

UWO CONVOCATION

Short walk tops long road for grad

Lenore Lindsey started her university education at age 60 after raising four children as a single parent following her divorce.

By Peter Geigen-Miller
The London Free Press

A life-long dream comes true for Lenore Lindsey of London today when she walks across the Alumni Hall stage at the University of Western Ontario to receive her bachelor of arts degree.

Lindsey is one of 200 King's College graduates who will receive degrees during the opening day of Western's annual spring convocation.

For Lindsey, this is a special day because she earned her degree under unusual circumstances.

Her university education started in 1982 at age 60 after raising four children as a single parent follow-

CONVOCATION CALENDAR

- Where:** Alumni Hall on UWO campus starting 3 p.m. each day.
- Today:** More than 500 students from Western's applied health science, dentistry, medicine and nursing faculties graduate along with King's College students. Richard Ten Cate, retiring dentistry dean at the University of Toronto, receives an honorary doctor of science degree and delivers convocation address.
- Saturday:** Students from the faculty of education graduate. Robert Siskind of London, former UWO board chairman, receives an honorary doctor of laws degree and delivers convocation address.

ing her divorce. She earned her English degree by studying part-time, taking courses evenings or days, summer or winter, whenever time allowed.

There was no hope for a university education when she was growing up in Peterborough. "Then I got married and I was home raising children for ump-teen years."

Once the children, three daughters and a son, were safely launched on careers, Lindsey was persuaded by a daughter to return to school and she enrolled at King's.

Returning to the classroom after

such a long absence felt a bit awkward, she recalled Thursday. "I am so much older than the other students that I really felt at first I shouldn't be there." But soon she was chatting with fellow students about tests and assignments and felt much more at home.

"I don't mean we interacted in a social way but we certainly did in an academic way."

Lindsey found university work wasn't as hard as she expected. "There's more of it and it calls for a commitment. You have to read all that material and sometimes you don't get it all done but somehow you pass anyway."

Now that she has completed studies for her BA, Lindsey plans to return to King's in the fall to start taking courses toward a certificate of honors in English and history. "I'm not stopping now."

Her daughter, Stephanie Smith, will receive a master's degree in education from Western during next Friday's convocation ceremony.

JOB OUTLOOK GOOD: A total of 4,891 students are eligible to graduate during convocation, which runs today and Saturday and continues Monday to Friday.

Employment prospects are good provided the grads are ready to invest time and effort in a proper job hunt, UWO placement co-ordinator Ruth Siberry said.

There's a continuing trend toward employers hiring arts graduates rather than students with more specialized skills, she said. Arts students are believed to be more flexible and better able to adapt in a rapidly changing business world. They also have the communication skills employers demand.

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