

The Quigleys of Troy

You've heard of Swiss Family Robinson? Well, meet Trojan Family Quigley, a gaggle of siblings who all made USC their home.

THE ELDEST OF 12 SIBLINGS, John David Quigley '83 didn't know he'd be starting a family tradition when he entered USC in 1979. Two years later, sister Kerry '85, inspired by John's rave reviews of academic life, decided to follow in his footsteps.

By the time the next sibling, Thomas '85, MBA '96, entered USC, a momentum was established. Though not compulsory, the USC experience became a Quigley family tradition. Every year or two, another Quigley brother or sister would join the Trojan ranks. Twenty-one years later, when the youngest, Charles '00, finished his bachelor's in business, the Quigleys had become a record-breaking Trojan family, boasting 11 siblings attending, and 10 graduating.

The accomplishment is even more astounding given that the Quigleys were not affluent. Tuition money came through scholarships, grants and the hard-earned wages of the Quigley children. "I worked at a graveyard. That paid very well," says William Quigley '87, an accounting major who went on to Harvard for his MBA and is now managing director of Clearstone Venture Partners in Santa Monica, Calif. "We worked at Safeway, had paper routes, did gardening, helped on construction – basically any jobs that young people do, the Quigleys did."

The siblings ascribe their strong work ethic to their mother, Teresa Quigley, a self-made entrepreneur, who, together with her brother, bought a failing medical transportation company some 25 years ago, with little money down. It wasn't long before Wheelcare Express became a successful enterprise, which the family matriarch still owns and manages.

Although their mother worked outside the home while her children were growing up, she still had time to cook, clean and tend to the emotional and educational needs of her brood. "She was tireless," says William. "She read to us every night."

Coming from such a large family proved

in some ways an advantage at USC.

"Being around that many people on a regular basis, you learn that everybody has their own unique abilities and talent," says Rose Quigley '93, a senior hospital sales representative for Élan Biopharmaceuticals. This knowledge came in handy in business classes, where Rose found herself time and again working in small groups.



Keeping the USC tradition in the family are, left to right: Thomas Quigley '85, MBA '96, William Quigley '87, John Quigley '83, mother Teresa Quigley, uncle Jack Jones, Rose Quigley '93, Michael Quigley '83, MS '84, Charles Quigley '00, James Quigley '88, Robert Quigley '95, Erin Quigley '00 and Patrick Quigley '93.

A university education was high on his mother's agenda for her children, according to Thomas, now head of human resources for the San Francisco-based consulting firm Exigen. "Mother always said, 'You have to go to college. That's how you get ahead in America.'"

Although the family lived in San Leandro, near Oakland, Teresa Quigley didn't expect her children to stay close to home. "She wanted us to grow up and have the experience of living on campus," says Thomas, who majored in public administration and then earned his MBA at USC.

FROM 1979 TO 2000, there was always at least one Quigley sibling attending USC, a fact not lost on USC professors and administrative staff. "The ladies in the financial aid office all knew us," says Thomas. If one

Quigley discovered a crackerjack instructor, the others soon followed. Thomas was pleased with his freshman composition instructor, Isaac Ben-Meir, and suggested that William take his course.

"Isaac thought that two brothers were interesting," says Thomas. Then James '88 took his class, then Patrick '93. "By the time he'd taught four brothers, he didn't know what to say!"

Graduations, dances and football games were typically attended by multiple Quigleys and their friends. Rose recalls a Nov. 30, 1996 game, during which the Trojans beat Notre Dame after a 14-year losing streak. The excitement was too much for the seven Quigleys in attendance. They made a frenzied rush to the playing field.

"Thomas, Patrick and William jumped over and made it, but Kerry was late and they made her go up into the stands," says Rose.

The youngest Quigley, Charles, remembers wearing USC football shirts in second grade. "I realized from a young age that I was part of a USC family," he says.

As the baby of the family, Charles had nine alums and upperclassmen guiding him through his USC experience. "They'd show me the ropes," says Charles, now a marketing analyst. "They knew what events to go to, what professors to take."

Although there are only three second-generation Quigleys so far, there's still time for growth. "It'll be interesting to see how many of our own children go to USC," says Charles. "When I have kids, I want to send them to USC. It's a tradition."

– Laurel DiGangi