Now, if you were looking for a job after graduation and you have nothing lined up yet, you should try the following. In the professional world, an essential part of your success will come from your networking skills and connections. We may not be able to physically set foot at the door of our favorite firms, but we can send emails, contact our professional connections on LinkedIn, or simply reach out to the professionals we have met at an ASLA conference to set up a time to video call if they are available. During one of my recent zoom classes in the Studio of Landscape Architecture at RVi Planning + Landscape Architecture in Austin, Texas introduced us to something called “informational interview.” He described it as an informal type of interview where you have a friendly conversation with a professional to get feedback and tips on the interview process and your skills. You could even bring up the opportunity to get hired by the interviewer later on if they deem you fit for the company or a specific job opening—you never know! Another idea, if you have the desire and resources, you could look into applying for an Assistant Professor position in your field. If you have the desire and resources, you could look into applying for a Master’s degree or Ph.D. Some schools are expediting application processes, overriding some requirements, and adding financial burdens. All you have to do is to sit down, conduct some research, fill out applications, and voila; you can postpone your job hunt for the next two or three years if you would like to. So remember, whatever you choose to do, stay active, healthy, and curious.

Do not forget that ASLA and all its staff members are also working diligently to help you and provide you with the necessary resources you can benefit from these uncertain times. A Japanese proverb I keep repeating in my mind reads “Hope is the last thing to die,” and indeed we shall remain hopeful for better times ahead of us. Regardless of the current global situation, it is time to shine bright during the lockdown. Just picture yourself at your next job interview when you proudly talk about the many things you did during the COVID-19 pandemic. The valuable skills you gained, and the wise decisions you made to cope with and adapt to new, unpredicted circumstances.

Best of luck with your summer plans!
Adriana Hernandez Aguirre, Student ASLA
ASLA Student Advisory Committee Member

#studentasla

Why are you involved in ASLA?

Entering my first year in the Landscape Architecture undergraduate program at Cal Poly Pomona, I must say that I didn’t really know what I was getting into; but curiously drove me. I quickly realized that ASLA could become that bridge for my academic and professional growth. It has allowed not only to expand my knowledge through the lectures, workshops, firm visits I attended, but it has also allowed me to help those around me as well.

What advice would you give to other student members around the world during this tough time?

My advice is to make sure you keep stepping away from your computer. During these times, we are asked more than ever to spend hours on end without breaks. Although we know that this cannot be health, we often forget or make the choice to keep staring. Put the screen down and go outside, be it your front or back yard, play with your pets, spend time with family and play some card or board games, and go for a walk.

We should keep our mental health in mind every day.

Student Feature:
Eddy Gonzales, Student ASLA, Cal Poly Pomona, BLA Student
Student Chapter President

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