



Trevin Thompson

2023-2024

West Quad Director Candidacy Packet

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November 29th, 2022

Dear Scott Cornelius, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to announce my intent to run for the office of West Quad Director of the AIAS.

From my first time stepping into a studio at the University of Washington just three days after my high school graduation and attending my first AIAS meeting just a couple months later, I've been enamored with the culture and community of us architecture students. While I certainly remained active in both UW and WSU chapters, I never saw myself in a leadership position until I was pushed to run by past leaders. For this, I am incredibly thankful, through my role as president of the Washington State University chapter I have grown so much both personally and professionally.

It was just in this past year as president, from meeting so many amazing people, including you, at Grassroots, to leading the weekly meetings at WSU in our own Carpenter Hall, that I really understood what drove me in what we do. I strive to serve every member of my student body on a daily basis because I believe in the value of an architectural education and the hurdles that coincide with it. It is this passion for service and the AIAS that has driven me to seek out a position serving a greater number of students.

I believe that I have the potential to be an excellent Quad Director. I've already expressed how dedicated I am to our profession and service, but I've also been described as approachable, patient, and organized. The WSU chapter has seen excellent growth under my leadership, multiplying membership from previous years. This growth is expressed even off the page, as student engagement within our academic program as a whole has increased from last year. I ran for chapter president in an effort to bring back a studio culture post-covid, an effort which has been fruitful. It's been great seeing students working and collaborating back in studios outside of our required hours, which inspires my vision for what my leadership could do for the entirety of the West (best) Quad.

Thank you so much Scott, for your time in reading my letter of intent, and for your years of service to our wonderful organization.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevin Thompson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Trevin Thompson, AIAS
WSU AIAS President
trevin.thompson@wsu.edu

TREVIN N THOMPSON

18113 Jordan Road,
Arlington, WA 98223
(209) 627-5578 | trevin.thompson@wsu.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

American Capitol Group, Bellevue, WA - Architectural Intern

May 2022 - August 2022

- Designed and developed drawings of dwellings for a 452 unit residential development

Lowe's, Arlington, WA - Customer Service Associate | Lumber & Building Materials

June 2021 - August 2021

- Advised homeowners, contractors, and other customers to recommend optimal building materials

EDUCATION

Washington State University, Pullman, WA - M. Architecture

June 2023 - May 2024

Washington State University, Pullman, WA - B.S. Architectural Studies

August 2020 - May 2023

University of Washington, Seattle, WA - Transferred

June 2018 - May 2019

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

AIAS, Washington State University - President

July 2022 - Present

- Lead the WSU chapter in organizing events, running meetings, communicating with faculty & students

AIAS Freedom By Design Advisory Committee - Member

September 2022 - Present

- Current project seeks to create shading and sun shelter for the Whitman County Humane Society

AIAS Freedom By Design, Washington State University - Design Lead

September 2021 - May 2022

- Current project seeks to create shading and sun shelter for the Whitman County Humane Society

Teaching Assistant, SDC 140, Washington State University

January 2022 - May 2022, January 2023 - May 2023

- Guided learning throughout Foundational Studio II by providing desk critiques, resolving technological issues, and addressing additional concerns
- Aided in course organization by distributing materials on canvas, taking attendance, and grading assignments

Teaching Assistant, ARCH 309, Washington State University

August 2022 - December 2022

- Aided in course organization by distributing course materials on canvas, taking attendance, and grading assignments

Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity, Pullman, WA - Treasurer & Vice President

May 2021 - Present

- Manage the financial accounts of the organization
- Regularly uplifting the Pullman community through service

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Uva Dr. Residence Addition

Development of construction documents for a 408ft² home addition with Revit

Studio Culture

Zine documenting the architectural education experience through film photography

AWARDS

R.H. Logan Scholarship in Architecture

June 2021

Rolf M. Burger Memorial Scholarship

July 2022

November 27, 2022

Scott Cornelius, AIA, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President
The American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Cornelius:

I am thrilled to support Trevin Thompson's intention to run for West Quadrant Director for the 2022 American Institute of Architects (AIAS) elections cycle. I have known Trevin since the fall of 2021 in my capacity as an Associate Professor and Faculty Advisor to AIAS in the School of Design and Construction at Washington State University (WSU). I consider Trevin among the most professional, organized, and responsible students with whom I have worked in recent memory, and I believe is well prepared to take on this leadership position with AIAS. I am also aware of Trevin's simultaneous desire to seek a seat on the AIAS National Board of Directors and the responsibilities that come with that position.

