

Dorothy James – Award presented November 7, 2007 at Baruch College

Professor James received her Ph.D. in German from the University of London, U.K. She has also studied in Munich and Vienna. She was a professor of German at Hunter College for 20 years, and chair of the German Department for fifteen years. She was also a member of the faculty at the Graduate School, CUNY. She has written books on nineteenth century German drama (Raimund and Vienna, Cambridge University Press, 1970, Georg Büchner's Dantons Tod (Modern Humanities Research Association, 1982.) She also edited Patterns of Change, German Drama and the European Tradition, Peter Lang, 1990. Since the early eighties, she has been active in the movement to introduce proficiency-based foreign language teaching into the college and high school curriculum, and was trained as a tester of oral proficiency on the ACTFL model in 1983, and as a trainer of testing in 1985. She headed the NEH funded Hunter College project to institute a proficiency-based curriculum in an urban university. She was also Project Director of the NEH-funded Project at CUNY: "A Model Curriculum in German: From Zero Knowledge to Ph.D. orals" (1994-1997). With CUNY Council colleagues, she launched the FIPSE-funded project in 1998, "Foreign Languages in the Workplace: A Program of Faculty and Curriculum Development." She has published on institutional context as well as teaching procedures, and was particularly concerned with the reward structure in the foreign language and literature teaching profession. Since her retirement from CUNY, she has co-directed a multi-disciplinary Summer Institute in Vienna (2001), funded by NEH, on "The People of Vienna in a Turbulent Century: 1848-1955," and has translated numerous web sites for the Demokratiezentrum Wien. She was President of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (1990), Interim Director of Foreign Languages at the Modern Language Association, and Editor of the ADFL Bulletin (1990-91), Chair of the MLA Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages and Literatures (1995-6). She has received awards from NYSAFLT (1989) and the Northeast Conference (1993) and received the first ADFL Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession in 1994. Pictures taken by Lorena Ellis (QCC)