



AIAS

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

ROBYN PAYNE

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November 3, 2018

Keshika De Saram, AIAS, Assoc. AIA,
Past President and Elections Committee Chair
The American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Keshika,

I am proud to be part of the American Institute of Architecture Students, a community collectively contributing to the profession and education of architecture.

AIAS programs have a profound impact on the trajectory - both academically and professionally - of a student. Involvement in the organization helps foster the passion, drive, dedication and network needed to achieve their goals and to have influence.

This has been my first-hand experience.

Through five years of involvement with AIAS, I have learned what it means to pursue excellence, how to be a leader, the importance of community, the potential of a network, the power of advocacy, the need for global-connectivity, and the courage to act boldly. It was at my first Forum - when I was a freshman - where my future aspirations came into focus. Since then, I've served AIAS in multiple capacities including: General Member, Second-year Representative, Chapter President, National Finance Committee Member, Top 60-at-60, Governance Committee Member; and I've attended Forum (Nashville, San Francisco, Boston), AIAS' first International Conference (Dubai) and Grassroots (DC). Simultaneously, I am pursuing a graduate-level business education so that I can skillfully dedicate myself to the intersection of business and architecture.

My story is an affirmation of the value of being an AIAS member.

By channeling a fierce passion for design-related solutions and advocacy, alongside extensive training in business practice and management, I believe my unique skill-set and leadership acumen brings an added dimension to the organization.

It is my goal to support, empower and raise-up the next generation of AIAS students, leaders, and change-makers. By better equipping local chapters to more effectively narrate AIAS' relevance and worth to their individual environments, and by building and leveraging AIAS' outreach for stronger impact, I plan to honor the work that has gone before me while helping to forge the path forward.

It is with gratitude and excited anticipation that I am running for the position of 63rd National President of the American Institute of Architecture Students. Please accept this letter as a declaration of my intent. If elected, I will be humbled to serve alongside the 2018/19 Board of Directors - leading and learning.

Appreciatively,

Robyn Payne



ROBYN PAYNE
www.robynpayne.me
robynpayne@gmail.com
847.287.8910

■ **EDUCATION:**

College:

The University of Kansas School of Architecture, Lawrence, Kansas. Master of Architecture Class 2019
The University of Kansas School of Business, Lawrence, Kansas. Master of Business Administration Class 2019
The University of Kansas School of Business, Lawrence, Kansas. Business Minor. GPA 4.0
The University of Illinois School of Architecture, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. Transferred. 2013

Study Abroad:

Danish Institute of Study Abroad - Architecture, Copenhagen, Denmark. Fall 2017

High School:

William J. Fremd High School, Palatine, Illinois. Class of 2013. Weighted GPA 4.04

■ **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

2018: clark | hueemann, Lawrence, Kansas. Intern

Public relations, portfolio database management, reactive + proactive marketing, and marketing management

2009 - 2018: Robinson Payne Law Firm, Hoffman Estates, Illinois. Administrative Support

Create digital database - included extensive scanning and profiling of digital documents

Summer 2016: The University of Kansas School of Business, Lawrence, Kansas. Finance Teaching Assistant

Foster student understanding of content, answer questions, conduct reviews, and assist professor

2014 - 2015: Evereve, South Barrington, Illinois. Stylist

Communicate with customers, sell merchandise, and organize store floor

■ **EXPERIENCE:**

2014 - 2019: American Institute of Architecture Students, University of Kansas

2018 - 2019 *National Governance Committee*

2016 - 2017 *Chapter President + National Finance Committee + AIAS Imagine: Top 60-at-60*

2015 - 2016 *Board Member*

2014 - 2015 *Member*

Conference Attendances: Spring 2018, Dubai, UAE; Summer 2016, Washington DC;

Winter 2014 - 2017, Nashville + San Francisco + Boston

Independent, nonprofit, student-run organization dedicated to advancing leadership, design and service

2018 - 2019: Dean's Advisory Board, University of Kansas. Student Member

Sole student member alongside 43 industry leaders committed to the development, recognition and success of the School

Summer 2011-2018: Global Leadership Summit, South Barrington, Illinois.

