

Hills resident says life helped her earn degree

When Deborah Washburn Ronayne entered Livonia's Madonna University four years ago, she brought with her a wealth of knowledge from the business world, having served as vice president and co-owner of a successful business; and challenging life experiences, having been widowed with two young children.

Her years at Madonna have brought more than just intellectual growth and change. She has since remarried, moved, and had a third child, Louie, age 2, named after his father. Her first two children, Jackie and Kate, are ages 11 and 9, respectively.

The Farmington Hills resident carrying a 3.98 grade point average will receive a bachelor of arts degree, with a major in professional and technical writing and a minor in business.

She has immediate plans to use her degree writing and implementing what is known as ISO

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Deborah Washburn Ronayne

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So refined is her knowledge of technical writing that she was selected to present "The Technical Writer in the Global Marketplace," her senior seminar paper, at a well-respected conference titled "Languages and Communications for World Business and the Professions" held April 16 in Ypsilanti.

Her business experience began in 1977 as an administrative assistant for Combine Plastic Prod-

ucts Inc. "I really enjoyed working in the plastics industry," she said, which may explain why she founded the Society for Women in Plastics in 1979, which received a Senate resolution on its 16th anniversary.

She is also, since 1978, a member of the Society of Plastics Engineers, an international organization. And, most recently, she joined the Society for Technical Communications.

After one year with the company, she advanced to purchasing

agent, and three years later was promoted to vice president. She and her first husband, Michael, who founded Combine Plastics in 1974, successfully ran the company, which eventually split into three separate facilities.

In November 1986, they sold the business, with plans to spend the next year with their children who were ages 4 and 2. One week later, Michael died unexpectedly.

After five months of working as a consultant with the business they had sold, she decided to stay home and care for her two children. She kept busy with volunteer projects for the downriver community where she was living at the time.

Her most notable accomplishment as a volunteer was serving for nearly two years as coordinator of the Keep Downriver Beautiful committee, which promoted

beautification of the 17 downriver communities. Under her direction, the project met the certification standards of the national Keep America Beautiful (KAB) organization and was inducted into KAB in May 1988.

During the time following her first husband's death, Ronayne worked through the grieving process, what she has termed as "a time to heal," and after two years, was able to accept his death and move on.

Ronayne firmly believes that her previous experience with business and life has helped her with her studies.

"When you can apply life experiences to the classroom," she said, "you can contribute more. I've taken school very seriously and I've gotten a lot out of it. I've gotten the degree that I've always wanted."



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Madison National names assistant VP

Madison National Bank announced that Jack A. Slocum has joined the staff as an assistant vice president. He will manage the bank's new office in Farmington Hills.

Slocum received a bachelor's degree in financial administration from Michigan State University in 1983. He completed an MBA at the University of Michigan in 1986.

Slocum brings more than 10 years of banking experience with him. Most recently, he worked as a mortgage originator at First of America Bank.

He lives with his family in Waterford Township.



Jack A. Slocum

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