

THE BALA NEWSLETTER

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

This Fall, we bid a sad farewell to **Lisa D'Angelo**, former Assistant Director of the BALA Honors Minor program. As she leaves us with the heartfelt parting words shown below, we wish to express how grateful we are to her for all of her contributions to BALA and wish her all the best moving forward. She is truly missed.

For more than a decade, BALA (and Honors Hall) has been more than a workplace; it has been a true community and a second home for me. Serving as Assistant Director for the past six years has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my career, and I have been fortunate to do work I deeply believe in while seeing the difference it has made in students' lives.



I have had the privilege of working with brilliant students and exceptional faculty and colleagues, helping to build a program that supports students in developing the skills, confidence, and resilience needed to succeed in college, careers, and life. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has made this work so impactful, and I will always cherish the relationships, shared accomplishments, and moments of growth we experienced together.

As I transition to my new role with Adult Pathways at CUNY Central, where I will be supporting adult learners, I look forward to having a positive impact on the broader CUNY community. While I will miss working alongside the incredible group at BALA, I am excited for this next chapter. This is not a goodbye, but a sincere see you later.

You can connect with me on [LinkedIn](#) or reach me at Lisa.D'Angelo@cuny.edu.



Although we've said goodbye to Ms. D'Angelo, along with BALA Director, Schiro Withanachchi, this past year, we've welcomed many new faces to both our teaching and administrative personnel. Taking the helm as Interim Director of BALA is **Tao Wang**, who has held this position since July 2025. He has also been the acting associate dean for the QC School of Business and served as the acting chairperson for the Economics department. Wang earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the Johns Hopkins University in 2001 and joined the faculty at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center in 2003, where he currently holds the title of professor. He has published over two dozen research articles and book chapters in finance and economics.



Assisting Professor Wang is **Corinne Muñoz**, who also works in the Office of the Dean of Social Sciences, and the Latin American and Latino Studies department.

We thank both Professor Wang and Ms. Muñoz for guiding BALA through this time of directorial transition.

On the teaching front, our new adjuncts have done a stellar job substituting for long-time professor, Steven Leventhal, who is currently on sabbatical. **Geordan Hull, Salma Asif, and Jocelyn Greenky Underwood** have all stepped in to teach BALA 101 – Business & Society, while **Matthew Hooper** and **Toan Huynh** took on BALA 200 – Entrepreneurship & Innovation. We thank all our adjuncts for their enthusiasm in the classroom, and their dedication to BALA.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS (continued)

This past August, BALA Professors **Steven and David Leventhal**, taught a mock classroom for incoming Kessler Scholars students as part of its Summer Bridge program. This week-long program connected new scholars with Kessler upperclassmen mentors, introduced them to campus resources, included a Manhattan outing, and featured a Family Day with activities and resource tables for loved ones.

The Kessler Presidential Scholarship Program gives first-generation students the academic, financial, and social support they need to chase their dreams at Queens College.



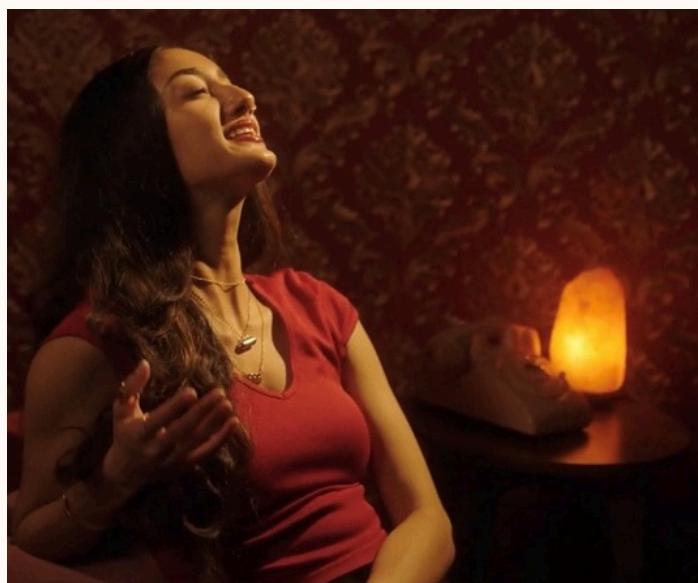
STUDENT NEWS

Each semester, a BALA student is awarded the Joseph J. Grano Junior Scholarship, which provides a partial scholarship to an academically qualified and financially needy student majoring in the sciences and/or education.

The Fall 2025 recipient of the Joseph J. Grano Junior Scholarship is **Sergo Royal**, who graduated at the end of the Fall '25 semester with a major in psychology. Of this award, Sergo states: *"Receiving the Grano Scholarship meant a great deal to me. It not only helped ease the financial burden of my studies, but it also motivated me to stay focused and confident in pursuing my academic and professional goals. Knowing that my efforts were recognized made the experience especially meaningful."*

After graduation, Sergo plans to build his career in his chosen field, while exploring opportunities for further professional and academic growth.

As internships are an important component in our students' education, we'd like to highlight **Divya Panchal**, who interned with Maqam Studios over the summer. Located in Brooklyn, this music studio and record label specializes in traditional Arabic music. Through her position as Production Assistant, Divya gained hands on experience in the music industry and is looking forward to making more meaningful connections through her internship.



ALUMNI NEWS

On October 15th, we held our **Fall 2025 Student Orientation and Information Session** in the BALA Student Lounge (Honors Hall 06). We welcomed a nice mix of students who were recently accepted into our Honors Minor program, as well as prospective students considering the program and wanting to learn more.

Students were introduced BALA faculty and staff, as well as two of our BALA alumni were also able to join us and speak about their experiences as undergraduates in the program and how it has benefited them in their post-college careers, as well as in their lives in general.

Many thanks to **Melissa Perrier** (class of 2014, top photo), who currently works for Microsoft in Role Excellence and Sales Operations, and to **Lauren Mistretta** (class of 2025, bottom photo), the recipient of BALA's 2025 Barbara Sandler Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, who is currently working toward a Master's Degree in Computer Science at Queens College.



Looking to hire? Queens College is holding its **Spring 2026 Career & Internship Fair** on **Wednesday, March 18th, 12:00pm-2:30pm**.

The Fair is a wonderful opportunity for employers looking to recruit, as well as showcase their businesses. If your company is interested, complete the online **Handshake Registration Form** [found here](#).

For more information, visit the [Center for Career Engagement and Internship's Employer page](#), or contact the Center at qc_career@qc.cuny.edu or 718-997-4461.

Spring 2026 Career & Internship Fair

Be part of shaping the next generation of professionals, meet your future hires here!

Wednesday, March 18th, 2026
 12:00PM - 2:30PM



Why Recruit at Our Career Fair?

- QC Ranks among the Top 10% Performers on Socioeconomic Mobility
- Diverse students representing 80+ languages
- Career-focused & Liberal Arts students from 70+ majors
- Internships, Part-time & Full-time Talent
- Boost your employer brand on campus

Partner with BALA!

- **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, or would be interested in being a guest speaker at BALA events & classes, please let us know.** Let's create a mutually beneficial partnership and help shape the future together!

As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement in the BALA community.

CONTACT BALA

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