

Gwendolyn Darling

2023-2024 Midwest Quad Director

Candidacy Packet



Contents

3 Letter of Intent

4 Resume

5 Letter of School Support

6 Letter of AIAS Peer Support

7 Candidate Questionnaire

10 AIAS Policy on Compensation for Interns

11 Elections Code of Ethics

12 Contact Information

Scott Cornelius, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA

AIAS Past President

1735 New York Ave. NW,

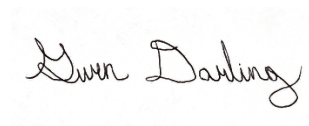
Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Past President Cornelius,

I am writing to inform you that I am running for the 2023-2024 Midwest Quad Director position on the AIAS National Board of Directors. It has been a pleasure being a member of AIAS all these years, and I want to give back to this organization what it has given me. AIAS has provided me with the knowledge, connections, and inspiration that I plan to use as I work my way towards graduate school and eventually becoming an architect. Through AIAS, I was able to break out of my shell, and gain the leadership experience that will help me reach my professional goals. I am proud to say that I was AIAS Treasurer, Fundraising/Sponsorship Committee Chair, and 2022-2023 President of the AIAS Kent State University Chapter. Now I want to take it a step further and get involved nationally! Through the work of my amazing board, we have successfully revived our AIAS chapter after the pandemic. I am genuinely thankful for this chapter, and I hope to help the chapters that perhaps were not as lucky in finding resources that will help their chapter grow and prosper for years to come. Communication, collaboration, and support of each other is the best way to lead a community, as I am sure you know from your time as AIAS President.

I look forward to hearing the results of the elections and hope to help lead AIAS nationally as we welcome the next cohort of architecture students to join us in leading our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwen Darling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gwendolyn Darling

AIAS Chapter President

Kent State University

Gwendolyn Darling, AIAS

Work Experience

Brokenstraw Valley Swimming Pool Concession

2016-2019, Summers

Darling Apothecary LLC Pharmacy Technician

2017-2019, Part-Time

*No Name Relation

Larson Karle Architects Architectural Intern

2021-Present, Full-Time, Summers

Involvement

AIAS Kent Member Spring 2020

Attended virtual meetings and events during the Covid-19 Pandemic

AIAS Kent Treasurer Fall 2021

Attended BoD meetings, kept track of finances, made necessary purchases, and contribute to AIAS.

AIAS Kent Fundraising/Sponsorship Committee Chair Fall 2021

Gathered members interested in fundraising for meetings to come up with ideas and eventually host fundraisers

AIAS President 2022-2023

Lead the AIAS Kent State University Chapter and host panels, workshops, firm crawls, and other various events
Attended National conferences such as the Council of Presidents

Education

Youngsville High School, Youngsville, PA High School Diploma, June 2019

- 4.0 GPA, Merit Honor Roll
- Senior Plaques for Mathematics and Art
- Student of the Week, 4-year Academic Letter

Kent State University, Kent, OH Bachelor of Science in Architecture, May 2023

Minor in Sustainability

- 3.9 GPA, Dean's List
- Honors College
- Kent State University Study Abroad in Florence Program

Honors and Awards

Glavan Scholarship Spring 2022

Arthur Architecture Scholarship Fall 2022

AIA Cleveland Merit Award *Shifting Ground: Ornithology* Fall 2022

Skills

Adobe Suite
Microsoft Office
Rhino
Grasshopper
Revit
AutoCAD
Sketchup

Vray
3D Printing
Model Making
Technical Drawing
Sketching
Public Speaking
Writing



December 02, 2022

The American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

AIAS Midwest Quad Director Application

Dear Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to write to you in support of Gwendolyn Darling's application to serve as the 2023 AIAS Midwest Quad Director. As an AIA Cleveland board member, adjunct-faculty member and AIAS Faculty Advisor at Kent State University's College of Architecture and Environmental Design, I have had the privilege of teaching and working with Gwendolyn.

Gwendolyn Darling is a talented young leader who has been involved with AIAS Kent State Chapter for awhile. In the fall of 2022, Gwendolyn served as the Chapter's President where she faced the challenges of the recent pandemic head on, such as; returning to in person programming and recapturing student interest and increasing membership. She has helped organize a Women in Architecture Panel, a portfolio review workshop, firm crawls, and multiple other events. She is a thoughtful and driven student who is widely respected amongst her student peers and faculty members.

In addition to her outstanding design and leadership skills, Gwendolyn also understands the importance of being involved in the profession. She has volunteered to help at multiple AIA Cleveland events including their annual design awards. Most recently, she was also honored as a student award winner at the 2022 AIA Cleveland Design Awards Program.

