

THE ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER

JULY

This is an inclusive, diverse and national newsletter meant for the CBO alumni to learn more about each other, find support, and make great connections.

Our goal is to help every CBO alumni reach their full potential and to give back to an organization that gave so much to us!

In this issue, you will learn about upcoming events, recaps on past events, and how to stay safe in the current environment.

We don't know how long this pandemic will continue. We understand that this time has been very difficult on everyone. We, as the Alumni Association, are here for you if you need anything. We are all in this together so please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

In order for us to provide you with the best and most up to date information, please contact cboalumni@gmail.com with any feedback or any information you would like posted in the monthly newsletter.

We appreciate your involvement!

This issue is dedicated to our class of 2020!



CORE TEAM

BRITNEY WITTES

Influence Lead, Class of 2019

Britney graduated in three years from Columbia College Chicago with a B.A. in Dance. She is a model at Lily's Talent Agency, BMG Models, and DreamTeam Talent. She decided to help form the Alumni Association as a way to help alumni create their own network while still being able to give back to CBO for all they do for their Scholars.



AMY YI

Give Back Lead, Class of 2017

Amy graduated from Northwestern University with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and earned a Kellogg Certificate Program for Undergraduates in Managerial Analytics. She is currently working at a consulting firm called Roland Berger. Amy wanted to help form the Alumni Association because she wants to show her appreciation in some way, shape or form, and believes there are many other alumni who feel the same way.

NIC ROTI

Network Lead, Class of 2019

Nic graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in General Marketing. Nic is currently working for Barilla America as a Marketing Specialist. Nic wanted to help create the alumni association because of the impact CBO made on him. He wants to help raise the level of importance this program has on its Scholars and that once you're in CBO, you're a part of it forever.



NETWORK PILLAR

LUPITA GARCIA

Class of 2015

Lupita graduated from Elmhurst College with a degree in Secondary Education and ESL. She currently works at the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. She feels there is so much that goes on after college that no one shares with young professionals. Lupita would like to connect with others to help each other navigate through their careers.



ANNA AGUILAR

Class of 2011

Anna graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in Political Science. She is currently working as a Family Law Attorney in Chicago. CBO is near and dear to Anna, and she has watched it grow into what it is today. She still feels there is more that can be done and give back not just to CBO but the community that gave so much to her.

LESLY BARRERA

Class of 2017

Lesly graduated from Lake Forest College with a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Spanish. She is currently working at Blue Cross Blue Shield as a senior Market Analyst. She felt she was grounded through CBO but, no one mentions how difficult it can be to be a young adult. She thinks this is a great opportunity to get together with other young professionals to share and grow.



GIVE BACK PILLAR

ZARI DOBREV

Class of 2017

Zari graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a degree in Technical Systems Management. He is currently working at Spraying Systems Co. as a Technical Support Specialist. Zari feels that an alumni community has been missing from CBO. He also feels there is a lot of room to get involved and give back in the way that CBO has given to us.



FRANKIE CHARLES

Class of 2018

Frankie graduated from DePaul University with a degree in Theatre Technology. He currently lives in Minneapolis working as a Resident Artist Assistant Technical Director at the Minnesota Opera. Frankie wasn't sure how best to give back to the community that has given him so much, but he thought this would be a great place to start. Frankie is very active in the Highland Park community as an advocate for change.

INFLUENCE PILLAR

MATEUSZ SKRZYNIECKI

Class of 2018

Mateusz graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a degree in Graphic Design and Photography. He is currently working to achieve his masters degree in Applied Professional studies. Mateusz currently works at the Highland Park Public Library as a Media Assistant. He wants to give advice, answer questions and even told someone to join CBO as he was a great fit! Mateusz is happy to help out in anyway he can.



BRITTANY LOWIS

Class of 2017

Brittany graduated from DePaul University with a double major in Business Administration and Marketing with a concentration in Sales Leadership. She also received a double minor in Management and Economics. Currently, she is a 2L at DePaul University - College of Law. Without CBO's help through law school, she realized just how much CBO actually did help her. This realization is the reason she would like to give back to CBO and allow future scholars to get the best help/experience they can!

