshop Assistant* for the College of Architecture and Design at Lawrence Tech (LTU).
- Courtney has numerous honors and awards including being the recipient of the *Norman & Rosaline Luttig Scholarship*, the *Lawrence Tech Honors Academic Scholarship*, and the *Gary Balog (and BSHM Architects) Endowed Fellowship*.
- Courtney has been on the Dean's Honor Roll for four consecutive years and is a member of the Tau Sigma Delta Society.
- Courtney currently serves on the *Membership Committee* of National AIAS; she has recently served as Vice President of the Lawrence Tech AIAS Chapter; and Courtney has served as the Secretary and the Communications Director of our Chapter. This fall she was AIAS *Member of the Month*.

Courtney Sturgis has left a formidable impact serving the Lawrence Tech AIAS Chapter. She has earned the praise and recognition of the university and our faculty. Her desire to serve as Vice President of AIAS National is a natural step in empowering her to create a lasting impact in our profession. She has my highest endorsement and I am happy to nominate Courtney Sturgis for Vice President of National AIAS.

Regards,



Mark A. Farlow
Director of Design + Associate | Hamilton Anderson Associates
Adjunct Professor of Architecture | Lawrence Technological University



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: Courtney Sturgis

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: Courtney Sturgis

Date: November 1, 2017



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: Courtney Sturgis

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: Courtney Sturgis

Date: November 1, 2017

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

COURTNEY STURGIS

CHAPTER Lawrence Technological University

**LEADERSHIP
POSITION** Former Vice President
Project Lead for Chapter FBD

EMAIL csturgis@ltu.edu

MOBILE PHONE 989/413-8314



Courtney Sturgis



@courtneykayl33



Courtney Sturgis, AIAS



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STICKERS

