

89-year-old man earns Ph.D. in physics from Brown University

Vocabulary

a doctorate

a hematologist

to urge

commencement ceremony

Article

A Rhode Island man is celebrating the achievement of his lifelong dream after earning his doctorate in physics at age 89.

Manfred Steiner, who previously earned a medical degree and a doctorate in biochemistry, said his attention turned back to physics after he retired at age 70 from working as a hematologist at Brown University.

Steiner said he had always wanted to study physics, but went into medicine, instead, at his family's urging. He said retirement allowed him to start taking physics classes.

"It's an old dream that starts in my childhood," Steiner said in a Brown University news release. "I always wanted to become a physicist."

Steiner said he is considering walking at Brown's commencement ceremony in May.

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Quiz

1. What qualifications had Mr. Steiner previously earned?
2. Why did Mr. Steiner study medicine instead of physics?

Conversation

A: Little Billy, what do you want to be when you grow up?

B: I don't know, granddad, either a firefighter, a police officer... or an astronaut!

A: Well, if you put your mind to it, you can do anything. I want to be a physicist.

B: But granddad, you've already grown up!

Discussion

1. What did you study at school? What was your favorite subject?
2. If you could go back to school, what would you study?
3. What's one dream you still have? How are you going to achieve it?