

BELLA DUONG

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EDUCATION & ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The Governor's Academy — Byfield, MA

May 2027

GPA: 3.71 (9th Grade), 3.65 (10th Grade), 4.5 (11th Grade)

AP Coursework:

2025–2026: AP Language & Composition, AP 2D Art & Design

2026–2027: AP Literature, AP Government, AP Psychology, AP Environmental Science, Advanced Statistics

Honors

- Awarded the Murphy Mercer Prize for Best Prose by the English Department; piece published in the school literary magazine.
- Earned 3 regional Honorable Mentions in the Scholastic Writing Awards (2 Poetry, 1 Personal Essay), recognizing excellence in original literary work.
- Recognized in the top 25% of 4,004 entries in The New York Times “My List” international essay contest.
- Recognized in the top 20% of 11,185 entries in The New York Times “Open Letter” international contest about DEI issues in my school community.
- Selected by faculty nomination as a recipient of the Williams Prize, one of 12 distinct honors awarded annually to members of the junior class, recognizing significant academic performance and resilience.

Academic & Enrichment Programs

Boston University Creative Writing Summer Program

anticipated, July – August 2026

- Selected for a competitive three-week residential workshop; honed narrative craft through intensive peer manuscript critique, producing a polished portfolio of original poetry and prose.

WRITING, JOURNALISM & EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP

Co-Founder & Editor — *The Governor's Review* (student political & economic journal) February 2026 – Present

- Founded and launched the school's first political and economic journal, building a platform for student discourse grounded in cultural perspective, representation and DEI issues alongside global affairs.
- Moderated weekly meetings for 20+ student members, guiding analysis of current events and shaping which stories the publication chose to tell and why.
- Established editorial standards and reviewed all submissions, upholding analytical rigor and objectivity across published work.

Editor — *The Spire* (School Literary Magazine), *The Governor's Academy*

March 2026 – Present

- Curated and selected 35+ student-submitted literary and visual art pieces, reading closely for voice and original perspective to uphold a rigorous editorial standard.
- Accelerated production by running weekly editorial board reviews and delivering developmental feedback to student writers.
- Coordinated with design and printing vendors to oversee typography, pagination, and layout, ensuring a polished final production.

Co-President — *Tutors for a Cause* (International Education Nonprofit)

September 2020 – Present

- Dedicated and scaled a Vietnam-based English literacy initiative over 5 years, growing from an individual 8th-grade volunteer to directing an international team of 15 tutors serving 200+ underserved Pre-K–7th grade students.
- Investigated the sociological barriers students face through firsthand student interviews, authoring an original article on the physical, economic, informational, and relational obstacles to education, published with accompanying photojournalism.
- Consulted with local educators to diagnose systemic teaching obstacles, then designed and compiled an original suite of gamified lesson materials to strengthen student engagement.

OBSERVATION, IDENTITY & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Peer Advisor — *Mental Health Advocacy Group*, *The Governor's Academy*

September 2025 – Present

- Coached underclassmen through academic and social stressors, applying structured, empathy-driven peer mentorship grounded in close listening and noticing what others may not say directly.
- Facilitated panel discussions for incoming students to destigmatize mental health and share actionable coping strategies.

- Organized campus-wide wellness initiatives, coordinating logistics for guest speakers, therapy dog visits, and other student events.

President — *Asian & Asian American Association, The Governor's Academy* May 2024 – Present

- Led operations, outreach, and cultural programming for a 100+ member affinity group, using experiential storytelling — tea tastings and henna workshops — to make cultural identity tangible for the community.
- Organized the regional Asian American Footsteps Conference for 200+ students from 20+ schools, managing programming, marketing, and logistics; personally ran a dumpling workshop that became the conference's first sold-out session.
- Launched the organization's official social media platform, engineering content strategies that significantly increased meeting attendance and student engagement.

Dorm Proctor — *The Governor's Academy* anticipated, September 2026 – Present

- Building a supportive residential community for freshman girl boarders, serving as their primary peer mentor through the transition to campus life.
- Mediating roommate conflicts and organizing inclusive common-room events to foster a close-knit dorm culture.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Director — *Special Olympics, The Governor's Academy* anticipated, September – November 2026

- Directing regional event operations for the campus's largest student-led organization, mobilizing 300+ high school volunteers.
- Coordinating volunteer schedules, resource distribution, and venue logistics for a major global sports movement supporting athletes with disabilities.
- Partnering with regional coaches to ensure a safe, inclusive, high-energy environment for competing athletes.

Tennis Captain — 2 years — *Varsity Girls Tennis, The Governor's Academy* March 2026 – Present

- Cultivated an inclusive, high-performance team culture, leading daily warm-ups, drills, and strategic player positioning.
- Earned team MVP (2025) and the ISL Sportsmanship Award (2024) for on-court leadership and character.

CREATIVE & ARTS EXPERIENCE (2016 – PRESENT)

- Invited to perform alongside the Princeton Tigerlilies (est. 1971), the oldest all-female a cappella group at Princeton University, in a collaborative campus showcase; selected for Advanced Chorus (The First) and A Cappella.
- Choreographed original contemporary and lyrical dance pieces following 10 years of training; performed roles in mainstage musicals (Pippin as an Ensemble Member, Little Women as Amy, Mamma Mia! as Lisa).

SKILLS & PERSONAL INTEREST

Languages: English (Native), Vietnamese (Business Proficient)

Notable Skills: Investigative Journalism, Creative Writing, Photojournalism, Event Management

Personal Interest: Travel, Vocal Performance, Dance