
LEVI WILSON

WEST QUAD DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PACKET

2019 - 2020

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LETTER OF INTENT

November 4, 2018

Keshika De Saram, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Keshika De Saram,

It is with careful consideration and eager anticipation that I am informing you of my intent to run for the position of 2019-2020 West Quad Director, and to serve on the Board of Directors for AIAS. My motivation for throwing my hat in the ring is based upon my core beliefs, and my belief in their integrity towards the AIAS mission.

My upbringing occurred on a small ranch in western Nebraska. The people, education, and experience of a rural, agricultural life instilled me with a sense of stewardship that I carry with me to this day. Taking the long view, whether it be in school, AIAS, the profession, or life in general, is a fundamental value of mine, and it is rooted in the belief that this world belongs, not to us in the present, but to the future generations that will follow. I have been an advocate for this philosophy at my school, Montana State University, and within my chapter through my work as Treasurer, Vice-President, President, and at the national level with the 2018-2019 Governance Committee.

I also hold the belief that every individual is of equal worth, and noble birth. This means everyone is worthy of support, fulfillment, and compassion. I have often viewed my role as a leader as being akin to a teacher; I do not seek to establish myself as the dominant guiding force, but rather seek to enable others to be confident in their capabilities, to test their strengths and weaknesses, and for them to grow as positive members of society. A single individual cannot change the world, and it is the realization of that which brings about true, lasting progress.

I am proud of the AIAS, and I am proud to be a part of it. It is with this institution that I feel a great optimism for the future. One in which students and professionals are empowered to make real, positive change. It is my desire to aid in this coming to fruition, and thus my interest in being the 2019-2020 West Quad Director.

Sincerely,



Levi M Wilson

LEVI WILSON

Cell Phone: 1 (308) 665-5434
Email: levi_w014@yahoo.com

13 Glacier Court
Bozeman, MT 59715

I have a passion for passive, sustainable design, and I combine that with an inquisitive admiration for vernacular architecture. I believe the principles of the past in combination with modern technology can be applied to create superb design that will meet the needs of today and the future.

EDUCATION

B.A. of Environmental Design, MSU, Bozeman, MT.
Pursuing M.Arch, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
Expected graduation date, December 2019.
Admitted to Honors College, MSU, Bozeman, MT
Tau Sigma Delta Member
GPA: 3.72

RELEVANT CLASSES

Building Construction
-Used Revit to develop in-depth construction documents with details of assembly
Portfolio Independent Study
-Use Indesign and Photoshop to create presentation material for screen and print viewing
Environmental Control Systems
-Used Sketchup, Sefaira, Climate Consultant, and EQuest to create sustainable designs
Community Design Center
-Measured & recorded as-builts, met with clients and provided concept design services, led client meetings, and used Revit, Photoshop, & InDesign to make design proposals

LEADERSHIP

MSU AIAS President 2018-'19 Academic Year
MSU AIAS Vice President 2017-'18 Academic Year
MSU AIAS Chapter Treasurer 2016-'17 Academic Year

WORK EXPERIENCE

Current
Montana State University - Graduate Teaching Assistant
Supervisor: Chere LeClair 160 Cheever Hall
406-539-3191 Bozeman, MT
cleclair@montana.edu 59717
Past
MossCreek Landscapes, Inc. - General Laborer
Supervisor: Josh Gaugler 200 Thorpe Rd.
406-580-0442 Bozeman, MT
nfo@moss creeklandscapes.com 59718

November 12, 2018

Keshika De Saram, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Keshika De Saram,

I am writing to show my support for Levi Wilson and his bid to become the West Quad Director of AIAS. Mr. Wilson has been a student here at Montana State University for the past four years and is currently pursuing his Master of Architecture degree after having successfully completed our Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design with highest honors. His work ethic, strong interpersonal skills, and holistic approach to problem solving make him an ideal candidate for a leadership position interested in furthering the quality of architecture education and the profession.

