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SARASOTA--Sibling rivalry, a contemporarily popular term, has little meaning to two New College coeds, even though they're sisters.

The only members of the same family currently attending New College are Ann and Jane Rogers, sisters from Naples, Florida, some 90 miles south of the campus.

"Ours is a beautiful relationship," says Ann, the older of the two and a third year major in biology. "There's the security of being family, but we get on like friends. She stays out of my room and I stay out of hers."

Jane, a first-year student who has not yet decided on a major, became interested in New College because her older sister was already a student, but she said "Ann didn't try to influence me one way or the other about enrolling."

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"She did warn me I'd have to study and be self-disciplined, though," Jane added.

Like Ann before her, Jane was valedictorian of her Naples High class and both were attracted by New College's emphasis on independent study and the freedom given students to choose the course of their own education.

The older sister, who enrolled in the second class of the college, used one of her first independent study periods to do a research project in Mexico. She still keeps her Spanish fluent by frequent practice.

The sisters have an enthusiastic father, E. George Rogers, a retired certified public accountant, who is active in educational and cultural affairs in Naples. He also is area chairman for New College's Parents Association.

His zeal in life is mirrored by his daughters, both of whom possess a cheerful mien, evidenced by lovely smiles.

Ann graduates this year, satisfied with her New College education, but looking forward to continuing her progress toward a master's degree and teacher certification at a larger university.

"I came to New College because I wanted my set of values challenged," said Ann. "I was betting on myself that I could re-establish some values for myself and that's just what has been happening."

Not to differ with her sister, Jane chipped in that "There are more rules than I thought, but I don't mind them. There's still a lot of freedom. It's a place for someone dedicated to learning, not someone who's just letting go."

The Rogers sisters, rated by their peers as an unusually self-reliant pair, seem to have no trouble getting along as student-sisters or as sister students.