



# A family *Affair*

## The Lenz family's QUT links span four faculties.

THE Lenz family has taken the saying "following in mum and dad's footsteps" to a new level, with Christopher and Christine Lenz's four children all completing degrees at QUT, just like their parents.

When Christopher Lenz, a civil engineer, graduated from QUT in 1989 with a Bachelor of Laws with Honours, he never expected his family would follow in his footsteps.

But by the end of 2010 his wife Christine and their four children John Paul, Kate, Mary and Christopher ("Otto"), were not only members of the Lenz family - they were also all part of the QUT alumni family.

"I never pushed anyone to QUT, but I guess I had some influence on their decision to study there, just by having gone there myself," said Chris, who also completed an MBA in 2003 and enjoyed a stint lecturing in civil engineering at QUT for six years.

"What I like about QUT is its practical approach in learning and outcomes, particularly for the professions, and that it is part of the dynamic Brisbane CBD. So I think my affinity with QUT would have had some bearing on my family's choices."

The roll call is as follows: John Paul completed a Bachelor of Business in 2000, matriarch Christine a Bachelor of Nursing Post Registration (2003), Mary a Bachelor of Laws (2009), Kate an MBA (2010), and Otto a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours (2010).



QUT family...  
Kate, Christopher,  
Otto and  
Christine Lenz.  
Inset - John Paul  
and Mary Lenz

Otto said that his father's lecturing career did play an integral role in his study decision.

"Dad said there were significant advantages studying engineering at QUT because of its practical nature and close relationship to industry. I loved the degree. I felt the lecturers really took care of their students," Otto said.

After working as a nurse for many years, Christine received encouragement from her husband.

"I was really anxious to start with as I didn't feel that I was a university person at all. I thought, 'well I know I can do it' so I thought I should see what nursing was all about in the modern world, not the dark ages when I did my nursing diploma through the hospital system," she laughed.

"Studying at QUT gave me a lot more confidence. I really think that is important for mature-age students, to realise that you can do anything you want."

The Lenzs are proof of the practical and relevant skills taught at QUT - Chris has his own law practice and Christine works for a plastic surgeon, while also studying to be a nurse educator in diabetes.

Otto is a civil engineer with Brisbane's Airportlink project, Kate (a fluent German speaker) has moved to Germany to use her MBA in human resources, while John Paul has his own executive recruiting business in London and Mary works at the *Financial Times* in London.

— Sandra Hutchinson