ABLE
ALBANY BUSINESS LEADERS EMERGING

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Samantha Boyer

Associate Underwriter, Energy Excess Casualty – Major Accounts

Samantha Boyer is a proud graduate from the University at Albany, Class of 2020. Starting as a Human Biology major but finishing with a double major in Communications and Business Administration with a focus in finance and management. Samantha got involved with ABLE during her Junior year at UAlbany while searching for an organization where she would feel more than just another number. As a Junior she decided to apply to the internship program where she shadowed the great Emily Robillard who was Director of Affairs at the time. Emily handed over the torch post-graduation so by Samantha's senior year, she was Director of Affairs.

Samantha says, "I found being on the ABLE executive board to be rewarding in various ways. It was a chance to be creative and collaborative when at times college courses could feel redundant and extremely structured. Original thoughts were always welcomed and encouraged. It's always amazing to see an idea you played a part in during the foundational steps come to fruition.". Being a Class of 2020 graduate, COVID-19 played a huge part of her post-graduation plans. She made the decision to take a gap year from looking for a job reflecting her degree. She eventually fell back into the rabbit hole of job applications and was seeking a moment of clarity. It wasn't until she had an eye-opening conversation with her dad who is a risk engineer for an insurance company, Chubb, when she began to broaden her search. After doing some research a specific position stood out to me, an associate Underwriter at Chubb on the Major Accounts Excess Casualty team in Midtown NY. Samantha was then offered a position after multiple interviews. She feels grateful to be a part of a team that is so hardworking and encouraging and has had the pleasure of helping plan broker networking events including a self-defense class and a meatball tasting contest and joining business round tables.

Her experiences during ABLE have been some of the highlights in Samantha's college journey. Samantha says, "I do believe my experiences in ABLE have had a direct impact on my career post-graduation. I was surprised to reflect and notice that even the little things I picked up from ABLE have come a long way such as being able to manage my time between ABLE obligations and studying. The three interview processes during my time in ABLE, alongside others, have prepared me for the "real world" as some may call it. Through events, orientations, and the weekly E-Board meetings, ABLE helped grow my public speaking and professional communication skills exponentially. Collaborating with peers from various major backgrounds in ABLE strongly resembles the style of teamwork in my current position. I work closely with colleagues in Philly, Houston, and of course New York, all stemming from different Universities and study focuses. Having a shared goal enables us to use our different perspectives to our advantage, producing the best result."

When asked to give current ABLE members some advice Samantha said, "The advice I would like to give to current members is to utilize the network you build during your years in undergrad. It may sound cliche and straightforward, however we put so much emphasis on building a network, it is important to remember to use it as well. This could be as simple as reaching out to a past professor for career insight or even a study partner if you ever get stuck at work. I would also advise members to do their research on all opportunities that present themselves. Do not miss out on a job opportunity because it doesn't fit the criteria of what you imagined for yourself post-grad. You may be surprised to discover an interest in something completely different than you expected. And lastly, being the newest member in any environment can feel overwhelming at first. Remind yourself that you are an asset and just as grateful you may feel to be offered a position, remember that it works both ways and what you bring to the table matters."