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Letter from the University of Maine at Orono

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE *at Orono*

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September 17, 1986

Adrien Lamontagne, Chairman
The 1986 Franco-American Recognition Dinner
21 Wilson St.
Lewiston, ME 04240

Dear Mr. Lamontagne:


I am unable to attend the recognition dinner for Madeleine D. Giguère, but I want to pay some kind of tribute to her and her accomplishments on behalf of Franco-American studies.

Of the occasions where I have heard her speak, the one I will remember most was hearing her speak to a group of CAN/FRAM institute participants. It seems so long ago. Was it 1979 or 1980? They had just finished a long bus ride from Maine, and they were sitting, bleary-eyed and tired in a Université Laval dormitory lounge. As Madeleine began to speak, you could just see the tiredness fall away as she opened up that world of Franco-Americans to them. Surely, for some of them, it was the first anyone had told them that Franco-Americans were worthy of serious study.

→ As a matter of fact, Madeleine is one of the pioneers who led me and so many others to understand that Franco-Americans were worthy of serious study. I cannot imagine how much farther behind I would be in my work if she had not shared the Franco-American Overview with me before its publication. That work continues to be the starting point for all work on Franco-Americans. We historians start there. Then, of course, we bring the story up to the present, again thanks to Madeleine, through her work on the recent censuses.

→ So, make certain that Madeleine enjoys her party. She already enjoys our recognition every time we teach or write about Franco-Americans. It is, however, a pleasure to tell her so.

→ Amitiés,

→ 
C. Stewart Doty, Professor and Chairperson

Dept. of History

cc: Yvon Labbe
Vice-President Allen