Oct. 10/94

BACHELOR OF ARTS

PROFILE

Bill Huitema, bachelor of arts (history major), general (409 graduating).

Age: 43

Home town: Thamesford

Memorable experiences: Told he'd never be more than a ditch digger by his elementary school teacher, by the time he left Grade 8 Huitema "was to the point I believed everything she told me." He dropped out of school in Grade 10 and when he decided he wanted to go back, he was married with a family. In 1989, he was accepted as a mature student at Western. Despite apprehension that he wouldn't succeed, on his first course — sociology — he had the second-highest mark in a class of more than 340 students. Now taking teacher training at the University of Windsor, Huitema is attracted to teaching because he wants every student to have an opportunity to develop to their fullest potential. "Back in those years (when he was in school), when you got behind, unless you were in the teacher's favor, chances are you'd never get caught up. I was sick a lot but when I had the opportunity to do it, I could do it as well as anyone else." At Western, his marks ranged from 76 to 97.

Job prospects: "I think eventually something will come up. There are not too many occupations you can choose and be sure of a job. I'm waiting for people not much older than me to retire."

JOB OUTLOOK:

"There is good news and bad news," says Carol Beynon, director of practicum (practise teaching) and placement services at Althouse College of Education. By 1998, one study shows that more than 50 per cent of all teachers in Ontario will retire. The problems are fiscal restraints and the social contract. The jobs of some teachers who have retired have not been filled, with boards opting for larger class sizes. "If you look at it demographically, there should be plenty of jobs," says Beynon. "Realistically, I don't think that the money will be there to hire them."

KINESIOLOGY

PROFILE

Debbie Hunwicks, honors bachelor of arts in kinesiology (nine graduates).

Age: 31.

Home town: Bramalea, but now lives in London.

Memorable experiences: "I didn't have a focus on what I wanted to do until I came into this faculty (kinesiology) and took what was then called Phys Ed 20. I loved it, so I continued on with that degree." Hunwicks came to Western in 1986 as a mature student and was a full-time student for two years before working two years as a courier driver. She started working at the faculty of kinesiology in July, 1989, and was a part-time student until September, 1993, when she took a leave of absence to enrol full-time in fourth year.

Job prospects: "I'm in my field (sports administration)," says Hunwicks, who works in Western's intercollegiate athletics office. She hopes to continue in sports administration and go on to a masters degree.

JOB OUTLOOK:

"Most of our students are able to find jobs," says Western's dean of kinesiology, Bert Taylor, adding that 30 per cent of graduates go into teaching, 20 per cent to graduate or professional school, 25 per cent into the fitness industry and the rest into "a whole gamut of positions."