Pablo Cabrera wasn’t sure about studying abroad. He loved his native Guatemala and was excelling as a chemical engineering student at Rafael Landivar University, a Jesuit school in Guatemala City. But when he was offered a full scholarship to finish his degree at Regis University, he couldn’t pass up the opportunity. So he said goodbye to family and friends and moved to Colorado.

At Regis, Pablo found another family waiting for him. He lived in the Romero House and the sense of community he discovered there ensured a smooth transition. During his three years in Denver, he has continued to jump at every opportunity offered to him. He has worked in the Office of University Ministry as an assistant, a peer minister and now a Kairos Retreat leader. He has tutored students in chemistry and this year, he served as the director of multicultural affairs with the Regis University Student Government Association (RUSGA).

Pablo has marveled at the kindness of people at Regis. Quinn Waller from University Ministry, as well as, Drs. James Seibert and Kateri Ahrendt have had a major impact on him. “Without the advice and encouragement of these people, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” he said.

As a double major in chemistry and math, Pablo also has built on the strong foundation he began to develop in Guatemala. He aspires to a career in drug synthesis and discovery and took a major step in that direction with his recent acceptance to several top-tier Ph.D. programs in chemistry, including Notre Dame and Michigan.

Pablo is once again on the verge of a great adventure. He knows from experience that the transition won’t be easy. He will miss the community he has found at Regis, and this will mean more years away from Guatemala. But he has learned that when an opportunity arises, and you grab it, you can go places you never imagined.