Annual Premier Leadership Conference. Past speakers have included Peter Drucker, Jack Welch, Jim Collins, Condoleezza Rice

2016 - 2017: Dirt Works DesignBuild Studio, University of Kansas. Financial Manager

Coordinated \$150,000 budget, cost estimates, invoicing, ordering; Completed on-time and under-budget

■ **ACTIVITIES:**

Phi Kappa Phi: University of Kansas, *Member*

Society for Marketing Professional Services: Regional, *Student Member*

National Society of Collegiate Scholars: University of Kansas, *Member*

Oread Center: University of Kansas, *Leadership Team*

■ **AWARDS:**

AIAS Imagine: Top 60-at-60; AIAS Chapter Leader of the Month; Academic Honor Roll; Scholarships Recipient

■ **TRAVEL:**

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, England, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States



November 2, 2018

Keshika De Saram, AIAS, Assoc. AIA,
Past President and Elections Committee Chair
The American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Robyn Payne – Letter of Support for AIAS National President

Dear Keshika,

It is with upmost enthusiasm that I recommend Robyn Payne as a candidate for National President of the American Institute of Architecture Students. I have had the opportunity to interact frequently with Robyn since our introduction in the summer of 2015 after my arrival at KU.

Robyn is one of the best student leaders I have encountered, at both KU and my former institution, Ball State University. She possesses communication skills and vision, as well as the ability to build teams, delegate work, be self-reflective, inspire others, and get things done. Robyn's professionalism, dependency and discernment sets her apart from other students. She has had a profound impact on the School of Architecture and Design as an advocate for the student-body.

Since I've known her, Robyn has always served AIAS in some capacity. Most notably, she was the 2016 – 2017 Chapter President. Her presidency proved to be one of the most successful in recent chapter history. Her leadership team describes working with Robyn as fulfilling; the energy and confidence she confronts challenges with are contagious. The School is grateful to support a student with a legacy as celebrated as nomination for AIAS Top 60-at-60 and Chapter Leader of the Month. Each year, we prioritize monetary support for conference attendance for all AIAS members in hopes of generating more student leaders like Robyn.

Robyn is not only a capable leader but an impressive learner. The very fact that she is pursuing both an M.Arch degree and an MBA degree, and aims to complete both within five years of study at KU, is one important piece of evidence that speaks to her ambition, ability, and attentiveness. She recognized a need in the industry – more individuals versed in architecture *and* business – then, through a precedent-setting petitioning process, curated an educational plan that equips her to address this void. In just five years, she will graduate from KU with two master's degrees.

Because of her accomplishments, consistency, and professionalism, this last year, I appointed Robyn to be a student member of the Dean's Advisory Board. The Dean's Advisory Board is comprised of dedicated alumni leaders who have found success in the industry and are interested in ensuring the success of the School for generations to come. She showed up, spoke up and informed the discussions. She has earned the respect of her fellow board members.

Robyn is one of the most motivated, dynamic, intelligent, and spirited students I have come across. She treats everyone with kindness, finds genuine joy in including/building into others, and – through humor and comfort – helps students find their voice. She handles the stress of an uncharacteristically large



student workload with assurance and optimism. Through her passion and capability, I have no doubt she will lead the American Institute of Architecture Students forward.

I highly recommend Robyn as a candidate for National President of the American Institute of Architecture Students. If elected, your organization will be positively impacted. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mahesh Daas, DPACSA
Dean and ACSA Distinguished Professor of Architecture



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?

An exemplary leader - and my AIAS Chapter President at the time - encouraged me with sincerity to attend Forum in Nashville, TN, four years ago. I went. And I am so glad I did.

Immediately upon arrival, I found myself ignited to be part of an extensive community of students eager to learn, explore and connect. The synergy was electrifying. The campaign for Board of Director positions, however, is what had the greatest impact on me. I remember feeling optimistic, empowered, and inspired, with the conclusion: I want to do that, too. A monumental moment in my life ready to be captured and memorialized in a journal entry in that baby-blue AIAS notebook distributed at registration - Wait, where did my notebook go?

I asked event staff if there were any extra notebooks, but to my disappointment, was told there were none. Later that day, in session, I got a tap on my shoulder. It was Nick Serfass, having overheard my previous inquiry, smiling down at me with five notebooks in hand: a kind gesture that solidified my allegiance to the organization and its people.

