We want to hear from you!

We know times are weird but we want to ensure you feel prepared and fully supported during this time. Please take a minute to fill out these two important surveys: staff survey and IT survey.

Dear BAC Community,

We look to the horizon through dense fog. Much remains to be learned about what lies ahead of us in summer and fall semesters. One thing remains clear: regardless of the global conditions, the BAC will continue offering excellence in education to all of our students—regardless of where they are in the world.

The BAC’s online degree programs will continue—without disruption. We are preparing to offer all our programs remotely during the fall and potentially spring depending on the flattening of the coronavirus curve.

We have additional support and financial aid available for current and new students. I ask you to encourage each student in your classes to take advantage of the expanded palette of support available to help them stay the course!

Once Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh provide additional guidance for colleges and universities, we will decide our course of action, which is expected by the third week of May.

The College is also planning to celebrate with our graduating students ‘virtually’ despite the postponement of the commencement. More details will be available very soon.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work! Together, we will emerge stronger!

Dr. Mahesh Daas, President

Happy Birthday President Mahesh!

From the entire BAC community, we’d like to wish President Mahesh Daas a very happy birthday! Thank you for your continued support and dedication to this
community. We wish you a happy and healthy year ahead!

Shout-out to the School of Design Studies! Thank you for your service and support to our students. Keep up the good work!

Additional News + Resources:

OPEN ENROLLMENT June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021 Benefit Plan Year

It is once again open enrollment time at the Boston Architectural College! This means that beginning May 4, 2020 and ending May 15, 2020, you will have the opportunity to select the combination of employee benefits offered by Boston Architectural College that best suits your needs and those of your family. Benefit changes will be effective June 1, 2020. Please review the information contained in this email carefully as this is your once in a year opportunity to make changes to your benefits without a qualifying event.

Enrollment for Medical, Dental, Vision and Voluntary Supplemental Life/AD&D is passive for 2020. This means unless you make a change you will maintain your current elections for these plans. For Medical and Dependent Care Flexible Spending (FSA) you must make an election for this plan year. Enrollment will take place electronically through Paycom.

MEDICAL PLAN – Tufts Health Plan: We are excited to share that for the second year in a row, we are able to continue offering lower than average premium increases (2% versus 8-10% seen for most employers) with no change to the current out-of-pocket maximums, deductibles and co-pays.

VISION INSURANCE – HUMANA: Boston Architectural College is pleased to announce we will continue to offer voluntary vision coverage through Humana during the June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021, plan year. There are no changes to rate or benefits for the third year in a row. With the Humana Vision plan you have access to both the Humana and EyeMed network providers. Employees pay 100% of the premium costs for Voluntary Vision.

DENTAL INSURANCE – DELTA DENTAL: Continuing with the trend of benefit and rate stability The BAC will continue to offer dental coverage through Delta Dental of Massachusetts during the June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021, plan year. Again, The BAC is able to provide this benefit for the third year in a row with no changes to benefits or rates.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS (MEDICAL AND DEPENDENT CARE FSA) – GROUP DYNAMIC: Flexible Spending Accounts will continue to be administered by Group Dynamic. To participate you must make a new election each plan year. The IRS maximum contribution for Medical FSA in 2020 is $2,750. There is no change to the Dependent Care IRS maximum of $5,000 per household.

SUPPLEMENTAL LIFE INSURANCE – USABLE: Eligible employees have the option to purchase additional Life and AD&D insurance for yourself, spouse and/or children during this open enrollment period. Please see the USAble benefit summary for the Guarantee Issue Limits and review the USAble rate sheet. If you are newly eligible, you can purchase coverage up to the
Acknowledgement of 2020 Graduates

Although this year’s commencement ceremony will be postponed, we still want to celebrate with this year’s graduates. Please save the date for May 22 from 1-3PM! More details to come.

Graduates Video Montage

Help us congratulate this year’s graduates by recording a quick phone video of yourself sharing brief celebratory words such as “Congrats!” “Great job!” “You did it!” Please film in the vertical orientation and send all videos to communications@the-bac.edu.

Be on the lookout for an invite! On May 7th at 3:00 HR will be hosting a training zoom meeting for all managers at the BAC. The training will be on how to utilize the personal action forms (PAF). You will be using these forms for requesting the following:

- A change in position
- A change in salary
- Termination
- Change in status
- Title change
- Etc.

Mark your calendars for BAC Talks!

We have turned our annual Spring 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. Please stay tuned for more exciting details!
**Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Resources**

[Click here](#) to review some of the resources available to you through our EAP!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Line</th>
<th>Mobile app</th>
<th>Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call anytime 800-624-5544</td>
<td>Search for New Directions EAP</td>
<td>Visit nbash.com for resources code: BMC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Landscape Architecture is Sponsoring Virtual Watercolor Workshops this Summer**

Open to all students, staff and faculty free of charge. Participants will have to provide their own materials and a list will be circulated in advance. While they do not carry any credit, the workshops are intended to be academic (and fun) events. Each workshop will consist of two 90-minute sessions on June 16 + 23 and July 8 + 15 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Please contact [Scott Fulford](#) if you're interested.

**Managing Stress Webinar**

Creative Circle recently hosted a webinar on Managing Stress During COVID-19. [Click here to watch the recording](#)

**BAC Student Featured on NBC10 Boston News**

Check out this video of landscape architecture student Lindsey Douglas!
Summer Academy is coming!
Know somebody who might be interested in attending our VIRTUAL Summer Academy this summer from July 6-July 31? Learn more here or attend the next Virtual Open House on May 14 from 6-7 PM!

MBTA Passes
Please note – for those of you who have received your MBTA or Commuter Rail passes through the BAC, you will need to alert HR when you are ready to return to order a new pass. If you currently have a pass in your possession it will no longer be valid. If you need a pass once we return to campus, please contact HR directly to get a new pass and they will set your payroll deductions.

Design for Human Health & COVID-19
Check out this latest article highlighting how BAC students and faculty are using design to respond to the current pandemic.

Climate Ready Story Project
The City of Boston is sharing stories of social resilience and connectedness that are showing up in Boston due to COVID-19. Learn more and share your story here!

ACE Engage is currently free to use!
Check out free webinars by ACE Engage such as Enrollment Strategies and Tactics for the Global Pandemic, Helping Students Prepare for and Navigate the Transformed Job Market after COVID-19, and more!
Help Practice
Practice is seeking some additional help from staff that may not have a full workload at this time. If you or someone in your department can help please email Len Charney.

Life Grows Here: Diving into Landscape Architecture
Check out this article featuring our very own Dean of Landscape Architecture, Maria Bellalta!

Join our BAC Support Group
If you’re a parent or caretaker, we invite you to join our Parent Support Group every Thursday at 8:30 PM via Zoom! This is open to faculty, staff, and students.

Support our Gala food and beverage partner, Johnny’s Takeaway!
Johnny’s Takeaway offers several meal options available in both pickup and delivery! Plus, you can purchase meals for the frontlines and Johnny’s Takeaway will deliver meals to local hospitals in the Boston area! Check it out here.

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.