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Gabby gabs about Builder Family

By **Gabby Gamez**
Photo Editor

This elaborate tale doesn't come with a tuition break, the secret to being the best college student, or even becoming an All-American in your sport. Although, it does explain why I stayed in "little old Winfield" for the past four years, traveling over 1200 miles round-trip to see my family whenever the chance arose.

With Thanksgiving being just around the corner, the countdown has begun for everyone itching to get home to their families and taking a much needed break. It has caused this old individual to feel nostalgic on how I can't take the credit for all the success I have been blessed with during college. I had my family there every step of the way, helping me when I was weak and thought

college had gotten the best of me.

The Lone Star State is where my blood family is, but I was able to have another family here as well to fill in the gaps when living out of state became too difficult. Southwestern not only received one Gamez, but THREE! Having the privilege to have my womb mate (my twin), and my baby sister here with me was one of the best things that I could have asked for.

Staying at Southwestern for a grueling four years was not always the plan. When my academics took a nosedive sophomore year, I was ready to transfer back home and finish as some serial number at U of H. But Dawn Pleas-Baily, vice president for student success, helped me realize that I had a whole support system of friends, professors and sisters to

rely on.

Once the my-grades-are-terrible panic stopped, I realized I didn't like my current career choice. Pleas-Bailey helped me find a department where I could use all of my strengths and hobbies to achieve my career goal of being an event coordinator. Although the real reason I stayed at SC is because I had built such great relationships with people. So when they heard I was going to transfer I was asked by my people, who I hadn't even thought of to ask for support, helped me find my way and supported me in all my endeavors. Even when that "support" meant helping rearrange the twin's room for the 100th time that semester.

The "Builder Family" accepted me and my sisters, and helped us learn how to be leaders, teammates and most importantly, friends.

Even though I could talk anyone to death, I have made lifelong friends and even stalked a few freshman (oops) to ensure they joined the long list of organizations the Gamez trio is a part of.

Not one individual can be too strange or athletic because all families have those members. I cannot thank both families) enough because both played such a vital role in helping me become the individual that I am today. I advise everyone to take full advantage of all the opportunities that are at your fingertips because even though our professors demand greatness they know we are capable of it because they only want the best for their family.

Gabby Gamez is a senior majoring in communication. You may email her at gabby.gamez@sckans.edu



The entire Gamez family gathers around and pose for a picture after breakfast and church. (**Gabby Gamez**/Courtesy Photo)

"I advise everyone to take full advantage of all the opportunities that are at your fingertips."



Gabby Gamez, poses with her two sisters at the Moundbuilding Ceremony. (**Gabby Gamez**/Courtsey Photo)