Dear BAC community,

I am delighted to announce that following an extensive national search, Victoria [Vic] Liptak has been named our new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Sydney Leo has been named our new Vice President of Finance and Administration. Both bring the highest levels of expertise and professionalism to bear on their new roles at The Boston Architectural College.

Prior to joining the BAC, Vic was Chief Academic Officer at Kendall College of Art and Design, Ferris State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Brooks Institute in Ventura, California; and at Woodbury University in southern California. Prior to these appointments she served as Associate Dean of Woodbury’s School of Architecture.

Vic has devoted her professional practice to developing excellence in design education, and believes sustainable human habitation of our shared planet depends on equity and inclusion in higher education and in the spatial design professions.

She received a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics from UC Santa Cruz; a Master of Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc); and a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership from the California State University’s joint program at CSU Channel Islands and Fresno State. Vic has also studied and taught abroad in France and Turkey, and recognizes the crucial human connections across diverse populations.

Sydney brings over 30 years of experience serving commercial, non-profit, and HBCU educational institutions. Prior to the BAC, she was the National Higher Education Advisory Leader at BDO USA, LLP. She also held the position of Vice President of Finance and Administration at Fisk University and Hartwick College.

Sydney has worked with organizations on a wide range of issues related to Strategic Planning, Financial Sustainability, Operational Excellence and Improvement, Technology Improvement, Advanced Analytics and Benchmarking, Alternative Revenue Planning and Implementation, and Compliance and Risk Management.

She received a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems from Bentley University; a Master of Science in Finance & Accounting from University of Hartford; and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Smith College.

I am especially thankful for the individual BAC community members who comprised the search committee, and worked collaboratively in order to ensure such a successful conclusion.

These comprehensive national searches, which began several months ago, ensured diligent recruitment processes with a high response of qualified candidates. It is a true testament to our capacity as a College and the strength of our community that we were able to continue with these key hires even when confronted with our current global crisis.
I am also sincerely grateful to both Susan Dunton for successfully overseeing Academic Affairs during the interim period and search, and Mark Virello for his sound and steady leadership of the BAC’s Finance and Administration teams over the past three years.

Please join me in welcoming Vic and Sydney to our BAC community. I have an unwavering sense they will be well received, just as I was almost one year ago!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mahesh Daas, President

This Week’s Department Feature: Security & All Essential Staff On Campus

A BIG thank you to our entire Security Team for being onsite and looking out for our campus! To all our essential staff, thank you for continually coming onsite. Also big shout-out to Ledio Jaho who has continuously run the mail room and copy center, scanning needs for staff and faculty, and supporting us from afar. We appreciate each one of you for your dedication and support! Thank you.

Now more than ever, learning the art of work-life balance is critical to our health and well-being. We recognize this is a difficult time for everybody, which is why we’ve dedicated this week’s edition of @Home with the BAC to Work Life Harmony. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these resources to maintain a work-life balance:

FREE Webinars from USAble
Uncertainty and Parenting
Surviving During a Pandemic
Self-Care for First Responders
Stress Relief for Emergency Personnel in Critical Times
Financial Uncertainty as the Coronavirus Spreads
Strategies to Manage Anxiety
Resilience During Difficult Times
Setting up for Success – Working from Home
Managing Remotely

Practice Meditation
Follow these "Basic Mindfulness Meditation" steps to start your day off right! Or, practice meditation throughout the day by playing this playlist.
Enjoy your day off!
Make the most of your day off for Patriots Day on **Monday, April 20**. Don't work or check emails. Instead, check out these **100 things to do inside**. Or, travel to **Europe from your couch**. Get creative! Most of all, take a break. You deserve it.

**Tools to Help You Get It Together**
Check out this [‘Life Kit’ from NPR](https://www.npr.org/)

**Social distancing does not mean social isolation**
Read this article on "Working Remotely During COVID-19" published by The American Psychiatric Association Foundation Center for Workplace Mental Health.

**Working Remotely with Children**
Read these tips from a mother working from home: "How to Be Productive During the Pandemic While Working From Home". Out of ideas to entertain your kids? Check out [What to Watch, Read, and Play While Your Kids Are Stuck Indoors](https://www.npr.org/)

**Take it from TED**
Check out this collection of inspiring TED Talks focusing on the topic of work-life balance!

**Treat Yourself to a “Quarantini”**
Make a "Quarantini" with these common at-home drink ingredients. Cheers!

**Escape to Hogwarts**
Take a break from reality and become a student at Hogwarts! Learn 'Defense Against the Dark Arts', 'Potions', or 'Herbology'.

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**Additional News + Resources:**

**BAC is closed on Monday, April 20**
Please remember that the BAC will be closed on Monday, April 20 in observance of Patriots Day.

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

**BAC Parent Support Group**
All are welcome to attend the [Support Group on Thursday, April 16 from 8:30-9:30 PM](https://www.the-bac.edu/). Please check your Outlook Meeting Invite for the Zoom password.

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The BAC PAC would like to invite YOU to our most exciting event to date: **BAC JEOPARDY!** That’s right! We will be hosting a virtual jeopardy game this Friday, April 17th at 3:00 p.m. with special guest host, Mark Rukamathu!

Winners of final Jeopardy will be treated to their choice of brand-new BAC Swag from the BAC Store donated by our Marketing Team!!

Questions will include BAC Trivia, Boston themed trivia, and a few surprises. All are welcome to play, or just tune in!
in to watch! Please check the Outlook Calendar invite for more details.

The Boston Architectural College
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