

Margaret L. Andersen

Talented teacher and mentor, you received a bachelor of arts degree from Georgia State University and earned your master's and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

You came to the University of Delaware as an instructor in 1974. By the time you retired this year, you had ascended to the level of Edward F. and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor of Sociology. Along the way, you received award after award from the University for your teaching, including the Excellence in Teaching Award, the Faculty Mentor Award in the McNair Scholars Program, and the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award.

Your instructional influence extended beyond U.D., for you were a visiting professor at both the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University. Dozens of colleges and universities across the national also called upon you for expertise in curriculum, academic programs, and faculty performance.

Pioneering scholar, you dedicated your life to the study of sociology and to advancing our understanding of race, class, and gender. You wrote numerous noteworthy articles and made well-received presentations on the topic. Your first book on the subject of gender, the highly influential *Thinking About Women: Sociological Perspectives on Sex and Gender*, went into 10 editions and was used consistently in college classrooms for many years. The American Sociological Association noted, when presenting you with its Jessie Barnard Career Award, that you had been at the forefront of race, class, and gender studies, conceiving cutting-edge approaches to the field.

Among those groundbreaking approaches was your insistence on the intersectionality of gender, race, class, ethnicity, and other identities, an understanding of which is necessary to bringing about changes in our society's systems of power. It is that imperative which underlies your anthology *Race, Class, and Gender*, which likewise became an essential text for students of sociology.

You edited the scholarly journal *Gender & Society* from 1990 to 1995 and served on the editorial boards of four other academic journals. In addition, you were a reviewer for more than a dozen publications.

During your career, you garnered numerous professional honors and awards for your scholarship, including a Merit Award as well as the Robin M. Williams Lecture Award from the Eastern Sociological Society.

Dedicated U.D. faculty member and administrator, you served the University for more than 40 years, not only as a professor but also, at various points in your career, as director of the Women's Studies Program, director of graduate studies for the department of sociology, vice provost for academic affairs, interim dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, associate provost for academic affairs, and executive director of the President's Diversity Initiative.

Your contributions to your department, your college, and the University have been legion. You have served the department of sociology as a student advisor and on committees that ranged from

undergraduate policy to Ph.D. studies to promotion and tenure. At the University level, you have served on the President's Commission on the Status of Women, the President's Diversity Action Council, the Campus Climate Survey Committee, and the President's Path to Prominence Review Committee, among others.

You have excelled in teaching, research and writing, and academic service. More than that, you have made lasting contributions to the conversation on race, class, and gender—contributions that advance our understanding and, ultimately, we hope, our society as well.

In *The University: An Owner's Manual*, Harvard educator Henry Rosovsky wrote, "Research is an expression of faith in the possibility of progress. ... Research, especially academic research, is a form of optimism about the human condition." Margaret L. Andersen, your research in understanding the power structures in society evidences your optimism that we can, indeed, improve the human condition.

Therefore, under the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware, I have the pleasure and honor of conferring upon you, Margaret L. Andersen, the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, and do declare you entitled to all the rights, honors, and privileges to that degree appertaining throughout the world. In testimony thereof, I am pleased to present to you this diploma.

John R. Cochran, Chair

May 27, 2017