

## *Overcoming the challenges...*

While every graduate crossing the stage at Convocation has had to deal with problems, some have overcome special circumstances beyond the academic demands of courses.

Teena Willoughby, this year's winner of the Chancellor's Prize for the outstanding graduate of an honors program in the Faculty of Social Science, completed the majority of her degree part-time while caring for a two-child family. Her graduating average was 87 percent.

During her final 18 months at Western, Willoughby conducted research equal in scope and importance to the research required for doctoral dissertations. She is the co-author of a major methodological paper which will appear in a leading educational research journal.

Another graduate, Jennifer Wilcox, was left temporarily disabled by a tobogganing accident in January. She suffered two fractured vertebrae in her neck, and was fitted with a head and neck traction device which partially immobilized her.

With the help of her husband, Owen, her friends and professors, and the doctors and nurses at Student Health Services, Wilcox was able to complete her three-year program in Anthropology and graduate Tuesday.

Through special arrangements with the Faculty of Part-Time and Continuing Educa-

tion, Wilcox took one of her courses through teleconferencing. Her Platt's Lane apartment was connected through the phone lines to other course participants in southwestern Ontario.

King's College graduates Mary Joy Elijah and Susan Ouseley are mature students and single parents who have overcome many obstacles to obtain a university education.

Elijah, a native Canadian and mother of three children, was a social worker for nine years before returning to Western and King's College to complete her BA in Sociology. She also operates her own consulting business as a native specialist in race relations out of her home in the Oneida First Nations community.

Susan Ouseley has three children aged 12, 14 and 16. She completed her degree on a part-time basis over five years. For two of those years she worked as a research assistant to sociology professor Carolyne Gorlick, who was studying post-secondary funding for single parents and mature students.

In 1988, Ouseley won the Mary Campbell Educational Award. She has also won the Pat O'Bright award, given to the part-time student with the highest marks and an exemplary record of community service.

Ouseley will be entering Althouse College in the fall to take her Master's degree in Education, specializing in counselling and guidance.