



Spring 2024
Business & Liberal Arts
Newsletter

Dear BALA students and alumni,

We have successfully and happily completed another academic year! Congratulations to all our recent BALA graduates. We wish them all the best as they embark on life after Queens College. We sent off some of our graduates in person at our BALA graduation reception on May 22nd, and were fortunate to have had Queens College President **Frank H. Wu** in attendance, offering our graduates encouraging words and insights.

Our two award winners were valedictorian, **Joseph Haar**, who was the recipient of the Barbara Sandler Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, and **Tzipora Applebaum**, recipient of the BALA Academic Achievement Award.

Joseph graduates with a BBA in Finance. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the reception, but did submit a video of his valedictory address in which he praised the graduating class for its resilience, having entered college at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Joseph remarked that the challenges these students faced will prepare them well for future challenges: “I believe our perseverance and resilience are the keys to our future.”



President Frank Wu with our BALA



Tova Kaplan and Shaina Davis

Tzipora, a student in the Macaulay Honors program, graduates with a BA in History, and will be attending graduate school at the CUNY Graduate Center where she will be pursuing her master’s degree in Biography and Memoir. Her long-term goal is to write a biography about her grandfather, who was a doctor in the British Royal Air Force in England during the Blitz of WWII. Congratulations to both these stellar graduates.

Congratulations are also in order for our BALA Leadership Essentials Certificate recipients: **Jevoun McKellar**, **Reyana Persaud**, **Jessica Pooran**, and **Ana Reyes Delgado**.

In other student news...

We are excited to report that two of our BALA students were awarded first prize in the Blackstone Launchpad Pitch Competition, which is an annual competition asking students to present an idea for a new business with the objective of convincing investors that the idea will prove successful. After identifying a market problem and proposing a solution, **Tova Kaplan** and **Shaina Davis** pitched their idea—*Aero Bend*, which

“leverages urban wind currents to generate electricity using innovative wind turbines, offering a sustainable energy solution for city buildings to comply with Local Law 97.” Tova and Shaina were awarded \$10,000.00 for their idea. Of note, one of our faculty members, **Philip Adsetts**, sat on the panel of judges. Of the finalists, he wrote: “I was especially impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the groups and the level of work that they put into their pitches. The group that won stood out both for their proposal, which included several analyses they learned in their BALA courses, and for the polish of their presentation.” Congratulations to Tova and Shaina, and kudos to all our BALA faculty for playing a small part, through their BALA courses, in helping prepare these young women for this competition.

In faculty news.....

Not to be outdone by the successes of our students, BALA faculty can also boast accolades. **Tariqua Morrison**, BALA instructor of Law and Ethics of Business, was recently honored with the Distinguished Public Service Award by the Guy R. Brewer Democratic Club. She was presented with this award for her work in the community at the Queens Borough President’s Office where she liaises with city agencies on behalf of the borough president and serves as Principal Legal Advisor to the agency.



Tariqua Morrison

Bieu Tran, another recent addition to our BALA faculty, was awarded Queens College President’s



Bieu Tran receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award

Award for Excellence in Teaching-Adjunct Faculty, along with a \$2000.00 prize. Prof. Tran wishes to express his gratitude to those students who nominated him, for allowing him the opportunity to teach at Queens College, and for being able to impact the lives of his students and the local community.

Finally, in other news....We are excited to announce that our three-credit Internship course will be available for the Fall 2024 semester, under the guidance of BALA Assistant Director, **Lisa D’Angelo**. Our talented students will complete 135

work hours throughout the semester, gaining invaluable real-world experience while earning academic credit. Additionally, they will submit a paper and present a final project.

Why Partner with us?

Gain Fresh Perspective: By offering an internship, you’ll benefit from the innovative ideas and fresh energy our BALA students bring to the table.

Shape Future Professionals: This is a fantastic opportunity to mentor and influence the next generation of leaders in your industry.

Join the Legacy: As a BALA alum, your involvement can provide current students with the same opportunities that helped shape your career. Your mentorship can make a significant impact on their professional development. If you have any internship opportunities for our BALA students, please follow this [Link](#). For questions or more information, contact us at BALA.Department@qc.cuny.edu, or at 718-997-2860. Let’s create a mutually beneficial partnership and help shape the future together.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the BALA community.

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