



Alexander D'Amato
Candidacy Packet
NORTHEAST QUADRANT DIRECTOR
2019-2020 AIAS Board of Directors

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Alexander D'Amato
Chapter President
New York Institute of Technology
Old Westbury, NY 11568-8000

Keshika De Saram, Assoc. AIA
Past President and Elections Committee Chair
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave NW
Washington, DC, 2006-5297

November 16, 2018.

RE: Letter of Intent to run for Northeast Quadrant Director on the AIAS 2019-2020 Board of Directors.

Dear Past President Keshika De Saram,

It is my pleasure writing you to declare my intent to run for the position of 2019-2020 AIAS Northeast Quadrant Director. Though it is with great sadness that we will bid farewell to the current Northeast Quadrant Director Mike Chiappa, it is with tempered excitement that I attempt to fill the shoes of so many great Quadrant Directors that have come before.

As I contemplate the possibility of making the shift from Chapter President to Quadrant Director, I realize that while the day-to-day responsibilities may change, the goal to advance my fellow AIAS members and students of architecture/design remains the same. Making connections between people has been and will continue to be a defining characteristic of my leadership style. It is my belief that, only through the success of the whole, can the success of each individual be guaranteed.

The AIAS continues to fill a very important role in the education of future designers and architects. Throughout my time as an architecture student, I have watched as the quantity of information increasingly takes precedence over the quality of our educations. Through the initiatives of the AIAS, this is beginning to change and the promotion of professionalism and achievement in my peers has become a personal passion. Through our discussions about studio culture and the course of design, technology, and sustainability, we are actually having conversations about the way our industry will function in the generations to come and what impact we all can leave on the world. As the Northeast Quadrant Director, I would uphold the legacy of the AIAS as a pillar in the architectural community while working to drive it forward and help inspire future generations of architects.

Our work as a chapter here at NYIT Old Westbury has focused primarily on the professional development and enrichment of all students within the School of Architecture and Design - member or non-member - because, of our belief that only through inclusion, can we show others how much is possible. In my role as Chapter President, I have worked to build connections between our chapter and the greater world outside of academia. As Northeast Quadrant Director my goal is to build connections between chapters, and provide them with the tools to do the same in their own spaces.

Architecture for me is a second career, following a decade in the service industry. I will say that the time I spent there and the lessons learned have informed all of the decisions I have made in my education thus far, including joining AIAS and take up a leadership role when I saw the need. I want to bring my varied skillset and broad experience to the AIAS Northeast Quadrant, 2019-2020 Board of Directors, and members, present and future.

Thank you for your consideration and steadfast leadership.

Sincerely,

Alexander D'Amato

ALEXANDER D'AMATO

Objective: Northeast Quadrant Director 2019-2020

EDUCATION:

New York Institute of Technology. School of Architecture and Design. 09/2016-Current
Currently enrolled as a full time student pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Architecture Technology. Expected Graduation 05/2020. Current GPA: 3.60/4.0

The Culinary Institute of America. 12/05
Graduated with Associates in Occupational Studies in Culinary Arts.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

Chapter President. AIAS NYIT Old Westbury. 2018-2019
Through this organization I have found the chance to advance many careers, peers and my own.

Project Manager. AIAS Freedom By Design NYIT Old Westbury. 2017-2018
Outdoor Learning Enrichment Space, aprox. 10,000sf. Project ongoing with FBD members.

PROFESSIONAL BD&C EXPERIENCE:

Intern. AmoiaCody Architecture. Brooklyn, NY 06/17-Present
Architecture Intern. Opportunity to work on survey, design and construction documents for R5B projects in Upper Manhattan and Brooklyn. Overview of in progress construction/renovation/filing. Use of AutoCAD, Excel, Rhino.

Carpenter Apprentice. MountainView Construction. Tabernash, CO 12/15-02/16
Finish carpentry apprentice. Installed cabinets, doors and trim. Also responsible for custom closets.

Ranch Hand. Devils Thumb Ranch. Tabernash, CO 05/14-09/14
Outdoor Facilities, responsibilities included gardening, firewood, tension fencing, hay and maintenance.

Expeditor/PM Intern. JMM Architecture. East Islip, NY. 04/07-09/10
Expedited projects in Oyster Bay, Islip, Brookhaven and Babylon. Filed for variances, compiled radius maps and set up bid packets, and ran blueprints from graphite on mylar masters.