It is my hope that you will strongly consider Gwendolyn Darling for Midwest Quad Director. I firmly believe Gwendolyn is an ideal candidate and is someone who would take full advantage of this terrific opportunity to influence the future of the built environment and the architecture profession.

Sincerely,

Adam Yaracs, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
2022 ENR Midwest Top 20 Young Professional Recipient
2020 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award Recipient
2019 AIA National Young Architect Award Recipient
Adjunct Faculty | Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design
AIAS Advisor | Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design
Project Manager | IKM Architecture

Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design
132 South Lincoln Street
Kent, OH 44240
Email: ayaracs@kent.edu
Ph: 216-407-9306

Dear Past President Cornelius,

I could not be more honored, or more excited, to be writing this letter to support Gwendolyn Darling in her run for AIAS National Board of Directors as the 2023-2024 Midwest Quad Director. As a skilled leader, a passionate designer, and motivated student, I cannot imagine anyone more fitting for this role.

I have been a member of the American Institute of Architecture Students at Kent State since early 2020. I had observed Gwen as a general member, fundraising committee head, treasurer, and now chapter President to my Vice President. Seeing Gwen's passion and involvement towards the organization was contagious, inspiring me to take on a leadership role alongside her. Despite the challenges of school, work, COVID-19, and other obstacles, she has never hesitated to step into the roles necessary to see the success of the chapter and promote growth and culture within Kent State's College of Architecture and Environmental Design - even from a distance.

An excellent communicator and collaborator, Gwen has set records this academic year as she brought in-person events back in full swing. AIAS Kent hosted a record 14 major events in the Fall 2022 semester under her leadership, ranging from professional networking events, thoughtful workshops and presentations, to de-stressing social events. These well-attended events rekindled the studio culture many forgot in the time of distance learning and promoted interaction between different years and majors that was not present before. I am personally a witness to her inspiring underclassmen to join, get involved, and fulfill leadership positions of their own.

As having been her partner within the organization as well as within our education, I am in awe of Gwen's motivation and time management skills, and believe that will prepare her perfectly for the role of Midwest Quad Director. I look forward to seeing how the chapters will thrive under her leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor Huntley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eleanor Huntley

AIAS Kent State Chapter Vice President

Candidate Questionnaire

1. We all love the AIAS for different reasons, but it takes a critical and constructive analysis of the institutions we appreciate most to continue to evolve them into entities that can support each new generation of membership. Why are you running for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors? What about the organization and its membership motivates you to seek a leadership position?

When I began my education in architecture at Kent State University, I felt as though I did not have time to engage in any clubs or organizations. I did not join AIAS until February of my sophomore year, to meet people and escape some of the hardships that the Covid-19 pandemic had created. I realized that I had been missing out on incredible opportunities to make friends, network and meet professionals, and gain real world experience, and became more and more involved in AIAS as time went on. Now, I am currently AIAS President of the Kent State University Chapter for 2022-2023. I love this position as it has given me the opportunity to revive AIAS after the pandemic and give students the opportunities that I did not have access to in the past and make AIAS as beneficial to its members as possible. I am running for Midwest Quad Director because I want to have the opportunity to support chapter leaders and encourage communication and collaboration between them so that every chapter can provide a variety of innovative opportunities to each of their members.

2. Describe your leadership style. Explain how previous experiences working with teams have helped you discover your leadership style.

My leadership style consists of constant support, communication, and collaboration with my colleagues. I discovered through previous teamwork or partnerships that the best way to have a good project or plan an event well is to properly communicate with each other and ensure that no one person is taking on a greater responsibility than they can handle or being left out of the team entirely. Everyone must support each other throughout the entire process to ensure everything goes to plan. For example, last year was my first time being in a partnership for an architecture studio project. My partner had a very different design style than mine, and a very different schedule, as she commuted, and I lived on campus. We argued about our project constantly in the beginning, and it became an issue where someone was always mad at the other. Communication was what saved our friendship, partnership, and our project. Through communication, we were able to establish boundaries, and work together in a way that we were both contributing to the project equally in the areas in which we were strongest, without getting overwhelmed or frustrated with each other. We continue to work together in studio and AIAS today.

