

2-7-1975

Letter from Donald F. Anspach to Konnilyn Feig

Donald F. Anspach

University of Maine at Portland-Gorham

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/giguere-usm-career>

Recommended Citation

Madeleine Giguère Collection, Franco-American Collection, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Career at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Southern Maine Career 1967-2000 by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.

February 7, 1975

Konnilyn G. Feig, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Maine at
Portland-Gorham

Dear Dean Feig:

I am writing in response to your request for more information regarding Professor GIGUERE's promotion. Some vital information on Professor GIGUERE's educational accomplishment and training background and her current research were mistakenly omitted from her portfolio and from my letter of recommendation. This letter is designed to rectify these omissions.

You will receive, in the near future, a letter from a sociologist, who also is involved in minorities, regarding Professor GIGUERE's research on Franco-Americans. Needless to say, this work is both a substantive contribution to the discipline of sociology and a contribution with social and policy aspects of weighty impact. Let me comment on both of these issues.

Professor GIGUERE has identified a category of people who, because of their cultural-historical characteristics, have been singled out for differential and unequal treatment. Franco-Americans can be regarded as a bona fide minority in the sociological sense; unlike the blacks, they have not come to realize that prejudice and discrimination partially account for their unequal treatment as reflected in less desirable jobs and lack of educational opportunities.

Her research pursuits have led Professor GIGUERE to the United States Bureau of Census as a major data source. That is, Professor GIGUERE has obtained raw data from the Census, transformed them into useable form consistent with existing computer operations, and obtained important comparative information on occupational backgrounds, educational achievements, etc. of Franco-Americans as compared with non-Franco-Americans within New England and specifically within the state of Maine. This represents a laborious and ambitious project reflecting Professor GIGUERE's lasting commitment to scholarly pursuits.

More important, however, are the scholarly and practical consequences of this massive endeavor which are adequately documented in her portfolio. It must be stressed that the full impact of her work has not yet been appreciated. For it takes a considerable amount of time for the public to realize that the ethnic jokes and slurs to which Franco-Americans are subjected are symptomatic of a problem that affects the life chances of each person with a Franco-American background. And it will take years of hard work to thoroughly document the effects of such prejudice and discrimination. This is an enormous task and Professor GIGUERE is committed to its completion.

A second omission on my part concerns Professor GIGUERE's educational background. Madeleine GIGUERE holds a Master of Philosophy Degree from Columbia University and has an A.B.D. status at that university. Her Master's of Arts Degree was awarded from Fordham University.

My Department and I have previously stated that Professor GIGUERE's scholarly achievements more than compensate for the absence of the Ph.D. We stand by that as this University did when she was promoted to Associate Professor and tenured in 1970. And, this is not uncommon in other sociology departments. George Homans, Full Professor and Chairman of the sociology department at Harvard University and former President of American Sociological Association, is one of numerous examples.

These considerations are not the point, however, For Professor GIGUERE has been trained by the most respected sociologists in the field. When she did her graduate work at Comumbia, that university was the citadel of major developments in sociology. Her teachers include Paul Lazarsfeld, Robert Merton, Kingsley Davis, C. Wright Mills and Robert Lynd. Today, these scholars are the giants on whose shoulders all of us stand. Her close work on her dissertation with Kinsley Davis was abridged by his departure to Berkeley. She, along with many others was unable to complete the work as a result. Thus, we see that Professor GIGUERE received the same training as a sociologist as did every person who later would be instructing a new generation of sociologists at major universities in the country.

Finally, it must be noted that Professor GIGUERE's committment to this University was underrated by our recommendation. In 1968, the Department of Sociology at UMP was devastated by resignations, medical leaves of absence, etc., leaving her in charge. Through her efforts, the department once again acquired its strength.

Dean Feig

-3-

2/7/75

Professor GIGUERE single-handedly recruited Professors Monsen and Fullam and myself and again established a strong department. Since that time we have managed to become one of the more productive departments at UMPG and have developed one of the strongest curriculum programs on the campus.

I hope I have not overlooked any significant information. We have in Professor GIGUERE a dedicated teacher-scholar who must in every academic sense of its meaning be promoted to Full Professor.

Sincerely yours,

Donald F. Anspach, Chairman
Department of Sociology

DFA/cj

cc: M.D. GIGUERE