Family can play a big role in shaping the story of who we are and who we become. That has certainly been the case for Melodie Polidori Harris, vice president of Polidori Sausage.

When Melodie needed to transfer after her sophomore year at Arizona State, her mother encouraged her to look at Regis. Melodie’s father was an alumnus of Regis, class of 1964, and both parents were well aware of the quality education she would receive there. Melodie took their advice. She studied finance and Spanish and recalls how the school was a close-knit, familial community. “It wasn’t uncommon for professors to list their home phone numbers on syllabi back then,” she says. Besides growing her education, Regis grew her family. She met her husband, William Andrews Harris, RC ’90, during her undergraduate years.

On the career front, family also has impacted her life journey. Her great grandmother started Polidori Sausage in 1925. The company has remained in the family, run at various times by her grandfather, Louis Polidori and great uncle, Augie Polidori, and most recently, by Melodie and her brother Steve. Melodie began working for the family business in 2002 after honing her skills in a variety of business positions.

As ever, relationships play an important role in the company. Over the years, the family has developed many loyal partnerships with customers and other businesses. Today, the 40 different varieties of Polidori sausages can be found in the top pizza, deli and breakfast restaurants in Denver. King Soopers carries Polidori Sausage as well.

Beyond her education and career, Melodie feels that her family has shaped who she is as a person. “Both my parents and grandfather led by example. “Both my parents and grandfather led by example. Each was hard working, made time for family and supported me in my endeavors.” Melodie tries to live that way, too.

Hard work, relationship building and personal support are values that can shape a life. The Polidori family understood that. The Regis family does, too.