

# Commitment to adult learning praised

They exemplify outstanding commitment to the goals of adult learning.

Individuals who have made significant contributions to adult learning at Western were honored by the Faculty of Part-Time and

## Family support the key

Family support is the key to success for an adult undertaking university studies.

That's the common refrain from students taking their degree-credit courses at Western on a part-time basis.

Beverly Gignac, of Otterville, and Bill Hultema, of Thamesford, are two of the in-course scholarship winners in the Faculty of Part-Time and Continuing Education who combine academic success with juggling active family, work and social lives.

Gignac, who hopes to major in Sociology, has been taking part-time courses at Western since May 1990 and expects to complete enough credits for her Bachelor's degree in 1996.

"I always regretted not coming to university after high school and this is an opportunity to fix that," she told *Western News*.

Gignac credits the support of husband Peter in enabling her to cope with the rigors of her academic workload on top of work responsibilities and caring for her three sons—aged five, seven and eight.

"I couldn't do it without my husband. He's both Mom and Dad when I'm away and I'm Mom and Dad when he's not home."

Hultema also credits "very strong support at home" from his wife Annette and two children as he pursues a university degree. He has been taking part-time courses since 1989, but recently left his job with a cement manufacturer to come to Western full-time this summer.

"I've decided on a career change," says Hultema who hopes to become a teacher.

These types of students "symbolize the thousands of dedicated and able adult learners enrolled in our programs," says Dr. Thomas N. Guinsburg, Dean of the Faculty of Part-Time and Continuing Education.

They also represent a growing trend in society to more adult learners participating in the higher education process. The undergraduate population at universities is changing and institutions such as Western will have to meet the challenges that this trend brings, says Guinsburg.

Continuing Education at a special reception recently.

Mike Baycroft, of the Systems Department of the University Libraries, received the Faculty's 1992-93 Award of Distinction for service which "exemplifies sustained and outstanding commitment to the goals of adult learning."

The award, one of a series of special service awards made possible through an endowment from Foundation Western, was given to Baycroft for his "outstanding efforts in developing and teaching non-degree computer courses for the Faculty since 1989."

Part-Time and Continuing Education Dean Tom Guinsburg said that Baycroft has helped the Faculty develop a "high quality program that has responded to emerging needs for computer education from both professional groups and the general public, to provide prospective students with the means of selecting appropriate courses, and to help us maintain the instructional and administrative strengths of the program."

Among his contributions were: developing *Micro Computers for Professionals* to serve the needs of the Institute of Canadian Bankers and developing an extensive in-house computer course for Dow Chemical in Sarnia, coordinating a team of five instructors and giving up his vacation time to teach himself.

One of his creations—*Connect with the World: Computer Communications*—is a major breakthrough in providing an on-line course which allows students to learn how to take advantage of on-line opportunities for further education and networking.

Guinsburg said the comments received from students taking courses developed by Baycroft indicated that "the professionalism and integrity of these courses make them stand out."

Added the Dean: "In doing all these things, Mike has maintained the reputation as 'a nice guy,' easy to work with."

The Faculty's Award for Serv-

Tom Guinsburg considers it the perfect gift.

His colleagues in the Faculty of Part-Time and Continuing Education have established the Thomas N. Guinsburg Bursary in recognition of Guinsburg's 14 years' service to part-time students at Western during his tenure as Dean.

The award was announced at a recent reception to honor staff achievements and outstanding students in the Faculty.

At the conclusion of the formal proceedings, Director of Part-Time Studies Janet Stevenson announced that the reception was being "hijacked" by staff and turned into a fete for the retiring Dean who is returning to full-time history teaching after a one-year study leave.

The Thomas N. Guinsburg Bursary will be available to a part-time student on-campus or off-campus in degree, certificate or diploma programs who can demonstrate financial need.

The award is being established in recognition of Guinsburg's "outstanding leadership of the Faculty of Part-Time and Continuing Education, his unparal-



Dr. Thomas N. Guinsburg, Dean of the Faculty of Part-Time and Continuing Education, (left) congratulates this year's Award of Distinction recipient Mike Baycroft, Systems Development, University Libraries. Baycroft was honored for his contributions in developing and teaching non-degree computer courses for the Faculty.

ice to the External Community went to Jill Chalmers, area representative in Owen Sound. "Jill has worked tirelessly toward developing relationships between this Faculty and the learning community in the Grey-Bruce Peninsula and Western's outstanding success in serving adult learners in that area owes much to Jill's prodigious efforts," said Guinsburg.

Another award to a staff member who has improved the working life of the Faculty this year went to Technical Services Supervisor Charles Deschênes. His efforts have enabled the Faculty to adopt use of new technology in pursuit of its goals.

"He has enhanced our efficiency and our interaction with each other and thanks to his efforts has established the Faculty as a leader in the development and use of technological applica-

led dedication to addressing the needs of part-time students and his persistent efforts to provide opportunities for lifelong learning," said Stevenson.

Associate Vice-President (Academic Affairs) Susan Pepper, on behalf of the University, paid tribute to Guinsburg's leadership and dedication towards adult learning at Western.

She noted that Guinsburg's 14-year term as Dean was "longer than what you get for armed robbery, but he gets out of here without a criminal record."

Pepper said that Guinsburg has "made his mark" and personally shaped the Faculty to meet the emerging challenges for adult university education.

She referred particularly to his initiatives in launching new diploma and certificate programs, adopting the use of new technology for delivering programs, and increasing the number and variety of course offerings of the Faculty despite a climate of limited economic resources.

Chemistry professor Colin Baird, speaking on behalf of the Faculty Council, said that in many senses Guinsburg has become

tions at Western," said Guinsburg.

This year the awards committee also voted a special citation to Part-Time and Continuing Education staff member Arlene Higgs. For almost 29 years, Arlene Higgs has "devoted her energies and talents to the service of lifelong learners at Western" and has made an enormous cumulative contribution "outside any conceivable job description," said Guinsburg.

A special book presentation was made to Irene Dewdney, who pioneered the Diploma in Art Therapy program at Western and has been a teacher and mentor for the program since 1987. She is retiring from teaching this year after a career which began in the 1940s at Westminster Hospital where she worked with her late husband, artist Selwyn Dewdney.

"She has made many significant contributions to the field of

art therapy including numerous published articles and the founding of the Ontario Art Therapy Association," said Guinsburg.

Dewdney has donated a valuable collection of psychiatric art to Western for Special Collections at The D. B. Weldon Library.

The Dean also introduced the Angela Armit Gold Medal winner Margery Dean who graduated at this Spring's Convocation with an average of 88 per cent. Six other candidates for the medal, who must maintain an average of 80 per cent on at least nine courses completed on a part-time basis at Western, were: Elaine Clark, Susan Wilcox, Sharon Mitchell, Vasiliki Prattas, Lorraine Bonsteel, and Rochelle Neal.

Recipients of UWO in-course scholarships with an average of 84 per cent or better were also recognized by the Dean.

identified with the Faculty of Part-Time and Continuing Education. "The Faculty has come of age under his leadership."

The surprised Guinsburg, who was uncharacteristically almost at a loss for words, expressed thanks to the part-time and continuing education staff for their support and devotion over the years.

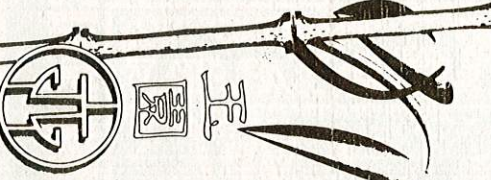
"This gift is one that could not in any way have been more meaningful to me," he commented. "The opportunity to make the life

of one student a little bit easier through this bursary is the finest gift I could have imagined."

Guinsburg said that the success of the Faculty is due to "a team effort" and contributions of many devoted people to cause of lifelong learning.

"As a continuing educator, I know that we are all part of an unfinished journey, on which accomplishment began long before me and on which the best is yet to come."

## Bursary recognizes Dean's service



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