



In this week's Alumnae Spotlight, we feature Veronica Laborde from the Class of 2010.

During her time at Providence, Veronica was highly involved in the student body. She was an Ambassador and a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and National Art Honor Society. She participated in soccer, wrote for the ProVue School Paper, and was a member of Provet TV. She served on the Student Council all four years, and for three years, she served as her Class President.

After graduating from Providence in 2010, she attended Texas Christian University and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. Veronica described parts of college as a "breeze", stating that her time here prepared her academically for college. Writing essays was easy, and because of taking APUSH (AP US History), she didn't have to take history in college. However, Providence prepared Veronica for college in more ways than one. She was also prepared for college socially. Providence helped build Veronica's confidence. She learned that she didn't have to be anyone else but herself. She described Providence as "a safe place for me to figure out my personality and then own it!"

Providence felt like home to Veronica. The small class sizes allowed for strong friendships to form and for a tight-knit family vibe to take root. The inside jokes and quiriness that were at Providence, she describes, would only come from people who were completely and unashamedly themselves. When Veronica became an upperclassman, she especially enjoyed making friends with underclassmen. She recounts, however, that she especially enjoyed befriending the middle school girls. It was a middle school student who first called Veronica a "role model". She stated that responsibility changed her and lit a fire in her.

Today, Veronica is the Women's Director at Deer Creek Camp, an interdenominational summer camp and retreat center, located in Medina, TX. In her role, she is responsible for recruiting, coordinating retreats, managing guest services, hiring and leading the girls' staff, and serving as the Marketing Manager during the camp off-season.

Veronica first began working at Deer Creek while she was a student at Providence. This summer will mark her tenth year working there. She stated that Providence highly influenced this career path. The "fire" that was lit in her to be a role model to younger girls, continues ablaze in her role at Deer Creek. When she felt the same feeling of "home" at Deer Creek as she had at Providence, she was confident that's where she needed to be. For the past ten years, God has been using Veronica to lead countless campers and staff members to come through Deer Creek Camp's gates, where she spends time with kids teaching them about Jesus and walking through life with them. Veronica describes this career as a blessing and gift that only God could give.

At Providence, is where Veronica recounts being led to surrender her life to Christ. During the Spring of her sophomore year, Veronica was invited to her first Providence A.C.T.S. Retreat by her friends. Though originally imagining it as a weekend to have fun and just hang out with friends, it was on that retreat that Veronica first saw the Gospel portrayed in person. Blown away, Veronica knew Jesus had taken hold of her heart and opened her eyes to her need for Him. Her life hasn't been the same since.

Veronica has dove into her career and is enjoying the life God has led her to. She's been voted "Most likely to unintentionally start a trend of mismatched socks among campers" and has also started marathon running. Her favorite marathon was the recent Walt Disney World Half Marathon, of which she participated in with a family from camp.

When asked what advice she'd give to current Provets, Veronica stated it's important to know that it's okay to not have everything figured out, and to be okay with change. Though not choosing a career that directly correlated with her major, she's using techniques and lessons learned in college for her career. THAT is God's Providence. She is confident she is where she needs to be and is doing the work God's called her to do.

She states, "You can plan your life for the next 5 years, down to the tiniest detail, and God is still going to change it. To avoid the anger, stress, and frustration that comes from having your plans change, change your perspective. Ask God to reveal to you, your strengths and passions, and then for the courage to follow. He will set your path before you, just don't be afraid if it's different than what you thought you wanted. I see His blessings in my life daily, and I wouldn't trade it for the plan I had when I graduated high school."

Congratulations, Veronica, on all of your success and on a wonderful life you're living. We are so proud of the Godly work you're doing and know that you will continue to serve as a role model to many more young women. May our Provident God bless you always!