Plumbing Apprentice. Matty's Plumbing Service. Farmingdale, N.Y. 04/99-10/11
Worked with family business learning remodel, new work, repairs, fixtures, rough-in, kitchens and bath. baseboard, radiant, solar. High materials proficiency in Copper, PVC, PEX.

SERVICE LEADERSHIP:

Trainer/Server. Jupiter Bowl. Park City, UT 08/12-07/13
Lead Server. Troll Hollen Lounge. Stein Eriksen Lodge. Park City, UT 11/11-05/12
Dining Room Supervisor. Hamlet Golf and Country Club. Commack, NY 01/11-06/11
Instructor. 800-Bartend. Medford, NY 08/09-01/10
Assistant Wine Director. 'inoteca. Manhattan, NY 08/08-03/09
Sommelier. Del Posto. Manhattan, NY 08/07-08/08



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November 15, 2016

Keshika De Saram, Assoc. AIA
Past President and Elections Committee Chair
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave NW
Washington, DC, 2006-5297

Re: Alexander D'Amato Application for Northeast Quad Director 2019-20

I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of Alexander D'Amato application for the Northeast Quad Director 2019-20.

I have known Alexander as a student and student leader for the over three years. He currently serves as the NYIT Old Westbury AIAS Chapter President and is project manager for Freedom by Design.

As Director of the School of Architecture and Design and AIAS Faculty Advisor, we work closely together for not only AIAS events, but for our community, for student competitions, and for organization of lecture and social events. I have had many discussions with Alexander, he is a thoughtful, analytical thinker, and researcher. He is an asset to our school and an asset to our AIAS chapter.

Currently the AIAS NYIT Old Westbury Freedom by Design Chapter is working on a playscape and imagination garden for a local elementary school. This project has been managed closely by Alexander. He has stimulated the design team, worked closely and independently with the school staff and its principal, found consulting landscape architect and surveyor, contacted local businesses to donate materials, and with the other Freedom by Design members, completed construction drawings, specifications and budget analysis for the project. All things you would expect from an architect. We had a presentation to the school PTA this past week. Alexander made a skillful and convincing presentation. My experience and critical observations of Alexander in action confirm that he is well on his way to becoming an intelligent and well-developed young architect.

Alexander has served as NYIT Orientation Leader, First Year Mentor, Student Advisor and has been a first-year studio teaching assistant. He has been an AIAS member since his freshman year and has attended AIAS Forum, Northeast Quad Conference and Grassroots. He has been a vocal advocate for students, presenting issues to me, our Dean and to the NYIT Student Government Association. He is without question, a natural leader.

While I have not had him in my design studio, I have closely watched Alexander's development. He excels in design studio and in his supporting coursework. He is devoted to his work and to the exploration of new ideas. His thoughtful and articulate response to tough problems is always artful and this attitude extends into all aspects of



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drawing, sketching, model making, presentation and computer aided design skills, all of which are exemplary. This makes him a model student.

Alexander will succeed as an architect. His natural talents along with his curiosity and tenacity will serve him well not only as a student, but into the profession. His desire to excel, to be challenged, willingness to learn and ability to work with and encourage others, makes him an excellent candidate for Northeast Quad Director 2019-20.

I hope this letter supports him well. I cannot think of a finer candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Cody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Cody, AIA, LEED AP
Associate Professor, AIAS Faculty Advisor
Director of Undergraduate Architecture, School of Architecture and Design, Old Westbury

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?

As many who have come before me, my student leadership origin story begins as a freshman. The then Chapter President and Vice came through the studios to talk up AIAS. Having had a previous career for over a decade I knew of the importance that networking would play in building this new future for myself. If someone had told me at that time how important or influential it would become I would have laughed at them. The end of that first year I ran for Historian of Freedom By Design, a decision that would affect the whole trajectory of my leadership future.

During the next fall, 2017, our Freedom By Design Director put out a call to find members available for a meeting with a potential client, I was the only member to respond. That moment showed me something that I had already begun to notice, that many of my new peers could not see the added value in experiences such as what sounded like a simple client meeting. The client was an Elementary School that wanted an outdoor classroom space. Immediately the FBD Director and myself set about designing, sketching, brainstorming. As our schemes grew in complexity we recruited more people. The project expanded in scope to the point that I was asked to be the Project Manager and public voice of the project due to my experience with speaking in front of groups in the service industry.