Trevin has been an ideal leader for our school's AIAS chapter since he began his stint as AIAS president at the conclusion of the 2021-22 academic year, following a year as the design lead for our Freedom by Design chapter. As we have been transitioning out of the pandemic and returning to in-person instruction in classes and studios, Trevin has helped balance students' desire to re-engage with the college experience by offering an excellent combination of in-person meetings and critiques with online tutorials and the facilitation of virtual events, thereby providing multiple avenues for student engagement—and re-engagement. By reaching out to first year and transfer students—students who often feel less engaged in the life of the Architecture program—Trevin also has demonstrated an inclusivity that has been less common of AIAS presidents through the years.

Trevin has also worked collaboratively with AIAS leadership and facilitated the skills of his executive team. In one particular instance, Trevin's student responsibilities necessitated his presence in Chicago for a five-day study tour in October of 2022; this trip coincided with an NCARB licensure event that he earlier arranged—but was compelled to reschedule due to the shifting availability of professional architects. In this case, Trevin worked carefully with the AIAS vice president to ensure the event's success. In other cases, he has encouraged other members of his executive team to run workshops and software tutorials—teaching and leadership activities he could orchestrate on his own, but those which he gave to others so they had the opportunity to excel. From my perspective, this is the best kind of leadership: one where a proven leader ensures that others also have the opportunity to shine. Furthermore, he offers an "open desk" practice where he invites students from all years of the program to visit and discuss architecture—or anything. Trevin has an easy-going and approachable demeanor that makes anyone feel comfortable in his presence.

When I met with Trevin in summer of 2022 to discuss his plans as AIAS president, I mentioned that as a faculty advisor, I was available and willing to provide advice should he or the team desire it—but that I did not intend to interfere with the group or its direction unless I sensed a lack of activity or motivation. Unsurprisingly, Trevin's professionalism, responsibility, and organizational skills—which has influenced the rest of the team—has minimized my involvement: this is precisely as it should be for any professional organization. I have been highly impressed with the way Trevin has managed AIAS so far this year.

Trevin's academic abilities are also impressive. He was among the top students in my nearly sixty-student course on Modern Architecture and Theory in fall of 2021: a lecture and writing-based course with a discussion component. While it is typically difficult for undergraduates to stand out in a course of that size—not to mention that everyone was masked—Trevin's sharp responses to online queries and his regular engagement in the discussion sections helped him stand out among his peers. I was thrilled when I saw his application to serve as one of my teaching assistants for that same course for fall of 2022, as the TA position requires a great deal of organization, grading, and other behind-the-scenes tasks that require attention to detail and professional responsibility. I knew that with Trevin as one of my teaching assistants, I would be able to rely upon him for the timely completion of tasks as well as the conscientious and thoughtful comments on student papers and assignments.

I have not been disappointed. Trevin's detailed comments are equal parts encouraging and critical (when necessary); his assessments overall are thorough and provide students with excellent suggestions for improvement. During the smaller discussion seminars (which are led by TAs), Trevin deftly elides between monitoring (and grading) the discussion while also becoming an active participant, offering new perspectives and helping keep the discussion on topic. For a soon-to-be graduate student who may have his sights set on becoming a professional *designer* and not necessarily a theoretician, writer, discussion facilitator, or professional speaker, Trevin's ability to perform so effectively in all of these capacities are a testament to his wide-ranging skills. That he also holds a leadership position with our school's Alpha Rho Chi chapter is further testament to his ability to juggle several activities at once—and to manage them all with equal aplomb.

They are also a testament to how effective Trevin would perform as AIAS West Quad Director, a position for which he is eminently qualified. Trevin Thompson has my enthusiastic and unqualified support as he prepares to announce his candidacy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Gruen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J. Philip Gruen
Associate Professor
jpgruen@wsu.edu / 509.335.2309

November 30th, 2022

Scott Cornelius AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President,

The American Institute of Architecture Students

1735 New York Ave.

Washington, DC 20006

It is with great honor that I recommend Trevin Thompson for the position of West Quad Director for the American Institute of Architecture Students. Knowing Trevin for the last year and a half in studio settings, multiple T.A. positions, as well as being his Vice President, he has exemplified the qualities needed to be a great leader and more importantly a qualified candidate. He is passionate and purpose driven with a strong determination to help others in their path of education and architecture careers.

Trevin creates a safe space for underclassmen and upperclassmen during studio hours outside of regularly scheduled AIAS meetings where students can get help on their studio projects. He has created an environment where students get to know their officers and create genuine friendships. This has allowed for students across different grades to be more engaged in AIAS when they see their officers more as friends than simply officers.

After the turbulent years of 2019 and 2020, Trevin took the role of AIAS President with the intent of reestablishing the foundation needed to enable an executive team that works collaboratively to organize events to serve students, academically, socially, and professionally. Although a challenging and stressful position, Trevin recognizes that his efforts and the relationships he establishes in his tenure will contribute to the success of the chapter and students for years to come.

