



Fall 2023  
Business & Liberal Arts  
**Newsletter**

Dear BALA students and alumni,

As we are nearing the end of the year, we'd like to wish everyone both a peaceful and joyous holiday season. Good luck to those of you who are graduating this fall, we wish you all the best and please do keep in touch.

We kicked off our fall semester with our BALA Welcome Back event, which was robustly attended by about one hundred students, faculty, and staff. **President Frank Wu** and **Dr. Kate Pechenkina** (Dean of Faculty of the School of Social Sciences), dropped by to mingle. BALA was also a hit at the Queens College Open house and Major/Minor Fair.



*BALA Welcome Back - Standing Room Only*

#### **In Faculty and Staff news...**

BALA director, **Schiro Withanachchi**, has had a busy semester. The **CUNY Honors Business Hub**, in partnership with Macaulay Honors College, invited her to serve as a judge for their Case Competition. Open to juniors, students had the opportunity to work with their peers to analyze and advance solutions to real-world problems. Participants had access to mentorships and received a \$500.00 stipend. Professor Withanachchi also served on the panel discussion of the **First-Generation Celebration on Nov 8<sup>th</sup>**. Promoted by the **Kessler Honors Program**, this event was open to all first-generation or first-immigrant students, faculty, and staff. This proved to be a wonderful opportunity to connect with the college's first-generation community.

We are thrilled to announce two new additions to our BALA faculty for the upcoming spring semester. Teaching BALA 101, is Professor **Bieu Tran**, who earned his MBA from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, MPA from CUNY-John Jay College of Criminal Justice, MLitt in Political Philosophy from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland), and BA from the University of Connecticut. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College and is pursuing a PhD in Political Science at the University of Connecticut. Professor Tran has taught over 42 graduate and undergraduate courses at universities in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York. His career spans both the private and public sectors, including in all levels of government, with his proudest professional accomplishment being his service as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. A veteran of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, he is honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to serve alongside the nation's finest Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Guardians at home and abroad.



*Prof. Bieu Tran*

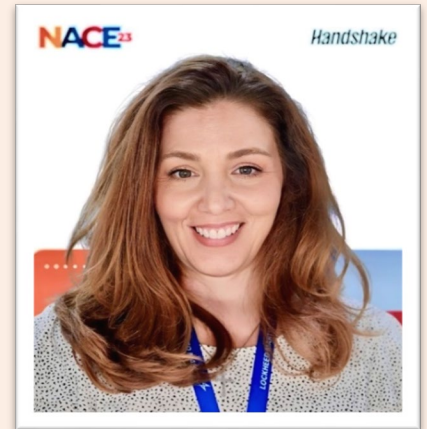


*Tariqua Morrison*

Our new BALA 302 instructor is Tariqua Morrison, who comes to us from the Office of the Queens Borough President as Deputy General Counsel & Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. Here she serves as the agency’s principal liaison between elected officials and government agencies. As Deputy General Counsel, her responsibilities have included formulating agency-wide policy as well as the policies and procedures governing the Office of the General Counsel, and reviewing new and established procedure to ensure compliance with existing laws, regulations, and guidelines set by the federal, state, and city authorities. She has acted as the agency’s principal legal adviser, rendering legal opinions to the General Counsel, executive staff, and the Borough President. Professor Morrison received her BA in Political Science at Howard University, and her MA in Urban Planning at Hunter College. She then went on to the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clark School of Law as a Juris Doctor Candidate, and

gained teaching experience in Constitutional Law, Contracts, and Intellectual Property. We are very lucky to have faculty with such a variety of experiences, and extend them both a hearty welcome.

Assistant Director, **Lisa D’Angelo**, had the incredible opportunity to attend the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Conference, held June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Orlando, Florida. Lisa immersed herself in three days of workshops, networking sessions, and discussions with industry leaders. A key highlight of Lisa’s experience was the opportunity to network with peers, industry professionals, and noted experts in the field of education and employment. These connections are instrumental in fostering collaborations and accessing diverse perspectives, which she intends to integrate into BALA’s initiatives. Lisa returned with new insights, innovative strategies, and a refreshed perspective on how to enhance our institution’s engagement with employers and students. Her participation in this prestigious event embodies BALA’s commitment to staying at the forefront of education and career development, and will undoubtedly contribute significantly to BALA’s mission of nurturing and preparing our students for successful careers.



*Assistant Director, Lisa D’Angelo*



*BALA Computer Lab, Prof. Steven Leventhal*

### **In other news....**

We finally have our computer lab open and functioning—replete with six new computers and a printer. We welcome all BALA students to take advantage of both our computer (HH03) and BALA student (HH06) lounges.

In closing, we would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and we

look forward to seeing our returning students in the spring, and hearing from our wonderful alumni, new and old. You can always reach out to us at: [BALA.department@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:BALA.department@qc.cuny.edu), or by phone at 718-997-2860.

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