I also use this style of communication and leadership now when it comes to running the AIAS Kent State University Chapter. Before the school year started, I met with my board of directors and let them know the goals I had in mind for the year, which included not only helping AIAS grow, but also ensuring that everyone could get what they want out of AIAS and contribute themselves without feeling overwhelmed. Everyone has specific tasks, but they are allowed to branch out, help plan an event, etc. to make AIAS a...

community in which they and their peers can enjoy. My leadership style has led the AIAS Kent Chapter to grow monumentally since the pandemic, with over 14 major events just this semester thus far, all ideas taken from members of AIAS. I look forward to finishing the school year strong and hope to bring this leadership style to the Midwest Quad to create the same growth on a larger scale.

3. 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, Learning & Teaching 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 find that the issue the Architecture field and study struggles with the most is the concept of equity and integrity. We are capable of easily learning new technologies, gaining practical experience, and the world is changing for the better so that advocacy for these issues is becoming greater. However, I feel that the biggest issue is how people tend to look down on others. Whether it be due to sex, race, educational background, culture, etc.; it is a frequent occurrence that those with different backgrounds or appearances are not recognized for their accomplishments. Every year, the AIAS Kent Chapter hosts a Women in Architecture Panel with several women architects from a variety of backgrounds to talk about the challenges they have overcome within the architecture field. They told us stories about how they were not acknowledged on site visits with coworkers, even if they were the lead architect on the project, or how they had to fight for fair pay because a man with the same title was being paid more for less work. At Kent State, we have meetings to discuss equity within the College of Architecture and Environmental Design as well. An issue that we have been focusing on resolving is how Architecture Studies students are treated like they are inferior by Architecture students simply because they are looking at architecture-adjacent fields rather than the traditional architecture field. These students are made to believe, by their own colleagues, that they will not be able to find a job, or that they cannot participate in student organizations like AIAS because of their variety of focuses beyond architecture. We, as AIAS, have been collaborating with the other student organizations and the faculty of the CAED to ensure that these students feel welcome within the college and are able to join AIAS through their interest in architecture, regardless of their major. As an elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors, I would have a similar approach, and discuss ways that we can use our organization to promote equity through our events and face these issues with the help of those who have overcome them.

4. The AIAS has over 250 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size, age range, and even purpose. 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 the Midwest Quad Director, I would promote engagement amongst the chapters by encouraging them to communicate with each other based on their common interests. Many chapters come to the monthly Heartland Huddle meetings and describe issues they are having with attendance or planning an event that they have never hosted before. This is a great opportunity to have chapter leaders communicate with each...

...other about what has been successful for them and contact each other outside of the... meetings as well. The Heartland Huddles should also be an opportunity to introduce the chapters to each other, beyond AIAS, and tell each other about their differences so we can learn their perspective and what they have to offer. I would also like to make the Midwest Quad Slack channel more engaging where people can share photos from their events and inspire others. I would also like to inspire a sense of teamwork amongst the chapters. One concept is that the chapters could form teams to make media boards of their successes from the year and present it at the Midwest Quad Conference or on social media as a way for them to get to know each other and find common ground. I am interested in how social media can be an effective resource to keep track of each of the chapters, remember faces, and learn about each member of our AIAS community.

5. Describe how you intend to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of your chosen position on the Board. Elaborate on your intended communication/action plan and the primary goals you have for your one-year term.

I intend to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the Midwest Quad Director by getting to know all the chapter leaders personally and keep track of their various challenges and successes. I would support each chapter and connect their leaders with each other so that they can share their best practices. I would continue the Heartland Huddles and make them not only a source of information and reports, but a source of fun, community engagement. Chapter leaders will be encouraged to bring their concerns and interests to the table, and trust that I will be able to advocate for them on the AIAS National Board on their behalf. I would also help them achieve membership targets with my own experience as an AIAS Chapter President and introduce methods that they may not have tried in collaboration with the Vice President. All chapters would be reminded of all of the resources available to them, including but not limited to: the master contact list, membership dashboard, membership packet, resources from the AIAS National website, and more. I would act in accordance with all my responsibilities as Midwest Quad Director, beyond those stated above, and attend all conferences and committee meetings in which I am part of. My primary goal for my one-year term would be to ensure that every chapter is proud of their progress by the end of the school year and encourage the future leaders of AIAS to take on an elected position. I hope to contribute to AIAS' growing list of accomplishments and exceed expectations of the role of the Midwest Quad Director.



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: Gwendolyn Darling

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: Gwen Darling

Date: 12/02/2022



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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 and Board 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: Gwendolyn Darling

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: *Gwen Darling*

Date: 12/02/2022

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



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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): Gwendolyn Darling

Chapter: Kent State University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: aiaskent@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: (814) 706-7684

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: gwen.darling.37
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: @gwen.d.architect
- o Other: linkedin.com/in/gwendolyn-darling-18bb18191