

In the short three months since graduation, my professional life has been a whirlwind. I first landed a job with BaliHoo, a start-up software company (mind you, I had relatively no experience with software and was/am not overly technically inclined) as an "Account Coordinator." I essentially supported our external customers and our internal teams as the liaison and go-between - helping end users get the most out of our marketing software and coordinating with internal teams to execute the day-to-day operations. I did that for six weeks until I was given the fastest promotion in company history to Digital Operations, where I executed and managed digital marketing and advertising efforts on behalf of our clients. Both of these positions required me to take a fire-hose of new information to the face, learn quickly, work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and continually face challenges. Through recognition of my hard work, another opportunity came my way and fell into my lap. I was offered a position to become Senior Project Manager for HP as they work to develop the new Hewlett Packard Enterprises brand. Seeing it as a big upward movement both in role/responsibility and financial gain, I jumped at the chance and accepted the role. I will now be managing the branding, design development, online marketing, and UI/UX development of HP Enterprises. No doubt, I'm about to take another fire-hose of information to the face, be forced to learn quickly, work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and face new challenges daily. Majoring in Political Economy certainly prepared me to adapt and handle those demands. There are so many opportunities for individuals who can think critically, communicate effectively, work diligently, and present themselves professionally. It also helps if to treat people extremely well in the process! C of I's POE department really enhanced my ability to do all of those things and I'm excited about my future.

Kasey Allen, 2015

As you may have heard, the opportunities resulting from majoring in POE from the College of Idaho are limitless. This is not an idea, nor is it a theory, it is a fact. Even as several of my classmates have entered in the fields of law, government, or politics, I have chosen a slightly different path. Growing up as a poor kid from Caldwell, I felt that my career prospects were severely limited. The College of Idaho, and more specifically my degree in Political Science, changed the way that I looked at the world as the program helped to broaden my outlook on life. I learned more than just particulars about government structure and international relations; I gained knowledge about the tenets of organizational politics, the significance of community decision making, the impact of economics on our lives, and the importance of proper research.

Being a POE major I had the opportunity to choose among several highly competitive internships while in school, and I ultimately spent time working as a legal intern for one of the nation's largest fraternal organizations. After graduation, I used my degree to enter into the financial services industry, where I have had much personal and professional success. One of the greatest lessons that I ascertained in my undergraduate studies was to never stop learning. I have taken this as my personal mantra and made the decision to continually further my education. While working as a bank manager, I earned a MBA in Management & Strategy, but I did not stop there. I am currently pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration with a concentration in strategic management, in hopes of one day entering into the field of academia. These opportunities all stemmed from choosing to major in POE from the College of Idaho. If you are interested in unlimited opportunity and growth potential, I encourage you to choose the same.

Sal Villegas, 2003

After graduating from C of I with International Political Economy degree I ended up working in a place I least expected but I am very glad I did. I started off applying to almost any position that was available in International Organizations back home in Tajikistan (not Bosnia ;)) but it was hard finding something mainly because they tend to hire people with post-graduate degrees and also people they have worked with before. In order to not waste time, I started volunteering for a local organization that is mainly focused on culture preservation but also works on some development projects. While working there I had opportunity to meet many people and make some good connections. One of those connections was the head of HR at TALCO Management, one of the biggest firms in the country, who invited me to an interview to their company. Using my brilliant (cough cough) BS skills, I passed the interview and now work as a supply manager at the firm. My job is to find best available prices on commodities needed for aluminum production around the world, buy and deliver it to the factory. I get to work with many international firms while buying the commodities as well as arranging its delivery to Tajikistan. I also continue working volunteering and am involved with some development programs here in Tajikistan.

Isfandiyor Abdullo, 2015

After graduation, I gained some valuable practical experience through industry internships, one in Italy, one in Germany and one in China. These were all private sector internships, mainly in business development and sales.

After my internship year, I started attending the University of St. Gallen, pursuing an M.A. in International Affairs and Governance. Further, I was selected in a competitive process to enroll in a dual-degree at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, where I received an M.A. in Law and Diplomacy.

