

Wider horizons, new beginnings

During Western's 254th Convocation June 8-15, nearly 5,000 young people took a step toward future careers and adult responsibilities with the awarding of their university degrees.

But not all the graduates in the week of ceremony and celebration are just starting out. For some, their degree represents a new beginning or a chance to expand their horizons.

As technical officer in the AV/TV Centre in the School of Business Administration, Winston Bradford St. Clair, 60, has seen many students graduate. This year, it was his turn. St. Clair received his BA in honors history last Monday after 19 years of part-time study through the Faculty of Part-Time and Continuing Education.

St. Clair's interest in history was sparked by a book his daughter gave him on Louis St. Laurent, the former Liberal party leader. He said that his wife helped him to survive his years of studying by doing his typing and acting as his research assistant. He plans to take a year off, then go on to do some writing and get his MA.

Thirty-eight year-old Daria French, a member of the Chipewewa band on the Muncie reserve and mother of two boys, had to drive 72-kilometres round-trip to get to her geography classes at UWO.

Despite many obstacles, including driving her boys to school in Melbourne and having to do chores like laundry off the reserve because of water problems there, she earned an honors degree in geography, and plans to continue on to her MA.

French said that she could not have completed her degree without the support and willingness to sacrifice of her family. "As a parent and a mature student, you don't make it through unless you have your family's support."

Patrick Gallagher, who received his MA in journalism

that is sold from New York to Florida.

As well as these activities, Gallagher has earned a BA in political science and an MA in international relations from Carleton University. He wants to be a journalist and have his career connected with farming, because, it's a crucial part of his life. "Here I am with these degrees with a farm base in a rural setting — it's a curious mixture."

Greg Smith, 37, an Anglican priest, father of three, and active community volunteer, sometimes found it difficult to juggle all his responsibilities while earning his BEd at Althouse College this year.

"I wanted to work on the front-lines with kids," said Smith who credits the help and encouragement of his wife, also a teacher, in completing the program.

John Zimmerman, 37, drove an ambulance for Thames Valley Ambulance Ltd. for 15 years before returning to school to get his BEd in 1987. He went back, he says, because he knew he had to make a change.

"I couldn't see myself at age 65 lifting 200- to 300-pound patients," said Zimmerman.

Mary Lou Jones, 42, found that studying for her diploma in art therapy not only united two of her strong interests, visual arts and behaviour, but also made it possible for her to develop her artistic talents.

The powerful, brooding and sometimes humorous woodcuts of female subjects that she produced during her last year of studies in the art therapy program are now being exhibited at Women Immigrants of London, 73 King St.

Jones is also a single parent mother of two little girls she adopted from the island of St. Vincent through Canadopt Inc., an agency specializing in