

2008

Interview of Maribel W. Molyneaux, Ph.D.

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Field Notes

Interviewee: Maribel Molyneaux

Interviewer: Kaitlyn Linsner

Interview Date: April 9th, 2008 (Afternoon)

Interview Location: Dr. Molyneaux's office at LaSalle University

Field Noted written on April 11th, 2008.

The Interviewee

Maribel Molyneaux was born on May 4th, 1934 in Norristown Pennsylvania. She grew up on a farm with her three siblings and other extended family. She graduated high school at the top of her class, and after graduating, she married at the age of 21. Her husband, Jim Molyneaux is the brother of Gerry Molyneaux, a Christian brother in the Communication Department at LaSalle University. Maribel had four kids and decided to head back to school at the age of 40. She attended her local community college for two years, and then transferred to LaSalle University. This was a recommendation by Brother Gerry Molyneaux seeing as the two of them are good friends. After graduating from LaSalle University, she attended University of Pennsylvania for graduate school where she took classes for eight years in order to earn her Masters degree in education. After graduation, she worked some temporary job fillings at Penn, and soon after decided to take a permanent job at LaSalle University. Here she began by teaching theory and writing classes, and soon enough, she was teaching honors courses and conducting seminars. She is still currently teaching at LaSalle University, and is still happily married Jim. She is a passionate feminist, atheist, and grandmother. She has eight grandkids and is loving life.

The Interviewer

I, Kaitlyn Marie Linsner grew up in Norridge, Illinois. At the age of two I moved to Itasca and have been living there ever since. I graduated from Lake Park High School and currently attend LaSalle University as Communication and Sociology major.

Background

My honors history perspective teacher assigned the class an oral history project, and since I live an airplane flight away, I was unable to interview any family members. Maribel Molyneaux, or as myself and my classmates know her, Dr. Molyneaux, is my honors literature perspectives teacher. She has always been a fascinating person to me. She comes across very opinionated in class, and once I heard about this project, I decided I would like to get to know Dr. Molyneaux more than the woman we see in class every Tuesday and Thursday. So, I asked Dr. Molyneaux if she would be ok with me interviewing her for this project. She said yes, and from there I began to research. I went to the archives on LaSalle's campus to obtain information about her. Most of the articles I received contained information about her attendance here as LaSalle. There was not any information on her early life, and the more I read about her in the articles, I became more curious as to how she became the woman she is today. She attended LaSalle when she about 42 years old, and I wanted to know how the strong feminist teaching my literature class grew up to have such morals and values. This is when I decided to have an ethical spin on my interview in hopes that I would be able to figure out what influenced her to be who she is today. I also decided I would like to make a film about Dr. Molyneaux because that is most interesting to me. We discussed the interview through e-mail, and after much difficulty scheduling a time, I was at her office on April 9th, 2008 to conduct the interview.

Description of the Interview:

The day of the interview, I rented a digital camera from Multimedia Services in order to record the interview. I arrived five minutes early, and she was actually confused as to the fact that this was the actual date for the interview. I had about 3 pages of questions ready. With Dr. Molyneaux being my teacher, there was already a level of familiarity between us. I had also interviewed her on other smaller occasions for other classes. I felt as though I knew a bit about her already. But since my interview had a different angle to it than in the past, I was anticipating to get some interesting information. I started off with asking about her hometown, and soon enough, she took the interview in her own hands. She jumped to and from different times in her life, and it caught me off guard at times because most of my questions became irrelevant within five minutes of the interview. And so, I followed her lead and tried to cater to her fast talking abilities. Since we were located in her office, there was some noise from her computer and at times noise from other people outside. It was not distracting though, and in fact, her volume was perfect for the interview. At first she did not seem very enthusiastic about the interview, but with time, she warmed up and was allowing more information about herself to come out. The interview itself lasted about an hour and 20 minutes, and at times it seemed difficult for her to formulate words to fit the ideas she had in her head. She would pause often and at times left openings of sentences unattended. I strayed from my desired topic and let her speak about whatever she felt most comfortable and informative about. I checked the camera often to make sure the recording was actually happening. The interview itself ended a bit abruptly because she was supposed to meet with another student about a paper. But overall, it was a productive interview. I received a solid amount of information from her, and when combining that with some of the articles from the archives, I felt as though I had met a new side of Dr. Molyneaux. I

thanked her a million times after the interview and continued to in class afterwards. I will be sending her a thank you card shortly because I appreciate the time she put into this interview.