Colby Adolph graduated in May 2013 with a degree in biochemistry and hopped right into a master’s program at Purdue University. Now, Adolph spends her time in the chemistry buildings at Purdue either teaching sophomore organic chemistry labs, attending graduate chemistry courses or doing research in the lab, but she got her start in the Moody Science Building at Schreiner University.

“I chose Schreiner University because of the family-like atmosphere and small class size. The opportunity to continue to play my sport (basketball) at a collegiate level was exciting, too,” she said. “Schreiner also provided me with opportunities that led me to Purdue.”

During her years at SU, Adolph was involved in student government, the Schreiner Student Ambassador program and the women’s basketball team, among other activities. Her involvement with Career Development also helped her prepare for the future.

“I utilized the summer internship program and annual graduate school fairs from career services,” she said. “The Career Development programs I participated in were very well organized and thought out, making the experience I had with them very comfortable and useful. It’s always a bit of a stressful ordeal to think of the next level of education or work in any stage of life, and during my incredibly busy time as an undergraduate, Schreiner Career Development and Cristina Martinez helped sort out my future goals and current endeavors so that I may be prepared for a smooth transition to my next stage of life.”

“The life experience, relationships, networking and public speaking skills I acquired during my four years there (at SU) are invaluable,” she said.

Adolph plans to work in the chemical industrial field as a synthetic organic chemist after she completes her doctorate in five years.

JD Kiefer is a 2013 graduate who earned bachelor’s degrees in communications and graphic design. He is now employed at James Avery Jewelry as a production artist, and, in a few years, he hopes to continue his education.

“I intend to continue my education by first getting a Master of Fine Art in the graphic design area,” he said. “I then want to pursue my doctorate in organizational leadership. After I have been in the work force for several years, I would love to be in higher education as a professor.”

Kiefer said the opportunities and education he had at Schreiner University helped him out in the professional world.

“Without Schreiner I wouldn’t have been able to make the professional connections that I did,” he said. “I loved the fact that the graphic design program was not just a class but a professional work environment with real clients. I believe Schreiner gives their students all the tools necessary to be successful.”

One of the tools that led Kiefer to success was utilizing Career Development services while at SU.

“I knew Cristina Martinez (director of career development) since my transfer orientation class, and she helped me find an internship for both the graphic design and communications degrees,” Kiefer said. “I used her help on my resume on several occasions. I think the Career Development program is awesome.”

Today, as a professional adult, Kiefer still looks back on his time at SU fondly.

“I had a very enjoyable experience at SU,” he said. “At times I think I involved myself in too much, but in the end it was worth it.”

Maggie Rios will be the first to admit she wasn’t completely sold on the idea of a liberal arts education at Schreiner University when she committed her freshman year. Rios cites being a business-driven person for her initial hesitation, but now she realizes just how valuable her time and education at SU really was.

“I graduated in May 2013 with my bachelor’s degree in business management,” she said. “I currently am working as a subcontract and procurement specialist for an oiling manufacturing company called Keppel AmFELS. When presenting or approaching a difficult situation, I realize I always have a creative approach and my suggestions or advice in meetings is always considered. I believe my Schreiner liberal arts education helped with this.”

Rios took full advantage of Career Development at SU before heading out into the real world.

“The most useful program I went to that was hosted by Career Development was the etiquette dinner,” she said. “Not necessarily because they taught you how to eat, but because I have a sense of confidence in lunch meetings.”

In the fall, Rios will begin her master’s program at University of Texas at Brownsville and then hopes to attend the University of Houston to study corporate law. She’ll continue to work full time while she obtains her master’s degree.

“It is because of my Schreiner education and the leadership skills I attained during those years that I am the driven and ambitious person I am today,” she said. “I felt prepared when stepping into the real world.”