Among the graduates...

Scoring goals in a new arena

Western's Spring Convocation offers proof there is life after hockey.

Two former National Hockey League players are among the approximately 4,600 students graduating during Convocation.

Frederick Arthur, a former player with the Hartford Whalers and Philadelphia Flyers, graduated from the Faculty of Medicine “cum Laude” on June 3. David Simpson, who played in the NHL for five years with the New York Islanders and the Pittsburgh Penguins and served as Captain of Team Canada in 1984, receives his Master of Business Administration degree on June 10. He earned a BA in Political Science from Western in 1985.

Other students graduating this week proved that age is no barrier to a degree. Isabelle Campbell, 60, is a mature student who graduated with a general BA on June 7. Her 90-year-old mother Flora Irving travelled from Wadena, Saskatchewan to attend her daughter’s graduation.

Thelma Dunsmore, in her late 70s, was eligible to graduate on June 8 with her Diploma in Honors Standing in Philosophy. She started her education at Western part-time in 1965 and graduated with a general BA in Philosophy in 1981. Since then she has worked part-time to complete her credits for an honors diploma.

Other students overcame personal adversity in reaching their objective of earning a university degree.

Corinne Berman, who graduated June 8, completed her Honors degree in Business Administration while helping to raise three younger brothers and sisters since the death of her parents in 1982 and 1984. Berman also has been active in the business school, editing the yearbook among her other activities.

Robert Arrabito is a blind student graduating today (Thursday) with an Honors BSc in Computer Science. He is the first recipient of the Julian Davies Silver Medal for his research work into computer communications for the disabled and is the first totally blind winner of the Doris (Billie) L. Ransberry Gold Medal. Arrabito is described as “a real bright spark” on campus who is always willing to participate in any event with his peers — he even goes bowling with them.

John Vandertouin is a blind student who will be receiving his Masters degree in Music on June 10. He is an accomplished organist who has taken part in several national and international competitions where he has captured major prizes.