Dear BAC students,

You joined us with a dream. We will support you so you may realize your dream to cross the finish line and make your families and us proud. Your success is our mission. We are #BACstrong!

I know some of you have been struggling to get through the current semester, let alone think about the next academic year. Some of you have lost your jobs and your families have lost their livelihood. You may have gone home to your families as far away as Taiwan or Kuwait and hunkered down.

These are tough times, but difficult times build character. I know you are up for the challenge! We are here to stick with you so you can stay the course to cross the finish line. Our faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and friends are all rooting for your success and standing by to assist.

Let me share with you some thoughts about why staying the course and continuing with your education is important. I will also share with you the many initiatives we are rolling out to support you to graduate on time.

- As #1 ranked graduate school and #4 ranked undergraduate architecture school in the country, our graduates, including our online degree earners, make the highest national average earnings of $61,200 per annum a year after graduation, followed by graduates of Yale ($59,400), Columbia ($58,600), Berkeley (58,400), MIT ($58,100) and Harvard ($58,100).
- Prior to the current crisis, and even before graduation, BAC students make an average of
$35,000 a year, thanks to our unparalleled practice-integrated education.

- The BAC is actively working towards the receipt of funding through the recently passed CARES act. The way in which the BAC will then be able to award grants to students will be dependent upon the stipulations put on these funds by the federal government. As soon as we have clear guidance how we can utilize these funds to assist our students, we will institute a process for students to request assistance. You may email finaid@the-bac.edu with any questions.

- We recognize that these are trying times for all our students and that our international students have added stressors related to travel and currency exchange rates, among other things. As such, we have created an International Student Taskforce as a way for the BAC to evaluate any actions that might impact this specific student population in unique ways.

I hope you can see the key takeaways from these facts I’ve mentioned above. First, you are the best in the country and firms are willing to pay top dollars to hire BAC graduates. Second, your graduation will provide a substantial advantage in your ability to nearly double your earnings.

So, the sooner you graduate, the more competitive you will be in the global market. When the world reopens, opportunities will arise to those who are best prepared. The BAC community will support you to be ready for the future. Stay the course.

We are rolling out many initiatives to help you to come #Back2BAC and #StayTheCourse:

1. Continually serving you irrespective of how long the pandemic lasts. As the pioneers in online education, we are the leaders in online education, and you are in the best place.
2. Establishing a BAC Student Empowerment Fund, including additional financial aid, to support your ability to stay enrolled.

3. Launching the BAC Lab in the Cloud initiative to provide access to all the software tools and the processing power you need delivered through the cloud accessible from any device anywhere, even your phone, as if you are working on a BAC lab computer! We are proud to be the first architecture and design school anywhere to do so.

4. Expanding our BAC Gateway program in innovative directions. More on this soon!

5. Accessing BAC advising, digital library resources, Learning Resource Center, Student Assistance Program, mental health resources, etc. both virtually and via phone.

6. Informing you through a multitude of communication tools – student newsletter, social media, email alerts, phone, and on our website!

So, dear students, I urge you to let us know how we can help you to come #Back2BAC and #StayTheCourse!

Warm regards,

Dr. Mahesh Daas,
President

Additional News + Resources

All BAC students -- This is a weird, challenging time. We’re here to talk—about BAC life, or life in general, because not everything fits neatly into a department or category. You are not alone. Contact Richard Griswold, Richard.griswold@the-bac.edu to help direct your question or concern.

Your voice matters! By taking a few minutes out of your day to complete this student survey, we are
Join us for BAC Talks!
We have turned the BAC’s in-person Gala into an exciting virtual event, BAC Talks, featuring thought leaders and panelists who will discuss topics of great relevance to the post-pandemic world. We will stream the event live on **June 10th at 7PM**. Please stay tuned for more exciting details!

2020 ASLA Awards
Due to disruptions caused by the current pandemic, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is extending the submission deadline for the **2020 ASLA Student Awards** to Sunday, May 31, at 11:59 pm PST.

TAKE SURVEY
Cross Registration Opens April 30
Register to take classes at any of our fellow Pro Arts Consortium schools including Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Emerson College, MassArt, New England Conservatory, and SMFA at Tufts. Visit proarts.org/cross-registration to browse through available courses!
Summer registration is open! Classes begin on June 1. [Click here to complete your online registration](#)

Please reach out to ce@the-bac.edu with any questions.

Stay updated with the BAC's COVID-19 Webpage
As always, please visit our [COVID-19 page](#) for the latest information. If you have questions, please direct them to emergencymanagement@the-bac.edu. You can also follow us on Twitter [@TheBACBoston](#) for up-to-date and relevant information.

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