Dear BAC Students and 2020 Graduates,

Congratulations! You did it! Spring semester, and the academic year now conclude as we recognize an unusual Memorial Day weekend.

In my note today, I would like to highlight and honor the Graduating Class of 2020!

On Friday, May 22, we celebrated the milestone achievement of one hundred and sixty of our graduating students. Just as each of you in the graduating class anticipated a fantastic commencement at the start of this year, I too was anticipating my first BAC commencement—watching you walk across the stage, shaking your hand, and celebrating your success! As I announced a few weeks ago, we intend to hold an in-person commencement when it is deemed safe for all participants. In the meantime, our faculty, staff, and students felt it is important to recognize your achievement.

Trust me when I say I understand how our BAC graduates feel. This is the second time I missed a commencement. First as a student and now as a president. When I received my undergraduate degree in India, I did not have a commencement due to severe national unrest at the time. I had to wait three more years for my first commencement when I earned a graduate degree from Kansas State University. So, I really understand how you must be feeling.

Graduates, you may not fully realize how special you are! You are the class of 2020, one for the history books. True, you are graduating into a post-pandemic world you did not anticipate when you began your journey at the BAC. But, you have earned a powerful credential placing you and your fellow graduates miles ahead of any other graduates in your field in the country.

Your Class of 2020 marks the beginning of a post-pandemic generation in whose capable hands rests the future of our civilization. So, you are very special. The personal and global challenges presented by the pandemic can provide us an opportunity for all of us to gain 20/20 vision to guide humanity to make better choices and shape a more inclusive and resilient world. This is a leadership opportunity I am sure you are ready to embrace.

We are counting on you. And we are with you, supporting you every step of the way in your career - long after you graduate.
I also have an exciting announcement for you. In anticipation of the commencement to be held when deemed safe, I am thrilled to announce a unique and exciting project, which perhaps may be the start of a special new tradition! We call it the Memory Hive. The project will involve the creation of a three-dimensional virtual model of our campus, and the surrounding area, which, when completed, will be available online in one of the virtual worlds. We will be able to tag your memories in the form of videos or social media messages and placed in a three-dimensional space on our virtual campus. The Memory Hive will act as a time capsule to be archived every year for posterity. Please stay tuned for more details about the project and how you can participate!

Let me congratulate you all once again!

And, to all BAC students, we will stay in touch on a weekly basis. I look forward to welcoming you back soon!

Stay safe and stay well,
President Mahesh Daas

Additional News + Resources

BAC is Closed on Monday, May 25 in Observance of Memorial Day

Memorial Day Recipes
Click here to check out these perfect Memorial Day recipes to enjoy on your day off!

Congratulations to our 2020 graduates!
The entire BAC community wishes you all the best. Click here to check out the amazing work of our graduates in our digital grad exhibit!
A form has been created, and is available in the Student Forms Portal called the ‘Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grade Selection’ form.

Non-Graduating Students in spring 2020 have until Friday, June 5, 2020 to inform the Registrar if they are selecting any courses for Pass/Fail.

Before submitting your choice to select classes to be graded as Pass/Fail, you should speak with your advisor about any potential academic impacts to choosing Pass/Fail or letter grade.

Degree Students: If you have an outside scholarship (non-BAC) make sure to check if that scholarship has any restrictions or rules about final grades prior to making your choice.

Continuing Education Students: If you are taking classes for NCARB, transfer credit, or professional development through your workplace, make sure to check with that institution for any restrictions or rules about final grades prior to making your choice.

Please remember that once you submit a course to be graded Pass/Fail, that decision is final. If you do not submit anything, your grades will stay as letter grades.
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. Please stay tuned for more exciting details!

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. 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.

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.

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 contact registrar@the-bac.edu.
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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