PAST EVENTS

Scholars Meet Alumni Panel

On June 28th, a panel of five alumni virtually met some of the current CBO Scholars. The Scholars asked questions about applying to graduate school, how to find internships, and what it feels like in your senior year of college.

Each of the alumni had a chance to introduce themselves, explain the field they are currently in, what they studied in college, and what they wish they knew or did differently. It was a great group conversation that also allowed the current Scholars become more comfortable with the CBO alumni and create common bonds.

We hope to get the chance to do more panels like this in the future!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. All alumni and CBO events are postponed until further notice.
 - a. The Alumni Association is working to plan a few virtual events for the alumni before the end of the year! Stay tuned!
2. The CBO staff are now doing online check-ins with high school and college Scholars. They are making sure their mentees are safe and doing well with their online learning.
3. Every Friday the CBO staff are dropping off groceries to Scholars in need. Scholars can let the CBO staff know what they need and the staff will put together care packages!
4. We have a new class of alumni! Welcome to the class of 2020!
5. On Sunday May 24, a few staff and volunteers drove to all of the college graduate houses as a parade to celebrate their graduations!



Jenny McKendry
U of I



Tiffany Stancin
Bradley University



Lucas Goebel
U of I



Andrea Montalvo
DePauw University



Isabella Diez (right)
Illinois State University



Cecilia Limon
DePauw University

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Jorge Castellanos
CBO Alumnus, Class of 2015
Elmhurst College
Degree: Business
Mentor: Terry Vismantas

How has being involved with CBO changed you?

"CBO has professionally and personally helped me achieve multiple goals since joining the program. I was connected to my current workplace via an internship that I gained from a CBO networking event. The constant support from CBO has been instrumental in my success."

What is your fondest CBO memory?

"My fondest memories are meeting my mentor for dinner every few months to reconnect, even after I graduated from undergraduate and graduate studies. We formed a great friendship and her support has been strong ever since we met!"

What advice would you give current and future Scholars?

"Stay involved and look for ways to give back. Especially towards your current college community."

Fun Fact about Jorge: I have two other siblings currently involved as CBO Scholars! I will also be a mentor this upcoming summer.

I graduated with my Masters in Business Administration from The University of Illinois at Chicago and now work as a Regional Sales Manager for Old World Industries.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Volunteer: Join the Gala or Golf committee to plan the events! Attend the Internship Fair, help out with Mock Interviews, or join community service hours!

Become a Mentor: Want to give back to the next generation of CBO Scholars? Become a mentor!

Speak on a panel: Want to tell current Scholars what you wish you knew before college? Email zaridobrev@gmail.com.

Host a workshop: Want to inform our current Scholars on something you're passionate about? Email cboalumni@gmail.com for more information!



DON'T LIVE HERE?

Make sure you are a part of the Facebook & LinkedIn groups to help alumni no matter where they are!

Interested in doing more with current Scholars?
Do a Q & A with students via videochat!

Are there Scholars or alumni in your area?
Facilitate a group get together for coffee, dinner, or a fun activity while also being a resource!

OR

If a student is nearby for a college visit, get coffee with them to answer any questions about college life or the general area they may have.

One or many of these spark your interest? Have an idea that isn't on here?
Email cboalumni@gmail.com for more information!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for joining us for another issue! If there are any events, ideas, or something going on in your life that you would like to share with us let me know!

We know that this is a difficult and very stressful time for many. We hope that you are staying safe, healthy and just know there is an end to all of this.

As summer approaches please remember to stay safe during this time and that we are all here to work together if any of the alumni need anything, or have ideas to help the current Scholars.

The Alumni Association is working very hard to figure out ways to keep the alumni in touch. We will be hosting a few virtual events that will be announced very soon!

Congratulations again to the class of 2020! I know this has been a difficult past few months but the alumni are all here for you if you need anything! Welcome to the CBO alumni, we are so lucky to have you! If you have any questions please feel free to reach out, we want to hear new perspectives!

Thank you for being apart of the CBO alumni. I look forward to hearing from some of you! Once we know any updates we will let you know.



Britney Wittes
Influence Pillar Lead
Core Member
Class of 2019
cboalumni@gmail.com

