

Former convict top grad

A man who has spent half his adult life in prison was awarded the President's Medal today at the University of Saskatchewan's annual fall convocation.

Brian Douglas MacLean, of Saskatoon and formerly of Toronto was also awarded a university prize as the most distinguished arts graduate in the College of Arts and Science. He received the bachelor of arts degree with high honors in sociology.

The President's Medal goes to the most distinguished graduate at the fall convocation receiving

a first degree. Both scholarship and leadership are considered in choosing the winner.

MacLean, 31, is now on parole. Between 1976 and 1980, he took university courses while a convict at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert and briefly at Stony Mountain Penitentiary in Manitoba. In Prince Albert, where he completed most of his part-time university work, he participated in Saskatchewan's off-campus degree and independent study programs. At Stony Mountain, he took a couple of courses from the University of Manitoba.

This year, he completed the requirements for his degree through full-time attendance on the Saskatoon campus.

He maintained a high academic average throughout his part-time and full-time studies and won university undergraduate, honors, correspondence course and graduate studies scholarships. He is now working full-time toward a masters degree in sociology, following which he hopes to take postgraduate work in Sweden. He is teaching assistant in sociology, a position that carries both teaching and grading responsibilities.

He is also a part-time social worker, administering to the emotional, social and physical needs of disturbed adolescents.

Between January and April this year, he was a research assistant in the Department of Sociology. During the past summer, as an orientation leader, he conducted seminars for prospective first-year university students.

Maclean also demonstrated leadership qualities while an inmate. In Prince Albert, he served as vice-chairman of the Inmate Committee which, among other duties, promotes communication

with the penitentiary administration. During his term of office, 25 recommendations were made for improved conditions and most were accepted and implemented. As an inmate grievance clerk, he helped to implement a new grievance procedure set up at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary as a pilot project. He held a number of executive positions, including two terms as president, with an award winning toastmasters club, which provided training in public speaking and leadership. He was twice winner of the club's annual speech contest, once winner of its humour speech contest, and once toastmaster of the year.

He has a publication to his credit, *Social Control in Canadian Prisons*, which will appear in a book *Contradictions in Canadian Society*.

Five other students were honored as outstanding graduates at the fall convocation.

David Llewellyn Twist, of Prince Albert, received a university prize as the most distinguished science graduate in the College of



Brian MacLean

Arts and Science. Robert Paul Heinrichs, of Saskatoon, won the Xerox Company of Canada Limited prize as the leading graduate in the College of Commerce. Patricia Maxine Lapointe, of Saskatoon, was chosen the top graduate in the College of Education and awarded the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation prize. Patricia Lousie Smith, of Saskatoon, received a university prize as the outstanding graduate in the College of Home Economics. Michael John Thiesson, of Saskatoon, was named the most distinguished graduate in the College of Physical Education and received a university prize.