



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

Fay Jones School  
of Architecture + Design  
*Office of the Dean*

March 12, 2020

Dear Fay Jones School Students,

On behalf of our faculty and on behalf of our staff please know how much we care for you all and how much we hope for your personal and professional lives. Our work together in the School is the animating vitality for our own identities as educators.

Earlier this afternoon, you will have received a message from Chancellor Steinmetz announcing new operating procedures, including the transition to on-line delivery of classes, for the remainder of the semester in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning Monday March 16.

Although many of our peer universities have taken similar steps, we know that this comes as a disappointment to you. While we all value the special learning environment of the Fay Jones School, we value even more your well-being. Our first concern is your health. Our second concern is helping you manage a challenging situation, the disruption to your semester, and the transition to on-line learning that will begin for Fayetteville-based students on March 16; (students recently returned from the Rome Center will begin on-line classes on March 30 as previously announced.)

As a follow-up to the Chancellor's note, this correspondence focuses on logistics and information specific to the Fay Jones School We now ask your patience and your full attention in reviewing the following.

A. General Information and Facilities

- All instruction in all classes for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester will be conducted remotely, meaning online. To the greatest extent possible, all online conduct of classes will be offered in your established class meeting hours; faculty will be available electronically during their established office hours.
- You can expect your course instructors to discuss prospects, expectations, and protocols with you soon. Please be patient as we make this transition, and please stay in close contact with your faculty about any concerns you have regarding access to internet or materials. Fortunately, you are well into the semester and have a track record; the faculty know you and your potential, so you are not starting from scratch. Please expect to hear from your instructors no later than the beginning of your scheduled course meeting time on Monday, March 16.
- **We will treat tomorrow, Friday, March 13 as a day of transition. Please contact Carol Rowser ([crowser@uark.edu](mailto:crowser@uark.edu), 479-575-2702) if you experience difficulty gaining access to the building. No classes and no face-to-face classes means that you must vacate the studios no later than 5pm, Friday, March 13. Students are not permitted to work or gather in the Fay Jones School buildings after 5 pm, Thursday, March 12. Please take all of your belongings and be prepared with everything that you will need to continue to work well from your remote location, whether here in Fayetteville or from your ultimate home location.**
- The Fay Jones School design laboratories, including the wood shop, the Government Avenue facility, and all digital fabrication areas are considered classroom environments. They too will be closed until further notice for any student activity. We know that many of you rely upon workshop monitor employment and we will be preparing a transition plan for those students and that income.

**B. Essential Information for Students from Student Services**

- All student success operations in the Fay Jones School also will shift to electronic delivery, service, and support.
- All advising and course registration will continue as normal via email. The student services team will strive to answer all correspondence well within a reasonable response time.
- The very important task of awarding scholarships and honors will also continue as normal. The School scholarship committee is committed to ensuring that we proceed as normal with a plan to celebrate the occasion in the future, but the honors and awards ceremony scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> is cancelled.
- Most important please know that this semester's situation will not impact your graduation or impede your current trajectory of progress in your academic program.
- Be assured that the student success staff will continue to provide the best care possible to meet all your advising and career development needs. They are committed to maintaining daily operations and ensuring that all students will be able to continue fulfilling academic requirements. For your reference, please note the contact

Melinda Smith, Director of Student Services	<a href="mailto:melindas@uark.edu">melindas@uark.edu</a>
Sheri Lynn Brown, Senior Academic Counselor	<a href="mailto:stuck@uark.edu">stuck@uark.edu</a>
Theresa Parrish, First-year Academic Counselor	<a href="mailto:theresap@uark.edu">theresap@uark.edu</a>
Michelle Pribbernow, Career Development Specialist	<a href="mailto:mpribber@uark.edu">mpribber@uark.edu</a>

**C. Information on Special Events**

- Large events on campus are being cancelled, including the remaining lectures of the Fay Jones School Spring Lecture Series. Efforts are being made to reschedule speakers for next fall.
- We are exploring the effects of new guidelines on final reviews. Your faculty will keep you apprised of relevant developments.
- We continue to await University directives concerning summer programs, including study abroad, and commencement exercises. Our first priority now must be the best means to deliver our current coursework.

In closing, we are in an emergent situation and things could change rapidly. I know this is frustrating, and there will be many questions we need to work through together as a community committed to problem solving and design solutions. As we do, I hope we will continue to treat one another with patience and compassion, with particular sensitivity to those who are worried about their friends and family, are unable to travel home or return from abroad, or may be facing discrimination or bias.

We will continue to be in touch. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to either of us with questions by email at [mackeith@uark.edu](mailto:mackeith@uark.edu) and [egoodste@uark.edu](mailto:egoodste@uark.edu). Please copy the executive assistant to the Deans, Carol Rowser on these emails at [crowser@uark.edu](mailto:crowser@uark.edu). We will answer you directly or engage the right person to get the answer that you require.

Thank you for all the ways in which you are supporting each other in this challenging time!

Peter MacKeith  
Dean

Ethel Goodstein-Murphree  
Associate Dean