Throughout my studies, I have worked part-time in business development in the solar pv sector in Germany, as an assistant at the Institute of International Economics (SIAW-HSG) in St. Gallen, and joined two student consulting firms. I am currently writing my thesis and interviewing with major Strategy Consulting companies for a full-time position, in the long-run I am hoping to attain a PhD and possibly join the diplomatic service in Germany.

Daniel Wenz, 2011

I graduated from the College of Idaho in 2006, as a psychology major with a political economy minor. Jasper LiCalzi was my advisor as an incoming student (I transferred from BSU), and I really appreciated all of his advice throughout college. I was on the debate team, and like many forensics competitors I figured that I should become a lawyer. Knowing that law school was a large investment, and with mediocre LSAT scores I decided to try to actually work with attorneys before heading to law school. I had trouble finding a good paying entry-level legal job in the local Boise area, so I then widened my search to Seattle.

My debate partner and one of my best friends convinced me to try New York City, so I took a trip and lined up interviews as a legal secretary. I could tell right off the bat that the people I was

meeting on the East coast placed a lot of value on the quality of my education. So anyway, I received a job offer and I married my husband in August 2006, and then a few days later we moved to Brooklyn. He didn't have a job lined up, so my plan was to support us while he went back to school. I worked at the insurance and re-insurance law firm Mendes and Mount for six months. That job was not challenging enough for me, and the attorneys I worked with were very unhappy. I felt that law was not for me, it was a large investment and a crowded field, which given the amount of debt and hours didn't make sense to me.

My lifeline came when my aforementioned friend helped me line up a job interview in banking. His job sounded so interesting, But it took a long time and four rounds of interviews to get the job because the team had a lot of reservations about hiring a psychology major without any banking experience. Somehow, I managed to get my foot in the door and I my plan was that I would simply work twice as hard as everybody else in the incoming analyst program.

I started as an investment banking analyst at SG in May 2007. Training was one of the most stressful times in my life, as I was utterly unprepared for most of the subject matter! I was only a POE minor, with a few economics classes and financial modeling/ valuation, financial products, comparables analysis etc. were mostly new concepts for me. During training, I bombed my accounting test and had to re-take it. But the second time I got a perfect score.

I spent four years there in their capital markets group, and saw all of the ups and downs in banking as a result of the recession. I hung in there, and worked long hours but tried to be as efficient as possible to spend any time that I could with my husband. While I did get promoted and still had opportunities to grow, I felt that I needed a fresh start and a new challenge.

A former colleague and real estate banker convinced me to move to Capital One in May 2011 to help them start a new syndications department covering commercial real estate, oil and gas, and general C&I and specialty finance. I took a leap of faith with them, and applied to NYU Schack's graduate program in commercial real estate. I've been promoted twice, to VP and now as a Director specializing in commercial real estate syndications. I've led some of the largest, and most challenging financings that Capital One has done in the market, I've also had two beautiful children, and I'm the breadwinner providing for my family.

This was longer than you wanted, but I thought that it would be good for people to hear that if a psychology major / POE minor from Idaho can become a very successful banker in New York City, you guys can do anything that you put your minds to. The keys to my success to date have been hard work, a strong sense of self, trying to be a nice person that people genuinely want to work with, and more than a dash of good luck.

If any of you would like to consider a program in banking in New York please reach out to me.
Liz Strader, 2006

My name is James Hank Kvamme, graduate from The College of Idaho class of 2012. I graduated with my degree in Political Economy with a focus on Environmental Studies, additional minors in History and Psychology.

After graduation I went right into The Masters of Public Administration program at Boise State University where worked as a Graduate/Research assistant for 2 professors. During my time in the program, I developed an interest in health and fitness and got a job with a Sports Nutrition Company (MusclePharm) handling sales and account management.

I then found a job at Bodybuilding.com as an Affiliate Marketing Manager. I knew about the company and was really fond of it. Thus, I pursued the position and was hired.

