

Roxanne Garcia, class of 2008

I am Roxanne Garcia a super senior at St Mary's university in San Antonio, Texas.

I am double majoring in biology and nursing with a minor in chemistry. I will finally be walking that Texas stage this coming Dec 2013 and I am a proud graduate of San Miguel High School class of 2008.

It's hard to imagine how far my class has come within these few short years. Many of us have since graduated or will join the Armed forces, have gotten married and started families. Although, our paths have since taken different routes we can all agree San Miguel has changed our lives. Thinking back to August 2004, another hot day in Arizona, we were taking class in small classrooms behind St Monica's Church. There was no A/C and we changed classes to the sound of Br. Steven shaking a cow bell. Our parents just kept saying just try it one more year. We want the best for you. Many of us thought, "You are crazy. This doesn't feel like a real high school with a cafeteria and football games." Little did we know then they were right.

The vision was becoming reality when we got visits from local celebrity Mr. Jim Click and his friends. Every visit he would remind us how special we were and encourage to make sure this opportunity was successful. We would soon have class rooms and real desks. For the first time I was given a real job with the corporate internship program. I held jobs at three locations; St. Mary's hospital in Dietary services, where I gave consultations along dietitians to patients with diabetes; St. Josephs hospital in medical records, where I was able to look behind the scenes of a doctor's work after a patient was discharged; and the National Bank of Arizona, where I learned the importance of investments. With the help of these experiences I was able to determine what I wanted to do in life. It was here I found my love of the medical field.

I have several teachers I would like to thank. Mr. Smith and Ms Gordon who guided me to the love of math; Br. Dan who showed us how cool science could be; Mrs. Mejia and Mrs. Paz who encouraged me to become more fluent in Spanish; Br. John who pushed us to apply to every university, go to every summer program and apply for every scholarship; none were too small, too big, too close or too far. He knew we could do it! Br. Nick, our principal, who put up with all of our wild shenanigans. He let us decorate the inside of the school before graduation with *Class of 2008 rules!* He let us become a family, listened to all our complaints, but never let us lose sight of the history we were making in the small city of Tucson, AZ. Despite our argument during my admissions interview, he gave in and let me begin the cheerleading program. San Miguel gave me a foundation and a support system that I will forever be grateful for. Our sponsors and all who believed in us, thank you!

My life has changed for the better. With a little push from my counselors and teachers. I made a huge life changing decision against Mexican traditions I went out of state to a new culture, new people, new accents, and a new big world. Everything is bigger in Texas. I went to college and realized immediately that San Miguel prepared me. I was

already good at networking, Public speaking, Time management and unlike others knew early on to begin a college resume. I was fortunate enough to attend a university with a small community, with people who believed in me and want to contribute to my success.

I am now able to pay it forward by welcoming other alumni such a Gerardo Herrera a freshman at my university. I have been able to show him this family of San Miguel is forever, not just in high school.

I pushed myself to finish my education not just for myself but for those who have left this earth too soon, our beloved Stephanie Coyle. Her charisma and spunk is something that lives within each of us. She is our angel who pushes us to follow our dreams with a smile.

This is for you

Thank you.