

# Lasagna key to a degree

## Boys' tastes aid mom

Howard Burns  
The Free Press

Single parent Deb Lefebre juggled university books with lasagna for four days and it panned out Wednesday with a degree from Western.

The 34-year-old mother of two boys graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in UWO's faculty of social science during spring convocation. (More convocation coverage is on Page A2.)

"I used to spend a day on the weekend cooking food for the whole week because I didn't find the time later. It's just why the boys like lasagna. It's easy to reheat and warm up later," she said.

In addition to her crammed timetable as a teacher and principal at the London Community Hebrew Day School.

"I really killed myself the past four years. One year I had 11 hours of lectures plus my job and kids."

In spite of her tight schedule, Lefebre graduated with a report card her children could be proud of — straight A's.

"It's been a real ego trip for me but all the way my parents and children have been there with words of encouragement."

A special cheering squad was spearheaded by her two sons, Greg, 9, and

Matthew, 7. And they were eager to see their mother be a success at Western.

"Sometimes Greg would try to keep himself awake at nights when I had an exam. I really believe he was more nervous than I was," she said.

The problem of allotting time for her children was sorted out by discussion with the boys and long-range planning.

"It's amazing but my children were never neglected during my time at Western. My time with them was cut down but we had quality time together," the London mother said.

If there is one thing university has taught her, it is that there is some truth to the saying "if there's a will there's a way."

"There were times when life seemed like a blur to me but we kept working and it finally has paid off with a little determination."

Lefebre isn't about to hang up her lecture pad yet. She has found that education whets the appetite. She has to have more.

She has applied to graduate school to work on a masters in education. And if she hasn't run out of steam by then, she will go for her doctorate.

"Getting my first degree was like dangling a carrot, it really keeps you going."



DEBORAH LEFEBRE

- - - straight A's



Matthew, 7, and Gregory, 9, were all smiles Wednesday after their mother, Deborah Lefebre of London, a single

By Sam McLeod of The Free Press

parent, graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a bachelor of applied arts degree.