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5-21-73 Lecturers Named in Course Taught by Lewiston Woman

Four coordinators of the Institute on French-Canadian Culture at Saint Francis College, Biddeford, have been invited to participate as guest lecturers at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham this June as part of a course taught by a Lewiston woman it was announced by Institute Director Herve Poissant. In addition, a slide presentation recently rated as the best work shown at a conference on Franco-Americans at The University of Maine at Fort Kent will also be used at UMPG.

The lecturers and the slide presentation will be part of a summer course given by Madeleine D. Giguere, Lewiston, associate professor of sociology, on "The Sociology of the North American French." The summer session course will study Franco-Americans, French Canadians and the Acadians of Canada. Using the studies they have made for the Institute over the past two years, the Institute coordinators will offer students insights into the educational, religious, social and political history and values of Franco-Americans in the Lewiston and Biddeford-Saco areas.

Coordinator Sister M. Solange Bernier, OSU, will conduct a session on religious attitudes of Franco-Americans. Sr. Solange is a teacher of French at St. Dominic's Regional High School in Lewiston.

Ronald M. Couturier, a teacher at Lewiston High School, will explore the political aspects of the Franco-American heritage in Maine. Dealing with the field of education will be Saint Francis College Professor of French Robert M. Parenteau. Assistant Professor of French Norman R. Beaupre will concentrate on the social attitudes of the ethnic culture.

The slide presentation was developed by the Institute and was most recently shown, by Saint Francis College student Michael Lemieux, at a conference on French-Canadian Culture at the University of Maine at Fort Kent where it was rated the best presentation at the event.

For the past two years, the Institute, with support from the Maine Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, has been conducting interviews with Franco-Americans in the Lewiston and Biddeford areas to preserve on tapes much of the oral history of the people since they came to the United States in the nineteenth century. The Institute has also created an archives of historical materials, artifacts and photographs of important events.

During the past year, the coordinators of the Institute have made more than twenty public presentations to groups in southern Maine and has sponsored plays, musicals and folk soirees throughout the area in an attempt to revive interest and pride in the culture heritage if minority ethnic group.