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Nick Martin The University of Manitoba is awarding an unprecedented posthumous degree Thursday to Cpl. Jordan Anderson — killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in July.

Anderson's widow, Amanda Anderson, will come from Alberta to receive his bachelor of arts degree at the fall convocation ceremony, George MacLean, acting head of political studies, said Monday.

Other family members are also likely to attend, he said.

Anderson, 25, was based in Alberta and grew up in the Northwest Territories, but enrolled through U of M's military support office, a program offering distance education courses with the flexibility that serving members of the military need, MacLean said.

MacLean said that U of M has never before awarded a posthumous degree to a serving member of the military killed in wartime, although he believed there may have been a few similar cases elsewhere in Canada during the Second World War.

It was an extremely complicated process, and there were no guarantees that the university senate would approve awarding the degree, he said. Anderson had not entirely completed his studies.

When Anderson was killed, "A few members of his unit brought it to my attention" that they thought he had completed his studies and was about to graduate, MacLean said.

"It was clear there were very many people in his camp. We now have two scholarships in his name," thanks to members of his unit raising \$10,000 in a few days, MacLean said.

When MacLean reviewed Anderson's transcripts, "There were a few credits still outstanding, (but), all his political science courses were done.

"Jordan was a very good student. He took several courses I designed, in international relations and foreign policy. Jordan had done more than he needed, to be deserving of this degree," MacLean said.

Convocation has been moved to Church of the Rock, 1397 Buffalo Place, at 3:30 p.m. both days, because of an ongoing support workers' strike.

Environmentalism Louis Fortier and educator Don Robertson will receive honorary degrees as 1,271 students graduate Wednesday and Thursday.

Fortier holds the Canada Research Chair in polar marine ecosystems at Laval University, and is a global expert in climate change in Canada's Arctic, U of M said.

Robertson has played major roles in aboriginal education in Manitoba for more than three decades, and is an ordained United Church minister.

He has been executive director of the council on postsecondary education, and the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Education Centre.

The Dr. John M. Bowman Memorial Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation Award will go to Prof. Robert D. Hill, of the faculty of agricultural and food sciences. Hill is a leading researcher in plant biochemistry and molecular biology.

The Distinguished Alumni Award goes to chemical physicist Dr.

Ian Smith, director general of the National Research Council Institute for Biodiagnostics in Winnipeg.

U of M Students Union will present the Robert Charles Armatage Award for exceptional involvement in student affairs to Raed Joundi, a science grad last spring who is now in medical school at Queen's University in Ontario.

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