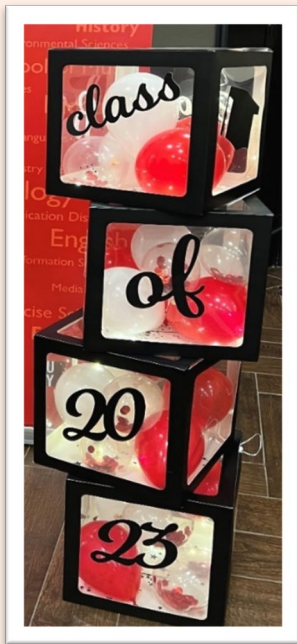




Spring 2023
Business & Liberal Arts
Newsletter

Dear BALA students and alumni,

We hope you all had a successful spring semester and are looking forward to an exciting, fun-filled summer.



Speaking of success, we would like to congratulate our recent graduates on their completion of the BALA minor. Our BALA graduation reception was held on May 23rd in the President's Lounge. In attendance were thirty BALA graduates, their family and friends, staff, and faculty. Honored for their outstanding academic performance in BALA were our valedictorian, Maya Wind, who received the *Barbara Sandler Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement*, and Anne Hwang and James Wertman, who each received the *BALA Academic Excellence Award*. Special mention also goes out to BALA graduate and music major, Peter Mainetti, who played the piano so beautifully as our guests arrived. To see our graduation highlight reel please click here: [BALA graduation](#).

The evening saw the first recipients of our *Leadership Essentials Certificate*. Nine students completed all BALA courses, plus the new 300-level course, *Leading Across Cultures*. This course, taught by **Arda Nazerian**, promoted the importance of leadership and the role leaders play in fostering a positive work environment. In addition to these courses, they also attended two of three very distinct leadership workshops throughout the semester. Our first workshop was a Business Breakfast, an event presented monthly by the Queens College School of Business. Speaking at this event was **Kenneth Correa**, Managing Director at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management and National Business Development Executive. After his speech, Mr. Correa kindly remained to speak specifically with our BALA students. He was very well received, and our students gained valuable knowledge from him.

Our second event was a Book Signing and Meet & Greet with **Frank Boccio**. Mr. Boccio is a QC alumnus, who served as Vice Chairman of the New York Life Foundation and has kindly donated some of his books to the School of Business. He signed *Launch, Navigate, Lead: Experiences, Attributes and Behaviors for Continuous Career Growth*, which had been distributed to all Leadership certificate students.

Our final event of the semester was a Speaking Engagement with **Alicia Alvero**. Beginning her career as a professor of organizational behavior at Queens College, Dr. Alvero went on to serve as Associate Provost for three years, and now holds the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for



Alicia Alvero speaks with Leadership students.

Academic Effectiveness and Innovation for CUNY. After her speech, Dr. Alvero very generously remained to speak one on one with our students who plied her with a wide array of relevant questions.

We encourage all our BALA undergrads to consider registering for our Leadership Certificate program. BALA 398 – *Leading Across Cultures*—is being offered in the fall semester T/TH 9:15-10:30 AM, so please reach out to the BALA office if you would like to apply to this program.

In Faculty news...

We happily welcomed two new faculty members into the BALA program for the spring semester. **Heather Simon**, who taught BALA 201W- *Business Communications*, is a writer and visual artist with an MFA in creative writing and literary translation. Among the courses she teaches are creative nonfiction, composition, and literature. In 2022 she received an OER fellowship to develop a free and accessible creative nonfiction curriculum. She was also a Hambidge fellow and the recipient of a grant from the Queens Council on the Arts. Her creative work can be found in *Anomaly*, *The Rumpus*, and *Newtown Literary*.

Philip Adsetts, who teaches BALA 303 – *Strategic Management and Leadership*, is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Shackleton Capital Partners, a private real estate private equity and development firm specializing in NYC real estate development and renovation. He has considerable expertise in fundraising, investment, and arranging financing for private turnkey development of multifamily properties. Prior to founding Shackleton, he was a Managing Director at Scotiabank, working to provide financing for the bank’s Private Equity clients. Philip has a BSc from University College, London, UK, and an MBA from Cornell. Philip’s teaching experience includes an Adjunct Professorship at Fordham University.

And, as we welcomed some new faculty, we bid farewell to longtime adjunct professor, Timothy Rosen. Tim, who has been an integral part of BALA faculty for fifteen years, will be taking a sabbatical to focus on his burgeoning NYC tourism business. We wish him all the best in his endeavor and look forward to his return to Queens College once he realizes he just cannot stay away from BALA!



President Frank Wu attends a BALA class.

nature of being a BALA student at QC.

In other news...

We are delighted to have welcomed our new College Assistant, **Bernadette Reyes**, onto our BALA staff. Bernadette comes to us with an eclectic occupational background, having worked for a variety of non-profit

Sabir Semerkant will be returning for the fall semester to teach his highly relevant course, *Digital Commerce Entrepreneurship*, where students will learn how to plan and create a digital commerce presence and environment for today’s market. This course is listed under BALA 3983 - 002—Special Topics in Business, and meets online, synchronously T/TH 5:00-6:15 PM.

Susan Kuhn welcomed a surprise, unofficial visit from our QC President, Frank Wu. He sat in on BALA 103W - *Critical Thinking in Business* – and experienced, in a small way, the

organizations such as St. Stephen's Church in Port Washington, NY, as the Parish Administrator, and prominent healthcare institutions in Boston and Manhattan in laboratory and clinical research and data management. Bernadette's experience extends into the arts as she has worked as the Company Administrator, instructor, and performer for American Bolero Dance Company, which specializes in Flamenco and classical Spanish dance. She has been a member of the Huntington Choral Society since 2002, and just recently performed in Brahms's Requiem with the Queens College Choral Society. Lastly, Bernadette worked with the Huntington Arts Council and Queens Council on the Arts, Decentralization, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and JP Morgan Chase re-grant programs to arts organizations throughout Long Island and Queens. Welcome Bernadette!

Awards and Accolades...

We are thrilled to report that our very own Assistant Director, **Lisa D'Angelo**, has been presented with *The Career Champion Certificate* in recognition of her exceptional contributions as a Campus Champion during the 2022-2023 academic year. The QNS Career Center, led by Director Zavi Gunn, noted that "This certificate serves as a testament to [her] unwavering dedication and outstanding commitment to the success of our students. [Her] remarkable contributions have played a pivotal role in creating a supportive environment that fosters career development and empowers our students to achieve their goals." Congratulations to Lisa!

In closing, we are already planning ahead for next semester, so please save the following dates:

Business Breakfast: Tues, Sept. 19th; Weds, Oct 25th; Thurs, Nov 30th.

Young Alumni Meet & Greet: Thurs, Oct. 19th, 5PM

We'd also like to let you know of a new Pre-college program offered to eligible NYC public high school students. Classes are available in Mathematics, Comprehensive English, U.S. History & Government, Leadership for Social Change, and Video Production, and will meet on the Queens College campus on Saturdays, 9:00 AM -12:30 PM, for twelve to thirteen weeks between October and January, and between March and June.



Graduation selfie with BALA Director, Dr. Withanachchi

As we continue to enhance our BALA Newsletter, we would love to hear from you about your own professional achievements, milestones, or other news you'd like to share.

Join our LinkedIn and Instagram network:

