

# Grandmother gets degree after two-decade recess

By Mark Nusca  
of The Free Press

Marguerite Torney began her career at the University of Western Ontario as a 28-year-old single woman seeking "the enrichment" of a higher education.

On Tuesday, the 64-year-old grandmother of two walked proudly on to the stage of Alumni Hall to receive her degree in English — 36 years after setting foot on the campus for the first time.

"It took me 36 years but it was well worth it. I wouldn't have missed one minute of it," the London woman said during the second day of spring convocation. "It was a great experience and I would recommend it to anybody, regardless of their age."

Torney enrolled in 1945 as a part-time student. After being married in 1949, she left her studies to concen-

trate on raising a family. "In those days you got married and that was it. It was a full-time job."

In 1973, Torney's husband died. With her son married and busy raising his own family, she decided to dust off her textbooks and return to the classroom.

"I came to a point in my life where I felt I needed a direction, something to work toward," said Torney, an executive secretary at the Canadian Osteopathic Aid Society in London. "The course has kept me busy, since I worked during the day, but I managed to juggle both."

Torney said her return to school has been gratifying not only for the

education it has provided but for the insight it has given her in dealing with young people, especially her two granddaughters, aged 12 and 17.

"I understand them so much better. It has really helped me to adjust to the way young people of today think."

Bachelor of arts degree firmly in hand, Torney said she plans to continue her academic career, seeking a combined honors degree in English and visual arts. She will begin the course in September.

"I begin receiving my old-age pension in six months, but I've realized that you can never stop learning, regardless of what a person's age is."



By Sam McLeod of The Free Press