

# Mom finally gets to join family's 'rogues' gallery'

Doris Strickland can now hang her graduation picture with those of six children and her husband in the hall of the family home.

**By Dave Miller**  
*The London Free Press*

There are eight graduation portraits hanging in the hall at Doris Strickland's home.

"It's a real rogues' gallery," she says, looking just a wee bit pleased, because the latest addition is her own portrait.

At 64, she picked up a BA in social sciences at University of Western Ontario convocation ceremonies Tuesday.

**AN INSPIRATION:** It marked the end of nine years of work and she hopes her grad photo, along with those of her six children and husband, who all attended UWO, will be an inspiration to future family generations.

"If a grandchild is feeling 'I can't do it. I can't go on (to finish school)', I want them to look up and see that grandma did it.

"If you want to do something, you really have to set a goal and discipline yourself. It's too easy to walk away."

There were plenty of chances for Strickland to walk away from the three-course-a-year load she carried.

She golfs several times a week, is on the women's executive at Sunningdale Country Club, plays bridge, does volunteer work, is active in church work and takes part in fitness research for St. Joseph's Health Centre.

"I could play golf seven days a week in the summer. I've always stayed busy."

When she married Ross Strickland 42 years ago, many women were as concerned with raising children as getting a university degree, she says.

But going back to school is something she always wanted to do and, when her youngest son enrolled at Western, she did, too.



Ed Heal/The London Free Press

**Doris Strickland, 64, is the eighth member of her family to graduate from the University of Western Ontario. After nine years of study, Strickland earned a BA in social sciences.**

ing centred out by younger students didn't materialize.

"They didn't look at me and say, 'There's another old lady in the class.'"

Her children have gone on into

London for her graduation.

"I've been to seven graduations here," she said outside Western's Alumni Hall. "I've never had to participate in one myself."

**NOT CENTRED OUT:** Fears of being centred out by younger students didn't materialize.

She even missed a golf tournament at her club on Tuesday.