Skills I utilize on a daily basis are communication, data analysis, planning and projecting, analyzing potential steps in marketing plans (much like policy analysis), and budgeting. Where Bodybuilding.com reaches international customers, we have to implement strategies that look into economic variables from countries all over the world. If one country's economy is struggling, we cannot allocate as many resources to focus on marketing there, especially with the crunch of Year over Year growth goals we must meet for bonus payouts and other company benefits.

Hank Kvamme, 2012

My career in journalism has involved several moves and media organizations. Prior to graduation in 2003, a C of I alum connected me to a job as weekend staffer at the Associated Press. From there I moved back to my hometown and founded a weekly newspaper with two C of I classmates. During the following eight years, I returned to Boise to work as a reporter for the Idaho Business Review, followed by business editor at the Boise Weekly. Another move led me to running my paper until it was closed in 2012. Building on the connections I'd made through AP, IBR and BW, I continued to freelance and copy edit for papers in Idaho and eastern Washington. In early 2013 I was asked to return to Boise and serve as editor-in-chief of Boise Weekly, in which capacity I continue to work. My ability to successfully rise in my industry has been directly related to my Politics and Economics major—without it, I would not have the breadth of knowledge, writing experience nor research skills to be an effective journalist or editor. Working for the Coyote and Quest alumni magazine didn't hurt, either.

Zach Hagadone, 2003

I graduated in 2007 with a BA in Business/International Political Economy. Following graduation I entered the accounting profession, working for Holiday Retirement for 4 years as a Staff Accountant, and then with Levi Strauss & Co for 2 years as a Senior Accountant in the European Wholesale group. In mid-2014 I left Levi's to join a small startup, Rhythmsy, as CFO. After a year in this position, I started my own company, Humanite, which has holdings in a number of subsidiaries. My current focus is EpiFiction, a Boise-based education tech product in which I am majority owner and acting CEO. EpiFiction is gearing up for an official launch in late 2015. I also sit on advisory boards for a handful of other companies and non-profits. I generally reside in Bangalore, India, but also have an office in Boise, Idaho.

Tom Patchin, 2007

I majored in Political Economy! Now, I'm part of the Strategy & Marketing team for GE Renewable Energy. I have two functions- one: I support the GE Solar business with market forecasting, policy analysis, cost analysis, competitive intelligence and customer strategy; and two: I lead the comparative economics effort for the GE wind business, so I research and model, by country, what other form of electricity generation wind has to beat to be an economic choice for that country. I look at long-term energy trends, adoption, renewable energy policy support, to help our business invest time and effort to bring more wind onto the grid. So if you want to know what they're installing in Chile, Turkey or India for power generation, I'm the person to call! I graduated C of I in 2009, and went to graduate school at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, for a master's degree in Ecological Economics. Along the way, I interned at the Idaho National Lab, doing cost modeling for biofuels supply chain systems. I've been working at GE Renewable Energy for 3 years, and I absolutely love my job.

Best of luck, future POE grads!

Ellen Roybal, 2009

Upon graduating from The College of Idaho, I went to work at Micron Technology in the Human Resources Department. After putting in my time as a recruiting assistant to learn about Human Resources, I was able to use the analysis skills and critical thinking development that the Political Science program afforded me to justify and create a position in Recruiting for a Business Analyst. In that role, I helped to develop our worldwide metric portfolio, develop global documentation procedures, and develop and deliver training. I partnered with the Immigration Legal team to help us develop ways to meet compliance requirements, programs I would not have understood if I didn't have an understanding of Constitutional Law and International Relations. In the Political Science program, I learned how to be organized, eloquent, and a leader. At Micron, I learned how to deploy those skills to help resolve problems. The ability to organize my thoughts, dissect problems, and put in the hard work put me in a position to configure and develop domestic and international applicant tracking software, which was ultimately my calling as a Business Analyst. Studying political theory and analysis does more than make you an intelligent conversationalist. The program puts you in contact with professors and people that teach you how to think and that is a huge asset to bring into any work environment.

Stacy McCain

I graduated Spring 2013 from The College of Idaho's Political Economic Department with extremely mediocre grades. Since graduation, I have worked for the Idaho Democrats in the House of Representatives in the 2014 Legislative session, and interned with Conservation Voters for Idaho.

