

Alumni Spotlight

Alba Dodaj (Analyst at Kimco Realty)

(BBA `14 and M.S. in Real Estate `17)



Baruch College is the institution where I have pursued both my undergraduate and graduate degrees. I earned my BBA in Finance & Investments in 2014 and my M.S. in Real Estate in 2017.

When I was researching Master's Programs in Real Estate, the driving factors for my decision to attend Baruch College were based on academic quality, diversity of the student body, and graduates' career paths. To facilitate my decision, I reached out to Baruch alumni working in the real estate industry, so I could get an understanding of the career paths they followed after graduation. What I realized was that students graduating from this program carried the same high-level career paths after graduation as other highly regarded programs. That is what led me to choose Baruch College again.

In addition to the curriculum and the knowledge that I received to proceed forward in my career, what I have valued the most are the vast resources and opportunities that the Real Estate Program offers to students in the form of clubs, panel events, company/site tours, sponsorship to industry forums, and resume and mentorship programs with leading real estate companies.

It's through the numerous communications that Margo Weaker, the Director of External Relations at the Real Estate Department, would send out to students that I learned about and was able to take advantage of some of the opportunities offered by the Program. I served as VP of Alumni Relations for the Graduate Real Estate Club, and I was fortunate to be awarded the William Newman Department of Real Estate Vornado Realty Trust Work/Study Fellowship for the 2015/2016 academic year. During the fellowship I had the pleasure of assisting Professor Yildiray Yildirim, Chair of the Department of Real Estate, and other faculty with their research projects on capital markets.

It was my ultimate fortune in participating in the Advisory Board Mentor for a Day Program that sparked my opportunity to work at Kimco Realty Corporation. My meeting with my mentors, the SVP of Portfolio Management and VP of Risk & Underwriting, gave me insight and clarity on the career path and company environment I would best enjoy. This introduction soon after converted to an internship during my final year of master's and a job offer upon graduation.

I have been working as an analyst for the Risk & UW Group for two years now, and during this time I have been able to grow and expand my responsibilities, which include underwriting acquisition and development projects in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions.

I am incredibly grateful to the faculty and staff at the William Newman Department of Real Estate, who have mentored and helped me along the way and I really urge students coming in to capitalize on what the Real Estate Program has to offer with regard to developing your career.