As that year continued both the Past and Current Chapter Presidents asked me about my plans for leadership in the future. I responded with a shrug and something about possibly running to take over the Freedom By Design Director Position. This was, to them, not the right answer. It was about this time that our President had some issues and was unable to follow through with his term of office. At this point that I saw a need for someone to take the organization to a more stable and professional place, and to ensure a continued future with leadership opportunities for the many students yet to come.

For those who have yet to find their voice as a leader all I can say is to take a chance on yourself. If you are reading these questions then you have already gone beyond and shown a desire to affect change. Your voice matters in our councils and on our committees. Your voice matters as the expression of all those at your institution that have yet to find their own. Let us all grow as leaders together and advance everyone around us in the process.

In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to health and wellness, equity, student loan debt, studio culture, practice experience, leadership, and technology. 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?

There are many issues that face us as student leaders from sustainability and the impact that we have on the future built environment to issues regarding equity of resources, opportunity and access. As a member of the Equity and Diversity Task Force for 2018-2019 I have been a participant in an ongoing discussion about what these topics mean and how we can effect positive change.

The issues that motivate me to act all deal with privilege. I come from a privileged upbringing. I am aware of that privilege and my goal is to find ways to spread that privilege to others. Just take something we all have in common, architecture school. The ability or not to afford the cost of our programs which are usually extremely high; on average \$46,000/yr with an estimated \$188,000 total burden by graduation. This means that the profession is kept inaccessible to entire strata of our socio-economic system. Even before that many schools have a portfolio requirement for admission which makes the profession unreachable by those where the education system has been ravaged. This does not even begin to speak of the effect of the student loan crisis on the choices that many of us will be forced to make as professionals after graduation while pursuing licensure.

I will use my position as Northeast Quadrant Director for 2019-2020 to continue to advance the initiatives of our Advocacy Task Forces and raise awareness about all of the issues that we face as an industry. Education is the key to change, everywhere and every time.

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?

As Northeast Quadrant Director I will use my position on the Board of Directors to connect and engage our membership in new and interesting ways. I have already made connections with organizations like the USGBC and the AIA Women In Architecture. I would like to attempt to reach out to these and other like organizations and find ways for us to work more closely with them on initiatives that can allow the AIAS to share educational opportunities between chapters more easily, like firm tours, exam prep classes, and mentorship opportunities. With the current state of technology there is no reason why the person who best reflects the type of professional you want to become has to be near you geographically. The relationship of Mentor/Mentee now has the ability to span much larger distances more often and more meaningfully than ever before.

To those who are interested in making deeper and more profound connections across any distance based on respect and desire for mutual success the best advice I can give is to reach out. It sounds trite but the most difficult part of establishing any relationship is that moment of true vulnerability when you extend your hand, unsure of the response. That moment shows your true dedication to your ideal, that you have the confidence in your own purpose to reach out and be vulnerable and take on whatever comes. Making the move to reach out and begin making that connection shows a commitment to the effort required to establish a relationship of respect, but also the commitment to maintain that same relationship.

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.

I see the link between the AIAS and the majority of faculty to be the largest untapped resource for our organization. We have our individual faculty advisors who are supportive and help to guide us as we lead our chapters into the future. The issue is with some of the other faculty who might not see the importance of AIAS or understand what we do both for the students and for the design community as a whole.

I would like to use my position as Northeast Quadrant Director to reach out in constructive ways to the faculty and administrators of programs that might not see the benefit of time spent on professional development or community involvement. This goes hand in hand with the recent moves to push the use of Studio Culture Policies beyond just a written requirement to become an enforceable contract between the institution and the student. In this way the faculty and students can begin to work together instead of at odds to advance the leaders of tomorrow.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006
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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: Alexander D'Amato

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: Nov. 16, 2018



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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 Past President.

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 Past President.

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: Alexander D'Amato

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: _____

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

Date: Nov. 16, 2018



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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Past President 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): Alexander D'Amato

Chapter: New York Institute of Technology- Old Westbury

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President 2018-2019
FBD Project Manager 2017-2018

Email Address: adamato@nyit.edu

Mobile Phone Number: (516) 375-6817

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: alexander.damato.0
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: alexanderdamato
- Other:



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ALEXANDER D'AMATO
NORTHEAST QUADRANT DIRECTOR
2019-2020