Trevin's involvement in multiple ventures related to leadership and architecture make him a candidate that stands out from the rest. His involvement is a testament to his willingness and determination to excel as a leader but more importantly a representation of his passion for helping others on their path to careers in architecture.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex L', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alexander Lovtsov

AIAS Vice President

alex.lovtsov@wsu.edu / 253.345.8691

AIAS West Quad Director 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?

First and foremost, I am running to continue my efforts in supporting and mentoring the architectural student community. Everyday here at Washington State, I wake up driven to participate in and serve the community within our architecture program. My tenure as leader of my chapter has largely focused on long term implications of our AIAS chapter; building up a healthy and active studio culture, establishing strong relationships with administration and allied organizations, and organizing our records. I believe this long term mindset would be incredibly beneficial to the larger organization.

I'm also running to lead our best quad for the same reason I ran to lead my chapter. I never expected to hold chapter leadership, but was pushed to after just one year at Washington State by chapter leadership. In seeking the Quad Director position, I was encouraged by a previous Quad Director and my peers. From this confidence inspired by those close to me, and the confidence I hold in my vision for our organization, I would love to represent and serve the Best Quad!

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

Just in the past few months as president at Washington State University, I've discovered so much about myself both in and outside of my leadership roles. I've found that in addition to my leadership in Alpha Rho Chi, my position as President with AIAS has shown my capability to take initiative and yet surprisingly still hold a collaborative and casual leadership style. From other student leaders around campus, I've seen figures that take themselves very seriously, which, while certainly professional, makes them non-approachable to the students they serve. I've countered this by inviting students from all years to my studio desk, and trying my best to include a little gag with every presentation. This all began with our introductory meeting in which

I equated the AIAS to Hannah Montana: “we’ll give you the best of both worlds; the AIAS will aid you in both your academic AND professional careers!”

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?

If I had to pick one, it would by far and away have to be learning and teaching culture. In running to lead my chapter, I chose to focus on studio culture, with the intent of fostering or at least working with the student body to encourage an academic culture of vitality. While we’ve certainly had great success at my university, multiplying our membership, and vastly increasing the number of students working in studios rather than at home, I’ve found some areas where we, and the AIAS internationally, could improve. I still believe that culture is going to be unique to each institution, but I’d push to provide more resources to chapter leaders on fostering these communities we hold dear. I began my time, pushing faculty out of the conversation in an effort to encourage student ownership of the culture, but I now believe that faculty are just as important to this conversation as our peers. I’d push our national team to provide resources to chapters on how to interact with their educators in determining how to foster a healthy and productive academic culture.

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?

I’d like to first recognize my ignorance to the cultures in other corners of our country and those chapters abroad. Though, having grown up in all three of the west coast states, I feel fortunate to have been exposed to an incredibly culturally diverse group of people. These experiences were instrumental in shaping who I am, even outside of my roles as a student leader, and I’m sure they would aid me in my outreach to chapters thousands of miles from my own. At an individual chapter level, I’d push for a further structured partnership between AIAS

and NOMA student chapters. While Washington State University does not currently have a chapter, I am working with some of my peers to establish a NOMA student on the palouse next year!

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.

In reflection of the recent pandemic and our switch to online education, I would still seek to upkeep the communication via Slack as to stay consistent with other quads and national communications. In addition to continuity in communication, I would really like to focus on introducing more opportunities for leaders from different chapters to connect in a less formal manner outside of our conferences. The relationships I hold with other chapter leaders have been incredibly valuable to my personal and chapter success, and I believe all leaders need those personal resources. Many of us feel Zoom and other video meeting formats seem to be an uncomfortable space to socialize or connect so the need for an alternative is clear. I could see this happening in a space that would of course still have to be virtual, but not necessarily AIAS or even architecture specific. This could be something as fun as a Minecraft server, or a recurring game night with a small group of people. The point is that these relationships between chapters are one of the most valuable parts of the AIAS, and I see fostering these as my biggest priority.

In addition to the specific goal of inter-chapter relationships, I also am very well aware of the larger responsibilities of the West Quad Director. I am incredibly driven to serve my current chapter members, which is the enthusiastic attitude I will bring to serving each of the 49 chapters of the West Quad. After coming out of the worst of the pandemic, I largely revived our chapter, so I understand the need for established resources for chapter leadership. In my role as Director, I would be more than willing to help each chapter in establishing the “back door” chapter infrastructure needed to host events and relationships with allied organizations.

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: Trevin Thompson

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: 12/01/2022

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: Trevin Thompson

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: 

Date: 12/01/2022

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



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): Trevin Thompson

Chapter: Washington State University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: Trevin.Thompson@wsu.edu

Mobile Phone Number: (209) 627-5578

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Trevin Thompson
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: trevinthompson
- o Other: LinkedIn: Trevin-Thompson-AIAS