Dear BAC Community,

First and foremost, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the intrepid class of 2020!

On Friday, we gathered together to celebrate 160 students from our online and on-campus programs as they graduated. Thank you for making the BAC’s Graduate Recognition Ceremony a great success with 225 people in attendance. Many graduates and colleagues expressed their gratitude for celebrating this important moment.

The success of our 2020 graduation class is a testament to the resilience of the entire BAC community. It is clear this spring’s transition of our on-campus programs to distance learning—and record enrollment for the summer—demonstrate how the BAC innovates in the face of change.

With spring semester and Memorial Day behind us, we formally enter summer and set our sights on preparations for fall 2020. Just today, the Higher Education Sub Committee of the Governor’s Committee on Reopening Massachusetts has released its guidance for institutions. In addition, The BAC has been collaborating with Mayor Walsh’s office about access to PPE and the City’s ability to provide access to testing, and contact tracing as well as public transportation and housing support for our students. I would like to thank Mayor Walsh’s leadership and inclusive approach over the last three months.

Early next week, the BAC will roll-out formal communications, FAQs, and talking points outlining plans for the 2020 fall semester. Critical to this roll-out are the BAC’s guiding principles in crafting plans which include safety, flexibility, innovation, and excellence.

In alignment with our mission, the BAC will empower students and their families with the options and flexibility to obtain uninterrupted education that fits their individual needs. Flexibility will also enable all of us to work within the ebbs and flows of the pandemic without disrupting students’ educational experience.

To this end, we will make strategic investments, and launch key initiatives propelling the BAC into the upper echelons of the higher education world. We truly will be Here—There—Anywhere!

I thank each of you for working tirelessly to continue the BAC’s mission well into the future.

Dr. Mahesh Daas, President
Access to Campus Instructions
If you need access to campus during this time, please email Patti Vaughn and Ellen Yee at least one day in advance. Stay tuned for more updated information on accessing campus. Thanks!

ACCESS TO CAMPUS DURING TEMPORARY SHUTDOWN

A big shout-out to Shannon Thorin! Thank you for everything you do behind the scenes for the BAC. We appreciate you and are grateful to have you part of this community!

Important Time Off Updates
The BAC recognizes the importance of taking time-off to rest and connect with family and friends. Due to the restrictions brought upon by COVID-19, we understand many of you have not been able to use your well-deserved vacation hours. As a result, the Cabinet has approved an extension of vacation carry-over time to enable all employees to plan and take a vacation.

Rather than losing 50% of your vacation carryover hours on June 30, you will now have 100% of your available carry over time off extended for use until December 31, 2021. These carryover hours will be reflected in an “Other” time off category. If you have any questions, please contact Sydney Leo.

We are excited to present the work of the BAC 2020 degree recipients from undergraduate and graduate programs. Click here to see our Digital Graduation Exhibit!

Mail Room & Copy Center CLOSED May 28-29
Please be advised that the mail room and copy center will be closed on Thursday and Friday May 28th and 29th as Ledio will be taking some well-deserved time off. He will be returning on site Monday, June 1st.

Congratulations BAC graduates!
Thank you for joining us on Friday to celebrate and
acknowledge our 2020 graduates. [Click here to watch the recording]

---

**BAC Receives Cummings Foundation Grant**

The BAC was chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process. The grant will be $300k over 10 years. Congratulations to the project manager Beth Lundell-Garver and the entire Practice department!

---

**Zoom 5.0 Update**

Zoom software needs to be updated by June 1 because of extensive security updates. It only takes about 1 minute. Please reach out to the help desk at help@the-bac.edu if you need help with this.

Also, please remember that the safest place to store files remains your network home drive, departmental drives, and Google Drive. If you save to your local drive (either on your work machine on campus, your laptop, your home machine’s hard drive etc) it is not backed up. It is also not available if your machine becomes inaccessible for some reason.

If you already have the Zoom desktop client installed, here is how you can check for updates:
1. Sign in to Zoom desktop client.
2. Click your profile picture then click Check for Updates.

If there is a newer version, Zoom will download and install it.

**Note:** If you choose to postpone your optional update, you will only be prompted to update the next time you login.
We are thrilled to share that we have exceeded last summer’s final CE enrolled credits. We are 150% to this summer’s projection!

Mark your calendars for BAC Talks!
We have turned our annual Spring Gala into an exciting virtual event, BAC Talks, featuring Thom Mayne as our keynote speaker! There will be several other 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!

FREE Webinar: “Moving From Victim to Thriver”
We invite you to join us on Wednesday, May 27th from 12pm-12:30pm EST OR Friday, May 29th from 12pm-12:30pm EST for a FREE webinar entitled “Moving From Victim to Thriver. Balancing and managing many areas of life that continue to shift - work demands, parenting and caregiving, lifestyle logistics and financial adjustments can be exhausting - finding ways to balance, provide, and accept grace & flexibility will be key to moving forward. Click here to register!
CEU Weekend
Join us for our first Virtual CEU Weekend on June 13 and June 14! This year's lineup boasts impressive presenters and timely topics. Licensed architects can earn up to 12 AIA approved HSWs from the 6 workshops scheduled over the course of the 2 days. Click here to learn more and register!

The BAC is committed to helping our employees through this unusual time. We have negotiated with our dental company and our FSA provider to allow flexibility due to procedures being rescheduled. Please read notices below:

Delta Dental Update:

With dental offices being closed for all but emergency procedures, we recognize that you have not been able to make full use of your dental benefits. We have worked with Delta Dental of Massachusetts and we will be crediting back 30% of your June and July premiums.

Please see below the new rates for June and July:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Employee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Rates:</td>
<td>$4.59</td>
<td>$69.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1 Family</td>
<td>$27.56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Rates:</td>
<td>$3.21</td>
<td>$48.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$19.29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IRS Notices Issue Relief Impacting Unused Flexible Spending Account Funds:

On May 12, 2020 the IRS issued Notice 2020-29 and Notice 2020-33. These announcements provide more relief affecting both Health Care and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs). The FSA changes include:

- The BAC has amended their FSA plan to include an extension of the claims period for participants to apply unused contributions remaining in their Health Care or Dependent Care FSA to expenses incurred through December 31, 2020.
- Example: Health Care FSA plan year ends on June 30, 2020. An employee has a $1,300 balance that was not used between July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 because their medical provider postponed a planned procedure. The employee can now claim the $1,300 against a claim incurred between July 1, 2020-December 31, 2020.
BAC Library US Major Dailies: Newspapers
Search this database for articles from the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, and the Washington Post. You will find editorials, eyewitness accounts, and breaking news from 1980 to now. Check it out!

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Resources
Click here to review some of the resources available to you through our EAP!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month
Please remember to take care of yourself, stay healthy, and manage your work life balance! Check out our work life harmony tips here.

Be Kind to Your Mind
Tips to cope with stress during COVID-19

1. PAUSE. Breathe. Notice how you feel
2. TAKE BREAKS from COVID-19 content
3. MAKE TIME to sleep and exercise
4. REACH OUT and stay connected
5. SEEK HELP if overwhelmed or unsafe

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.

The Boston Architectural College
320 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02115

Unsubscribe