Among the graduates...

Every Western grad has a story to tell, but some grads have stories that go beyond the call of duty.

Take Angie Mandich, for example. She received her MSc in Occupational Therapy last week. Not only did she work full-time as an occupational therapist while she did her Master's, but she also raised seven children, all under the age of 11. She gave birth to her last child while working on her degree. Her husband, Mark, is a London firefighter.

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Natalie Webb was a gold medal winner in the Faculty of Education and was class president. She's always dreamed of teaching in the far north and pursued native and northern studies while at Althouse College. This summer, she will get her big break. She begins teaching grades 10 through 12 in a tiny Inuit community on Baffin Island.

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Sarah Collinge received her BSc in Occupational Therapy June 10 and despite the challenge of living with cerebral palsy, graduated with the highest average in her class in theory and mental health. She also won this year’s Doris L. Ransberry Memorial Medal, which recognizes high achievers with a disability.

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Seven graduates of the Class of '97 were senior citizens. Chas Blancher, who turns 73 this month, first received a diploma from Western in 1950. He was back this year to earn a BA in Music. Marion Orser, 75, was the oldest graduate this year. She received her Master of Theological Studies from Huron College. She finished her BA in 1991.

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Pamela Joann Cameron was one of the first students to receive a social work degree from King's College through an exchange program with the University of Mexico City. She wants to pursue her vocation in an international context, has been accepted into the Master of Social Work program at the University of Calgary, and will complete her practicum in Geneva.