Soon thereafter I started working at an online marketing company, which is not quite what I expected with a POE major, however, with all of the writing POE majors are used to, along with the verbal and critical thinking skills, my major has allowed me to be successful in my endeavors at Page One Power.

Ashley Penrod, 2013

Immediately after graduation I moved to Philadelphia and worked as a representative payee for the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania (MHSP). During the time working there I applied to Teach for America (TFA). After one year at MHASP I left to start a six week training with TFA in the Bronx. I taught high school math (I majored in math in addition to Politics/Economics) for four years in Camden, New Jersey. I then went back to school to get a second bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rowan University in New Jersey. During that time I did an internship at American Water, a private water utility. Upon graduation from Rowan in 2010 I moved to Boise to begin a job at an engineering consulting firm. I still work at the same company here in Boise and primarily do hydraulic modeling of municipal water and sewer systems.

LaDonne Harris, 2003

Following graduation from The College of Idaho (Albertson College ☺) in 2003 I moved to Oregon to pursue a career in the golf/hospitality industry at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. Within 10 months I was able to earn my way onto the management team. For the past 6 years I have been the director of golf, leading a team of 80 staffers and directly overseeing revenues of \$40M+. Bandon Dunes is the #1 golf resort in North America.

I have completed the PGA Professional Golf Management program, PGA Certified Professional Program (General Management) and have begun working towards my Master Professional status. I have been recognized as the Golf Professional of the Year for KemperSports Management in 2007, Oregon PGA Merchandiser of the Year in 2013, Oregon PGA Horton Smith Award Winner in 2014 and Pacific Northwest Horton Smith Award winner in 2014.

Jeff Simonds, 2003

I thoroughly enjoyed my college of Idaho experience. It helped make me the person I am. I was deeply involved on the campus, chairman of the student senate. Vice President of the student body, etc. I was there during the Vietnam war. My dad was in the Air Force and in Vietnam my freshman year.

I found my poly sci classes with Drs. Wolfe and Cope enjoyable. I had enough credits I believe for an Econ. Minor.

That being said my major did not help me get a job in any way. I even had one job interviewer laugh at me when I told him my college major. After college my jobs included, forklift operator, McDonald's asst. mgr. warehouse worker, flagged for crop dusting planes, steel salesman, semiconductor sales mgr. Finally in my mid 30s became a stockbroker, worked my way up to partner in an investment banking firm and was able to retire at 55 ten years ago.

Along the way I've been the college's national alumni president twice and recipient of the alumni service award. I'm currently a member of the national alumni board.

I am now a contest winning fiction writer and realize I should have been an English major. My verbal language score on the SAT was the 99th percentile, composite 93, but my GPA out of C of I was 2.3. I had a lot of fun at the college!

Michael Rettig, 1972

Graduated in June 1965 with a BA in Economics. Enlisted in the US Army for Infantry Officer's Candidate School. Commissioned a Second Lieutenant in February 1967. Served three years including a tour in Viet Nam. Received an MBA from Santa Clara University in June 1969. Joined the general management program at Borg-Warner Corp. and worked in long range planning, manufacturing management and advanced technology program management. Joined United Technologies Corp. in 1981. Worked in strategic planning and business development. Joined DENTSPLY International Inc. in 1984 as Director of Corporate Planning. Promoted to Vice President, Planning and Business Development in 1993 responsible for acquisitions and divestitures. Spent almost \$500 million on business additions until my retirement in 2001 at 58.

Mike Hanson, 1965

A few months after graduating I found myself in an entry level sales job. Around the time that I decided the job wasn't very fulfilling, I received my first opportunity to work in the corporate world. Since then I have filled many roles, from working as an executive assistant at a venture capital firm to becoming a paralegal (you wouldn't believe how I swung that one without a certificate). It was pretty easy to rise to mid-level positions with the research and communication experience that I honed in the POE department. Concurrent to these jobs, I have been a freelance writer and editor; I've edited dissertations, completely re-written high fantasy novels, and created loving and humorous best man speeches. After coming to the conclusion that corporate desk jobs aren't quite my cup of [conflict-free] tea, I'm in the process of switching career paths towards non-profit development. I'm beginning to see some success as an event planner/manager/grunt and I'm currently trying to gain grant-writing experience. As a loving nod towards the liberal arts, I will also note that I am in the process of becoming both a butcher and professional Raqs Sharqi dancer in addition to occasionally working as an acting coach for a talent agency in Seattle, WA.