With gratitude for the sincere push, I presented one of these notebooks to my Chapter President and, on the inside cover, I wrote: "Thank you for encouraging me to attend Forum. An incredible experience, I am inspired to be more and do more. I am eager to dive into AIAS." This is when I literally and figuratively began writing my AIAS story. I have continued to write my story throughout my time at the University of Kansas - though since that time, I have become better and better at authoring it.

Whether asking for additional notebooks or petitioning curriculum constraints to allow for dual-enrollment in the business school, I have learned the power of self-advocacy. Whether engaging in committee work or enforcing the Studio Culture Guide, AIAS has taught me the power of collective-advocacy. With our voice, we can enact change and positively influence our future.

So, my advice to others: Start writing your story.

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?

While I believe all of these issues are important, and that they are not necessarily separate from one another, I am most passionate about the curriculum structure of an architecture student. I believe that the current format inherently creates learning silos: classroom, studio, design, engineering, technology. This segregated universe does not set us up to succeed in our increasingly interconnected, interdependent world. I believe the architecture student would be better served with a more collaborative, interdisciplinary approach. One in which shared learning and hands-on experience between disciplines is encouraged, thus cultivating an ability to communicate and work across numerous disciplines.

Within this interdisciplinary environment, the themes of AIAS' advocacy will naturally unfold. To successfully collaborate and yield tangible results (as exemplified by the real-world), teams must first be inclusive and in-support of diversity of thought and then develop synergies conducive to a positive culture that prioritizes health and wellness. Interdisciplinary education is innately multifaceted, and actively seeks to embrace technology and to simulate professional practice.

As a Collateral, through public policy and a close-working relationship with ACSA, AIAS must continue influencing faculty and curriculum committees about these real-world scenarios and equip schools to deliver an education that produces dynamic, well-rounded individuals that attribute their exceptional professional positioning to an interdisciplinary academic experience.



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?

I think the key to Chapter growth and connectivity is better leveraging AIAS conferences. Take Forum, for example, the largest global gathering of architecture students in the world. At these gatherings, architecture students celebrate the learning and the lives of a diverse membership with common passions. An incredible experience, these events need to be championed and resourced. I'd like to see equal entry opportunity for Chapters to engage with and benefit from conference attendance. Though there is always room for improvement at the national level, I believe in the compounding effect of community support for the local chapter. By validating AIAS' potential and crafting communities that buy into this potential, external support enables membership growth and conference attendance – which further advances the organization. Community support and conference attendance are co-dependent and compounding.

In order to further coordinate the success of local Chapters, I would like to emphasize a robust intranet for effortless communication and inspiration. AIAS has made great strides toward building communication venues during my time with AIAS. I plan to plunge into the conversation and use my leadership position to implement cost-efficient and effective solutions.

I believe AIAS as a unified voice can catalyze action; thus, improving connectivity is imperative.

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 believe that the greater environment in which our chapters reside is ripe for new engagement. Implementing a push, rather than a pull, methodology would result in intentional and powerful engagement by new symbiotic institutional leaders and individual faculty. For instance, we are supported by NCARB, ACSA, NAAB and AIA appropriately at the national level. I want to assist university leaders and individual faculty into developing and providing this same level of collaboration at the local level – further empowering the local Chapters.

This can be accomplished through education of the faculty and administration. By making requests of and providing opportunities for faculty and administration to listen to students and to truly understand their needs (which often may be different from what they presently presume) the students' voice is amplified and heard. By illustrating the benefits of membership, and with staff and faculty ultimately buying into them, the organization is rewarded with their input and financial resources. Then it is up to the members to steward those resources well – and if they do, it will reinforce the desire for faculty and administration to continue to work with and to support us. To have the endorsement of faculty and administration on a local level – both in voice and in resources – the entire membership body of AIAS will reach higher and achieve greater.

I want to continue to fine-tune our national programs to communicate merit – but more so, I want this merit to equate to tangible relationships/benefits on a local level.



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: ROBYN PAYNE

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: *Robyn Payne*

Date: October 20, 2018



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: ROBYN PAYNE

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: *Robyn Payne*
Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

Date: October 20, 2018



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): ROBYN PAYNE

Chapter: University of Kansas

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): 2016 /17 Chapter President

Email Address: robypayne@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: 847.287.8910

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: /robyn.payne.7
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: /robyn_payne/
- Other: www.robypayne.me



AIAS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

ROBYN PAYNE