Beyond his own academic achievements, Levi has shown professionalism and a joy for teaching as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in our Introduction to Design class for non-majors this fall. His critical examination of lecture content, assignment briefs, and student feedback show that he has a clear devotion to improving and enriching the educational experience of all his students.

You can see these same characteristics I have described above in Levi's involvement with our AIAS Chapter. Within the chapter he has worked to create documents and governing precedents that can be easily maintained and passed on to future leaders. Outside the chapter he is driven to improving the educational experience for architecture students here at MSU through his stances advocating for healthier work-life balance, support for student-oriented issues, and broad academic stewardship.

Sincerely,



Ralph Johnson AIA APA
Director, School of Architecture
Montana State University

School of Architecture

160 Cheever Hall
P.O. Box 173760
Bozeman, MT 59717-3760
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CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

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?

Throughout high school I participated in a slew of different teams and organizations, all of which had their benefits, but ultimately these student organizations were just puppets controlled by a coach, teacher, or administrator with little opportunity for genuine leadership. In my second year at MSU I took the initiative and sat in on one of our chapter's weekly board meetings. I was impressed by the level of professionalism and organization this group of individuals portrayed. When election time came, I ran for Treasurer because I wanted to more fully participate and I had a knack for numbers. The rest is history.

When it comes to realizing your potential for leadership, I believe it starts with a little self-examination. What am I interested in? What am I good at? Where can I help? Where do I want to go? From there it is pretty simply to find or create positions that help you grow in ways you never would have considered. For instance, I have never considered myself a "people-person", yet through AIAS and being a GTA I found that I really enjoy working with people, more so than design work.

2. 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?

I have always preferred to fix problems at their cause, not just their symptoms. The problem is that these issues are so intermingled that it is hard to name one factor as a root cause. I also recognize that I cannot solve every issue, so I aim to make it possible for others to succeed where I cannot. With that in mind, I have been a strong advocate for work-life balance; what should be expected of your work, your professors, and yourself. The culture of all-nighters, and never knowing when or being allowed to stop working on a project needs to end. The NCARB Accreditation process, along with the other collaterals, are the best avenue for achieving improvement for student conditions. I fervently believe that once people can take care of themselves, the other bits will fall into place.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

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?

AIAS is at its core a coalition of students from different walks of life. History is full of examples of coalitions, federations, and alliances that were both successful and unsuccessful. The coalition that not only survives, but thrives and unites its members, is the one that is clear about its goals, has a universal system of government that is inclusive, and aims to improve the lives of its members. It is this unity of beliefs that ultimately ties a group of individuals together.

As a member of this year's Governance Committee, I advocated the introduction of a base set of chapter bylaws; they would lay out the rules of parliamentary procedure, provide basic officer role suggestions, and could be amended to fit each chapter's individual needs. I believe this document would be extremely useful to newly formed chapters, chapters that are rebuilding themselves, or new international chapters.

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.

I am a firm believer in meritocracy, and I believe any governing body should make the opportunity to participate as accessible as possible. AIAS does this for the office of President and Vice-President by having those offices be salaried, full-time positions. I think it may be time for Quad Directors to receive a stipend for their hard work and devotion to the organization. As the organization grows, the role of the Quad Director is only going to keep expanding. By ensuring some level of compensation, possible candidates would not have to make the decision to run based on financial constraints.



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: Levi Matthew Wilson

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: Levi M. Wilson

Date: 11-13-2018



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: Levi Matthew Wilson

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: Levi M Wilson
Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

Date: 11-13-2018



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): Levi Wilson

Chapter: Montana State University - Bozeman

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: levi_w014@yahoo.com

Mobile Phone Number: 308.665.5434

A portrait of a man with glasses and a beard, smiling, standing in front of a colorful, abstract mural. He is wearing a dark grey long-sleeved shirt over a white t-shirt. The background features a vibrant mural with geometric patterns in yellow, orange, blue, and pink. To the left, a blurred view of a city street with cars and buildings is visible.

LEVI WILSON

for
WEST QUAD DIRECTOR
2019 - 2020