Victoria Hess, 2011

I graduated from College of Idaho in June of 1995 and this June will mark 20 years since my graduation. In the past two decades I have had a number of personal and professional experiences that tie back to my time at the College of Idaho. I completed by degree as a double major with a BA in Economics and Spanish. I had spent my junior year abroad living and studying in Spain. In the year that followed graduation, I returned to Spain for an extended visit, interned at Private Client Group at Merrill Lynch and made ends meet waiting tables at a local restaurant. Economics in its simplest form is the study of decision making and although I enjoyed my studies immensely, diving "what's next" for myself professionally and academically remained elusive. I chose to continue my education in an area of interest - Conflict Management. In the summer of 1996, I entered a Masters Degree program in Dispute Resolution being offered through the Pepperdine University School of Law. Wonderful experience

intellectually and professionally. I worked full-time at the institute as a research assistant and finished up my degree the following year. I returned to Idaho and entered the workforce a few months later as a Marketing Representative for a title company. This followed a series of operational and business development roles at a number of organizations including Micron, HP, and Aquent. These professional adventures includes a number experiences...some very good (getting promoted, being recruited, fun business travel, working with/for great people) and some not so good (recession/lay off, working with/for some not so great people).

I am currently working at Preventative Health as the Director of Operations & Business Development. We are a small, but rapidly growing company that provides on-site biometric screening and preventative health consultation to a host of organizations throughout Southern Idaho (including College of Idaho). I am a little wiser and experienced than my days at College of Idaho, but still fascinated with the process of decision making and its application in business processes.

Brad Mauzerall, 1995

After graduation from College of Idaho in 2001, I attended law school at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. I graduated with a JD in 2004 with an emphasis in Intellectual Property law. During law school, I learned a lot about what I liked to be involved in (e.g. emerging technology and digital media topics) and also a lot of what I had no interest in ever being involved with again (e.g. the law itself).

After law school I had the stark realization that I now had a fair amount of student loan debt in a field I had absolutely no interest in being involved with, so I went back to what took me to law school in the first place - technology. I started a (what is now defunct) startup called Check a Biz. Check a Biz was an online business rating system website where consumers could rate and review local companies in their area, and those businesses could sponsor and champion the website to receive customer satisfaction data about what their customers thought they were doing well (and not so well).

During that time I was out talking to those business owners who became Check a Biz sponsors to learn about what they were in need of and what were lacking in terms of their internet presence and online marketing. They may *not* have been interested in the customer rating data I was trying to sell them, but they definitely all needed help with a variety of online marketing services such as web design, development, SEO, pay per click advertising, email marketing, social media, etc.

So, I started Valitics in 2006 and that is where I have been since then. Day to day, we work with our clients (who range from scrappy start-ups with little more than an idea and a passion up to \$300 million-dollar-a-year international corporations) who trust us to display, market and monitor their products and services for them online. My role at Valitics is multifaceted, but I am primarily in charge of client acquisition, client management, and project management.

Looking back, the education and experiences that I had at College of Idaho have helped me be a good service provider to our clients. Being able to listen and truly understand what are very often involved and confusing situations, and then being able to reveal the true underlying need that the client *really* has takes a lot of critical thinking skills, patience and empathy. More importantly to the client (and to the bottom line for my company), being able to take leadership of the process to plan, design, create, implement and

track the solution to their need is what delights our clients and keeps them recommending us to others.

Without the challenges and mentorship that professors like Dr. Kerry Hunter, Dr. Jasper LiCalzi, Dr. John Thuerer, Dr. Garth Claassen and Dr. Stephen Fisher and others gave me during my time at College of Idaho, I seriously doubt that I would be able to relish and embrace with the challenges that my career consists of as much as I do. And for that I am very grateful.

J. Glerum, 2001