

BEYOND BOUNDARIES PROGRAM - OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO 2023-2024
School Year



PROGRAM UPDATES

- STUDENT STAFF TEAM IN THE BEYOND BOUNDARIES PROGRAM
- WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2027 FOR A SCHOOL YEAR FULL OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES
- FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE BB DIRECTOR JENNI HARPRING:

WELCOME TO THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR!

I AM EXCITED TO BEGIN THIS YEAR AS THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE BEYOND BOUNDARIES PROGRAM. AS YOU MAY REMEMBER, THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST COMPLETED A FIVE YEAR REVIEW OF THE PROGRAM AND THE BEYOND BOUNDARIES TEAM SPENT THE SUMMER INCORPORATING FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS INTO PLANS FOR THIS YEAR AND BEYOND. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE STRONG FOUNDATION OF THE PROGRAM DESIGNED BY THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR, ROB MORGAN.

YOU WILL SEE CHANGES IN THE SEMINAR STRUCTURE AS WELL AS NEW BEYOND BOUNDARIES PROGRAMMING FOR SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS. WE HIRED 10 BEYOND BOUNDARIES STUDENTS TO SUPPORT SEMINAR AND NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THIS TEAM ON ENGAGEMENT.

I BELIEVE THAT INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK IS CRITICAL FOR CREATING SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX CHALLENGES. BRINGING TOGETHER DIVERSE EXPERTISE ALLOWS US TO SEE CHALLENGES FROM MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES AND DEVELOP MORE HOLISTIC INTERVENTIONS. I AM HONORED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH DYNAMIC AND CURIOUS STUDENTS EXPLORING THEIR ROLE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING YOU AS YOU CONTINUE TO REFINE YOUR ROLE IN COLLABORATIVE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CHANGE.



MARKETING ASSISTANTS



Melina Motwani (she/her), Sophomore Marketing Assistant

Melina is a Beyond Boundaries student from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, pursuing majors in entrepreneurship and finance with a minor in legal studies. She is interested in the intersection of law and business, showing a genuine passion for understanding how legal principles shape the dynamic world of commerce. This year she intends to intern in the state attorney's office in Broward County and continue her work in the business field as a co-owner through her candy store on Washington University's campus, Bear-y Sweet Shoppe. Through participation in the Beyond Boundaries program, Melina has found the program solidified her interests in law and business, discovering how these disciplines intertwine to shape various facets of our daily lives. The program's interdisciplinary approach has provided her with a unique understanding, reinforcing her interests and revealing the prominent roles that law and business play in shaping the world around us.



Daniela Urban (she/her), Sophomore Marketing Assistant

Daniela is a Beyond Boundaries student from Anchorage, Alaska, pursuing a double major in Finance and Global Studies with a concentration in International Affairs and a marketing minor. She is very passionate about financial feminism, history, cooking, political activism, and music. This year she is really excited about her next marketing position at BB, her role as a leader in the new big/little peer mentorship program, and plans to complete her first cookbook. At WashU, Daniela is a member of STRIKE, Redefine Her Street, and Alpha Phi. Daniela is a firm believer in the celebration of diverse passions and attributes this perspective to her upbringing, split between the contrasting landscapes of Alaska and Brazil. She appreciates that Beyond Boundaries celebrates and fosters this attitude within and outside of academic settings. The program's inherent ability to align with her values as a person while also being a platform that she can use to grow professionally and academically has been incredibly enriching.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS



Sela Lewis (she/her), Sophomore Teaching Assistant

Sela is a Beyond Boundaries student from Long Island, NY, pursuing a double major in Global Health and Healthcare Management. She is captivated by the intersection of business with health practice and policy. She is passionate about community-based research and spent her summer working on a research project relating to minorities aging with dementia in the St. Louis community. At WashU, Sela is involved in GlobeMed, a health equity nonprofit, and Lock and Chain sophomore honorary. The Beyond Boundaries program provided Sela with a multitude of resources to explore her interests. Through program-specific coursework and networking opportunities, she has cultivated her interests and embraced their interdisciplinary nature. She looks forward to serving as a TA this year.



Judy Li (she/her), Sophomore Teaching Assistant

Judy is a Beyond Boundaries student from Winchester, MA, pursuing a double major in Economics/Mathematics (joint program) and American Culture Studies with a minor in Business of Social Impact. She has developed her passion for community outreach and advocacy in her countless experiences in various environments, from the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, MA, to a nonprofit legal services clinic in NY, NY. At WashU, Judy is involved with a wide variety of student groups, such as Delta Sigma Pi Professional Fraternity, Asian Multicultural Council, and Kairos After School. With the Beyond Boundaries program, Judy has had the opportunity to practice her creative thinking skills in drawing connections between themes, classes, and experiences in hopes to one day create sustainable impact.

