Candidate Statement

Design is a means by which theories (invention) are put into practice with the outcome being true INNOVATION.

While the institution delivers students the foundation necessary for the practice of architecture, academia is equally poised to reengage the profession and contribute to the vision for the advancement of the design disciplines and, thereby, enrich the populations we serve. The educational environment is one in which faculty and students can imagine, explore, and invent a better future while offering the community advancements in knowledge. Strengthening collaborative efforts between the institution and the profession, as well as between the ACSA and its constituent organizations, is essential if we are to effectively address current and future challenges, big and small, in our local and global communities.

In many ways, my nineteen years of administrative, academic, creative research, and service experience at The University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture supports the role of ACSA Secretary/Treasurer and the mission and values of the ACSA as described in the 2016–19 Strategic Plan. As the ACSA moves from a position of serving to one of leading architectural education and research, I am particularly excited about furthering partnered research between practice and academia; understanding and overcoming the barriers to achieving gender and racial diversity in the institution and profession; increasing the effectiveness of the ACSA and collateral partnerships; increasing interdisciplinary programs (and knowledge production); and growing peer-reviewed publication opportunities and connections to funding resources. Such initiatives can only enhance the relevance of the ACSA to the institution as well as the profession.

administrative
From 2008-2013, I served as one of three associate deans for The University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture. While I directly focused on the undergraduate Architecture (B.Arch.; B.S.A.S.) and Interior Design (B.S.I.D.) programs, which include roughly 380 students, I also considered the needs and trajectories of the school as a whole. This experience in administration provided me with an understanding of the relationship between vision and implementation. Aligning the means (budgets, people, tools) toward achieving transformational outcomes is likewise an essential role of the ACSA Secretary/Treasurer. Additionally, as the Director of the Professional Residency Program, I am currently involved in the placement of 45-50 upper-level architecture students each year in exceptional firms nationally and internationally. In this capacity, I support staff and manage budgets while also engaging the profession in a manner that allows rare insight into the spectrum of practice.

academic
My teaching and research is inherently interdisciplinary and attempts to create a comprehensive understanding of the built environment. While embracing the students of Interior Design, Architecture, Community & Regional Planning, and Landscape Architecture in my seminars and studios over the years, I draw inspiration and knowledge from geography, art, environmental science, history, economics, and politics. While I believe we must bolster our respective disciplines, it is equally important to enable exchange across them in order to address today’s “wicked problems” involving economic, environmental, and political issues.

creative research
My creative research utilizes maps as a tool to study endurance (persistence over time) as manifest in the landscape. In architecture and its allied disciplines, “mapping” has emerged as a means to understand and visually capture the complex forces, whether cultural or natural, at play within the environment. As an example, following the devastation of New Orleans, colleagues and I studied resiliency of urban form when faced with ecological and economic flux in Resilient Foundations: The Gulf Coast After Katrina, which was exhibited at the 10th Venice Biennale in 2006. While an effort coordinated by the UT School of Architecture, the research and corresponding exhibition would not have been possible without the contributions of many professionals and academics across the allied disciplines, underscoring the necessity of (interdisciplinary) research that partners practice and academia.

service
Over the years, in addition to service to the school and the university, I have been involved with the ACSA as a conference co-chair, paper reviewer, topic chair, ACSA Councilor (2004–08), and awards juror. Being a juror for, and a previous recipient of, the ACSA Diversity Achievement Award has been particularly insightful and inspiring. As the co-chair for the school’s Diversity Task Force from 2009–12 (and as co-chair of the ongoing Committee on Diversity + Equity), I contributed to the establishment of the core mission, values, and strategies in support of an inclusive educational environment for all students, faculty, and staff. As Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, I reinstated NOMAS as well as enhanced our student mentoring programs in support of the increasingly diverse student body, particularly at the undergraduate level. Underscoring the AIA’s Diversity in the Profession of Architecture Report, ACSA’s goal of “advancing an inclusive, diverse discipline and profession” is of utmost importance.

Given the level of expertise and commitment evidenced by the ACSA Board of Directors and Staff, I am honored by their confidence in my candidacy as ACSA Secretary/Treasurer. If elected, I would welcome my role as ACSA Secretary/Treasurer, an integral member of the ACSA Executive Committee, in implementation of the 2016–19 Strategic Plan and the future successes of this organization at the forefront of architectural education and research.
Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

TEACHING / ADMINISTRATION
The University of Texas at Austin
  Director, Professional Residency Program (internships) 2008 - 09, 2013 - Present
  Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs 2008 - 2013
  Associate Professor, Paul Philippe Cret Centennial Teaching Fellow 2004 - Present
  Assistant Professor 1997 - 2003
University of Arkansas, John Williams Distinguished Visiting Professor 2008
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Visiting Assistant Professor 2000 - 2001
Rhode Island School of Design, Visiting Critic 2000 - 2001

CREATIVE RESEARCH / PRACTICE
  El Camino Real de los Tejas: A Cartographic Exploration of People + Place 2015 - Present
  Sponge Urbanism, (with Jason Sowell), HYDROcity Exhibition, Toronto 2009
  Resilient Foundations: The Gulf Coast After Katrina (UT team), 10th Venice Biennale 2006
  Re-Collecting Rome (traveling solo-exhibition) 2001 - 2003
  Nichole Wiedemann, Austin, TX 1993 - Present
  Lou Kimball Architect, Austin, TX 2001, 2008
  Andrea Clark Brown Architects, Naples, FL 1993 - 1995

EDUCATION
  Princeton University, Master of Architecture 1992
  University of Florida, Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Honors) 1989

SERVICE
University Gender Equity Council, Member 2015 - Present
  Committee on Diversity + Equity, Co-chair 2015 - Present
  Tau Sigma Delta, Faculty Advisor 2012 - Present
  ACSA Administrators Conference, Austin, TX, Co-chair 2013
  NAAB Accreditation Report and Visit, Co-coordinator 2012
  ACSA Conference, *just add water*, Austin, TX, Co-chair 2007
  ACSA Faculty Councilor 2004 - 08

PUBLICATIONS
  To Draw or Not To Draw, Traces & Trajectories: The University of Texas at Austin at 100 2010
  (Austin, TX: Center for American Architecture and Design)
  New Orleans after Katrina, (with Jason Sowell), On Site Review #17: culture urbanism art architecture, (Alberta, Canada: Assoc. for Non-Profit Architectural Fieldwork) 2007
  reconsidering the MIXMASTER in Dallas: A Game of Space, Moves and Strategies Proceedings: Interventions + Experimentation, ACSA Conference, Detroit, MI 2005

HONORS / GRANTS
  Snell Endowment for Transportation Research Grant 2016
  ACSA Diversity Achievement Award 2013
  Meadows Foundation Curriculum Grant 2010
  Outstanding Scholarship Award 2007
  Texas Excellence Teaching Award 2001
  American Academy in Rome, Rome Prize in Architecture 1997

For bio, please visit: http://soa.utexas.edu/people/nichole-wiedemann