Business school a real challenge

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MBA graduate Don Steinberg flew across the country to plead for a chance to prove himself at Western.

By Garry Marr
The London Free Press

Money. Mention it to graduate Don Steinberg and he'll tell you it's only half the story when it comes to Western's successful business program.

The 28-year-old Saskatchewan native, who graduated with his master of business administration (MBA) degree from UWO Friday, said the other motivating factor for MBA students is a chance to challenge themselves among some of the best business minds in the field.

A REAL TEST: "I hadn't really challenged myself for years. They thrive on it here. But I always hated school and never thought about going back."

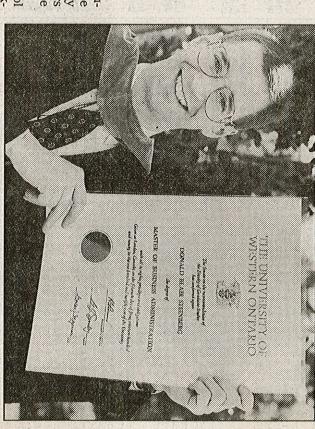
WESTERN

CONVOCATION

That was until he met a graduate from Harvard University. "He told me 'you've got a little money now. How do you know 40 years down the road you'll be successful?"

Steinberg came back to school after spending seven years working and had the additional problem of only having a high school diploma.

He was one of a handful of MBA students accepted without an undergraduate degree. "They turned me down at first, but I flew across the country and



Ken Wightman/The London Free Press Donald Steinberg, who graduated with his Master of Business Administration, was class valedictorian.

found the chairman of admissions and asked for a chance."

Steinberg got that chance, in the form of a qualifying year, during which he was named to the dean's honor role. He was the overwhelming choice of his peers to deliver the valedictorian address Friday.

TOUGH AT FIRST: Returning to school was tough going at first. "I had no study habits. The mind is

like a muscle and I would go mentally numb after too much studying. In a way, they did me a favor by making me go back to school for a year (before entering the MBA program)."

Steinberg, who is single, is off to New York, where he has a job with a management consulting firm.

Friday was the last of seven days of ceremonies marking the 254th convocation.