

THE ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER

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 Council, 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!



PAST EVENTS

On August 28th the CBO Alumni Council held the first ever Virtual Reunion Happy Hour! It went well allowing Scholars from 2011, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2020 the opportunity to get to know one another, play games, and have a drink!

We will have more events similar to this in the future. We learned that having events on a weeknight and later when everyone gets off work would allow more alumni the opportunity to get in on the fun! We hope to see you all at our next event!

We are very grateful to those who were able to make the call and can not wait to get to know more of you at different events. Please keep your eye out for our next event!



ANNOUNCEMENT: STUDENT LOAN INFORMATION

WRITTEN BY: ANNA AGUILAR

If you're like me and joined the alumni club upon graduation, you also joined the millions who also graduated with student loans. As if dealing with loans wasn't enough of a welcome into post graduate life, in March of 2020, the world shut down as a result of the ongoing global pandemic that is known as COVID19. With so many people having been affected with lost jobs, loss of income and an uncertain future, in mid-March, the current administration through executive order, announced that it would set all federally held student loans at a 0% interest.

Then on March 27, 2020 as part of the CARES Act, student loans were placed at a 0% interest until September 20, 2020 and a 6 months forbearance, retroactive to March 13, 2020. Now, with the CARES Act having expired on July 31, 2020, the issue was what would happen after given that the world, especially the United States was barely starting to reopen and people were still under extreme financial hardship. Some continue to be.

When Congress was unable to pass an extension or new legislature to include relief for borrowers, the current administration issued, on August 8, 2020, a "Memorandum on Continued Student Loan Payment Relief During the COVID-19 Pandemic". What this memorandum entailed of that is gave the Department of Education and the Secretary of Education the authority to take the steps necessary to continue the following relief. First, the suspension of student loan payments was continued to December 31, 2020. Additionally, the 0% interest on loans was also extended to December 31, 2020.

While this is helpful and a relief to many borrowers, myself included, this only applies to federally held student loans. Those who have private loans, such as with SoFi or another company, are not included in the administration's relief. For those who hold private loans, they have to reach out to their loan holders to see what options are available.

For those who are able to and want to continue making payments towards the loan, payments can either be made without lifting the forbearance that's in place or by calling the provider and resuming payments like normal.

[Source: Memorandum on Continued Student Loan Payment Relief During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Business Insider](#)

***If you have any questions, comments, concerns please reach out to us.**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Nic Roti

CBO Alumnus, Class of 2019

Illinois State University,

**Degree: Bachelors of Science
in General Marketing**

Mentor: Brandon Kerndt

**How has being involved with CBO
changed you?**

"It has made me into the person I am today. Without CBO, college was not even a thought. When I started at CBO, I struggled in school, didn't have much drive, and was lost on what I wanted to do with myself. CBO taught me that I could do anything I wanted to, as long as I put my mind to it. I strongly believe that without CBO, I would be no where close to where I am today. I am truly

blessed to be apart of such a great organization."

What is your fondest CBO memory?

"That moment I accepted a full-time offer at my first company after college. Everything hit at once. All the work shops, job fairs, nights spent working with CBO on college letters, the memories with my mentor and how he picked me up when I was down, it was something I can't describe. I knew in that moment when I got my call about my offer, it was all thanks to CBO."

What have you done since graduating college?

I started off working in the medical industry for Medline Industries apart of the their retail team. I was an associate marketing manager for Venom Steel industrial nitrile gloves, and a brand manager of Ignite Cleansing Cloths. Since then, I became a marketing specialist at Barilla Americas on the Shopper Marketing team. I also am involved in a start up called Stupid Car Tray, where myself and the three other team members wear many hats and have sold over 25,000 in the last 5 months.

Fun Fact about Nic: I love photography. It has been a passion of mine for over a decade and I am constantly finding myself outside with a camera in hand capturing moments and places I do not want to forget.

HOW TO STAY SAFE AS THE WORLD OPENS

Here are a few tips of staying safe as the world begins to open back up.

1. Carry hand sanitizer in your car, you can use it each time you get back in after being in an unclean environment.
2. Leave a mask in your car, this way if you ever forget to grab one, you already have one ready for you!
3. Stay 6 feet apart, even if you are wearing a mask being in close proximity to someone else can still spread the virus and you never know what someone else is dealing with!
4. Continue to be kind, people are on edge as everyone has different viewpoints of what to do as everything opens. Continue to say please, thank you, excuse me, and even though they can't see it, smile.
5. Don't be ashamed to be clean or not feel comfortable being too close to others. Wherever you're at in your comfortability is okay. Don't let others tell you how you should feel. Allow yourself time to get acclimatized with the new ways the world is working.
6. Continue to do zoom calls. I know they are exhausting especially having so many in a week from work, but it is a safe and fun way to still stay connected with your friends and family from a safe distance! Also, you can include those who you wouldn't normally have a chance to if you were in person.
7. Stay positive! It can be difficult being inside, or not being able to hug your loved ones. The more we social distance and keep one another safe now, the faster we will be able to return to a "normal" lifestyle where you can chose to hug or not to hug!

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 a new Council we are very excited to get to grow and learn together and from one another! After hosting our first event, even though it was virtual, we learned a lot about how to better conduct one. We enjoyed getting to know each other in a laid back setting and having the chance to engage by playing virtual games together. We hope that we get to know you during the next virtual gathering!

As this is still confusing times, we are continuing to think of ways to support our alumni virtually and continue to spark engagement. If you have something you want acknowledged in the newsletter, let us know! If you just moved, got a new job, or just want other alumni to know a bit about you. Also, if you have an idea for a virtual event please don't hesitate to reach out! We also love hearing new ideas as well as opinions since we are all learning together!

Thank you for sticking with us for yet another newsletter and we hope to continue to learn together! Thanks again!



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