



This month's Alumni Spotlight features Cecilia (Cece) Kolesar, Class of 2008. Before moving on to Bourgade Catholic, Cece attended St. Louis the King grade school. Once reaching Bourgade, Cece continued the path of a promising athletic career while also staying highly active in many of Bourgade's clubs, including a stint as Freshmen Class Treasurer in the 2004-2005 school year. Among all of Cece's extra-curricular involvement, it was her performances on the volleyball court and on the softball diamond that really shined.

After graduating Bourgade Catholic, Cece pursued a bachelor's degree in Biology at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff (UAPB), where she was also a four-year starter on the Golden Lions softball team. Her junior and senior season, Cece made 2nd Team All-Conference and in her senior season, the All-Tournament Team. Succeeding her undergraduate success, Cece played one season of professional softball overseas in the Austrian Softball League, before returning to UAPB to enter her role as the assistant softball coach for three seasons. Cece would later enter and complete the master's program at Arkansas Tech University earning a degree in College Student Personnel and a master's certificate in Advising. UAPB became Cece's home for education, softball and her professional career path.

In 2014, Cece became a university recruiter in UAPB's Office of Recruitment. In 2017 she transitioned into a Scholarship Coordinator role and then later into a Transfer Coordinator role which she is currently active in today. She also remains active in her coaching role for the Golden Lions softball team. Cece had never anticipated working in higher education until her time as a recruiter where she was able to connect with students who were transitioning from high school into college. Her passion for seeing students succeed quickly developed and it would inspire her to reflect on her own journey of success from Bourgade to UAPB.

While attending Bourgade, Cece, like many students, found herself as someone in need of tuition assistance as she and her family were heavily reliant on the generosity of others to receive a Catholic education. In sharing her journey, Cece remembers the Class of 2008 being "One of the best to do it!" and she still finds herself reflecting on life lessons that she encountered inside and outside of the classroom. Cece remains fond of mentors like Coach Huff who had a tremendous impact on her growth as an athlete and a person. Over recent years, Cece's reflection of her path inspired her to make a promise for her 30th birthday -- to give back to the community that helped her grow.

This past March, among celebrating the big 3-0, Cece also fulfilled her promise by funding two \$250.00 scholarships. These scholarships have helped support the tuition needs for two of Bourgade's student-athletes who have demonstrated outstanding performance in the classroom and out on the softball diamond. We are so grateful to have the support of alumni, like Cece.

And we are proud to have amazing alumni pursuing their dreams, supporting others and making a difference in our world.

If you'd like to nominate an outstanding Bourgade graduate for an upcoming Alumni Spotlight, please email bburgoz@bourgadecatholic.org.