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NEWS RELEASE  
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SALVE CLASS OF '81 VALEDICTORIAN IS NEWPORTER, MOTHER;  
A "NON-TRADITIONAL" STUDENT

A new word in the education industry, coined to help define the mix of students attending college these days, is "non-traditional." What, exactly, is a non-traditional student? Do they succeed in college?

Rose Laranjo Northup, 42, of Newport, R.I. is a non-traditional student and a successful one, in fact, the best in her class. On May 2 she will address her class of '81 at The Newport College - Salve Regina as valedictorian. It is an honor given the senior with the highest grade point average.

She "kinda had a feeling" she'd be standing at the podium because she kept getting straight A's. "But I didn't know how many others were getting A's," she noted.

Joining Mrs. Northup at 11:30 Saturday on the Ochre Court Terrace are

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Gov. Garrahy and many College officials. The ceremony is the annual Honors Convocation when Salve students receive recognition for outstanding scholarship and service to the College. It will be a family affair for all the Northups and Laranjos. Rose's parents, five sisters and brother also live in Newport.

Rose says her family is "really excited and proud" of her academic accomplishment. It didn't come, however, without strong-willed determination, dedication and many 5:00 a.m. study hours. She studied weekdays at 5 a.m. and would always take her books on family outings.

"One great thing," she commented, was having a supportive husband and children. Her husband, Lloyd, works at Raytheon in Portsmouth. She has three children, Rose Marie Burns, 22, Anne Marie, 21, a junior at Bryant College, and Lloyd, a senior at Rogers High School. The Salve class of '81 valedictorian is also a grandmother.

Rose studied seven years for the bachelor of arts degree in education. She first earned an associate's degree in child development at Rhode Island Junior College in 1973. She had three children at home and worked full-time as a clerical aid in the Newport School Department. She decided to enroll at Salve in 1977. "I liked the values of the professors and being the local college it was great," she added. At first Rose thought she'd be 90 before she finished. But "taking two or three courses at a time really speeded things up....before you knew it the time passed and here I am graduating."

Rose has earned four teaching certificates and is now substituting on all levels in the Newport schools.

How did she feel about being a non-traditional student? "At Salve there's the personal touch," she said. "They're really concerned about you."

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In one class a young girl tapped Rose on the shoulder and said, "Hi, Mrs. Northup!" It was one of her girls from the old girl scout troop. "Then I really knew I was the older student," she said, slightly embarrassed.

In general she felt her experience and wisdom was something she could offer the younger ones. "And they had new, fresh ideas to challenge me." She sees a "nice blend of the young and old" at Salve. "I didn't feel out of place at all. Besides, I think everyone has something to offer each other." Rose smiled warmly, looking every minute like the young school girl and wise woman she is, all rolled into one.

The Salve valedictorian may have many of the same roles that non-traditional students have. She's a wife, mother and a worker. And she may have that same strong desire to gain an education, typical of many older students who consider it a privilege to be in the classroom. But Rose Northup has something more.

She has already set her sights on receiving a master's degree from Salve in human development. After seven years of college, three children and a full-time job, you might think she'd take some time off.

But she's already signed up for one course this summer. "I always look on the bright side of things," she said cheerily, "and now I'm ready for my master's degree."

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