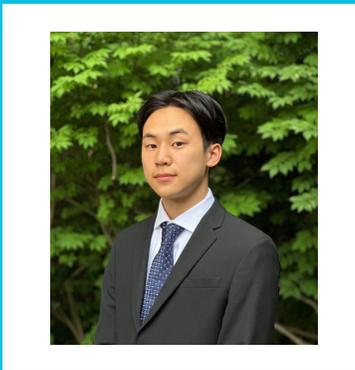
TEACHING ASSISTANTS CONTINUED



Keira Mitchell (she/her), Sophomore Teaching Assistant

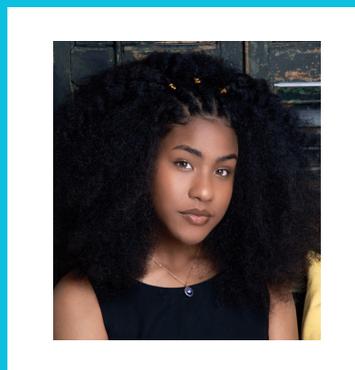
Keira is a Beyond Boundaries student from Winchester, MA, hoping to pursue a major in psychology, possibly on the pre-med track. On par with the premise of the BB program, she has not yet made a final decision on what she wants to study, but is working on finalizing her path at WashU. She is very passionate about working with others, especially children, as she has spent her summer yet again working at a children's sleepaway camp. She hopes to continue working with others, advocating for the well-being of those around her, and learning more about the practice of medicine and psychology. At WashU, Keira is involved with the WashU Ski Team, Night Off, and other volunteer groups. Thanks to the Beyond Boundaries program, Keira has found a close community of like-minded students who share similar dreams of being involved with interdisciplinary work. She feels more supported in her struggles with indecisiveness and has been given the opportunity to explore a wide variety of fields, discuss relevant social justice themes, and make connections with other students that will last a lifetime.

PROGRAM ASSISTANTS



Brandon Lin (he/him), Sophomore Program Assistant

Brandon is a Beyond Boundaries student from Ann Arbor, MI majoring in Biochemistry and minoring in Biomedical Physics on the premed track. He is interested in further exploring the application of the sciences and engineering in improving patient care through research in neuromuscular interfaces in prosthetic devices. At WashU, Brandon is currently involved in a variety of student organizations including the Asian American Association, the Badminton Club, and MedEd. With an interdisciplinary mindset, the Beyond Boundaries Program has allowed Brandon to meet many amazing people and to further explore ways to learn across disciplines leading him towards his goal of answering his big question of creating a more portable epinephrine auto injector. He is looking forward to meeting everyone!



Alaivrya Theard (she/her), Sophomore Program Assistant

Alaivrya is a Beyond Boundaries student from New Orleans, LA, pursuing a double major in Psychology and Global Health. Her interests lie in the human mind and its complexities across societies and environments, which drives her passion for community outreach and global studies. She has developed her passions through commitments to her local YMCA's community-based programs, involvement with Campus Y at WashU, and volunteer efforts with CARE STL. During her summer break, she gained experience working with children who faced mental and physical disabilities. On campus, Alaivrya is a member of several student groups, such as the Association of Black Students and the Pre-Health and Science Peer Mentoring Program (PSPMP).

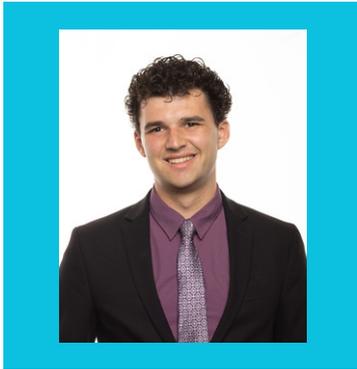
Through the Beyond Boundaries program, Alaivrya has received access to both academic and personal support that aligns with her interdisciplinary approach to learning. With this empowering space for encouragement, she is confident in her ability to become a catalyst for positive change both locally and globally. In her free time, enjoys reading, journaling, and sharing pictures of her cats



Charlotte Chen (she/her), Sophomore Program Assistant

Charlotte is a Beyond Boundaries student from Long Island, NY majoring in Biomedical Engineering on the premed track with minors in Architecture and Material Sciences. She is interested in the intersection of science and architecture to understand the importance of social structures harmonizing with surrounding communities. Currently, Charlotte is involved in a variety of student organizations such as the Society of Women Engineers, ArchEngage, and Insite. Through the Beyond Boundaries program, Charlotte has been able to meet many inspiring mentors and classmates to further the exploration of her interests.

PROGRAM ASSISTANTS CONTINUED



Jonah Zacks (he/him), Junior Program Assistant

Jonah is a Beyond Boundaries student from St. Louis majoring in Economics and Computer Science and interested in how we can make civic engagement more accessible. He has been involved in several efforts to help voter vote from home including MOTary Connections—to help voters find the notaries they needed during the pandemic—and MOVote.org—a website that allows voters to safely and securely request their absentee ballots from their phones in under two minutes. On campus, he has been involved with both the Gephardt Institute and the Skandalaris Center to continue that work. He is currently working on a project to support better communication within the democracy building movement. The focus on interdisciplinary thinking in the Beyond Boundaries program has allowed Jonah to participate in all aspects of civic engagement from the art of communicating its importance to the technology that makes it possible. He is deeply invested in St. Louis and in Wash U. According to Rob Wile, he has the record for the most consecutive years lived on campus!

Let us also welcome Program Assistant Alethea Franklin!

FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION



Fall Welcome for the new Beyond Boundaries class took place between 8/19-8/25. In addition to off campus visits to Cortex and the City Foundry, the cohort became familiar with each other during get-to-know you sessions on campus. (pictured to the left)

During orientation, the class of 2027 was supported by mentors known as "Bear Leaders," who are upperclass students in the program. They provided valuable guidance and assistance in helping new students become familiar with the campus environment. (pictured to the right)



Connect with us!

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