

CITATION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR CHRISTINE EWAN, PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC) ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADMISSION OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DOROTHY JONES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS HONORIS CAUSA ON 7 OCTOBER 1994

Chancellor, I present Dorothy Lilian May Jones.

Dorothy Jones was born in Otago province on the South Island of New Zealand in 1934. She received her first Master of Arts degree from the then University of New Zealand in 1955 and a second MA from the University of Adelaide in 1960. She graduated from Oxford University with a Bachelor of Letters degree in 1962.

Dorothy Jones began her academic career as a tutor in English at the University of Adelaide in 1956. In 1963, she became a lecturer at the University of New South Wales and, in 1971, she came to a small Department of English in then Wollongong University College. She has stayed here for twenty-three years, attaining the ranks of senior lecturer and then Associate Professor and gaining an enviable reputation as both teacher and scholar.

In 1971, the Department of English had four full-time staff and a sole undergraduate teaching program closely modelled on that of the "parent" University of New South Wales. Since then, the Department has grown from a small unit, teaching "canonical" texts exclusively, to a department with fourteen academic staff, a flourishing Honours program, and eight postgraduate courses. Dorothy Jones has been an essential part of this development and, at many stages, its guiding hand.

Two important elements of the English Department's present profile are its emphasis on post-colonial studies and feminist studies. Dorothy Jones laid the groundwork for both of these initiatives by introducing

comparative Australian/Canadian Studies, and by developing the two foundation subjects in Women's Studies.

Dorothy's initial foray into post-colonial studies has developed into the internationally recognised New Literatures Research Centre with its successful research program and patronage by the Canadian government.

Her work in Women's Studies has been truly a pioneering effort. Dorothy's goal was to provide female students - particularly mature-aged students - with a new and empowering approach to life. The subjects she developed - Women in Society and Twentieth Century Women Writers - were the first subjects in the University's curriculum to give women and women's writing a valid place in the calendar. Gradually, Dorothy and a few other patient female academics introduced gender issues more widely into the curriculum, so that now their place is assured.

As a teacher, Dorothy Jones has been an inspiration for her students. She began by teaching mainly in the English literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but she has always been attuned to developments into new areas of scholarship. She has continued to introduce innovative subjects into the Department's curriculum, ranging from New Zealand literature to Utopian fiction.

It is not only in content, however, that Dorothy Jones's teaching excels. She has always been one of those rare teachers who attract committed students and who will remain their model. Students admire her breadth of reading, her ability to draw from a vast store of knowledge not only from literature, but from seemingly any field which relates to the subject under discussion. She is an ideal guide and mentor, responding with warmth and compassion to student needs and problems.

Amongst her peers, Dorothy Jones is recognised as one of the leading literary critics in the area of Australian and post-colonial women's writing. Her impressive list of publications ranges from investigations into Australian humour to women's romance writing; journals and diary writing; issues of heterosexuality; contemporary Australian poetry, and renaissance art and literature. She is a leading authority on the writing of Olga Masters, Elizabeth Jolley and Canadian writer Aritha Van Herk.

In over twenty years of service to the University, Dorothy Jones has also taken a number of key administrative roles. She chaired the Faculty of Humanities between 1977 and 1979, making her one of the first female academics in Australia to assume the role of the chief faculty executive. She was appointed Head of the Department of English in 1979 and held the post until 1985. During a very difficult period in the Department, she provided stability, carried a heavy committee load and laid the groundwork for subsequent development.



Since stepping down as Head of English, Dorothy Jones has continued her contribution to committee work at Department, Faculty and University levels. She was also selected as one of seven academic members on the AVCC Academic Standards Panel for English. The panel reviewed every English Department in the country, and produced a report on the teaching of English in Australian Universities. Through the help and guidance she has given to other academic staff, Dorothy Jones has been a powerful influence on the quality of teaching and research in her field.

Chancellor, when Associate Professor Dorothy Jones retires at the end of this year, the English Department and the University will lose one of their most valuable members. Dorothy Jones is one of a select group of academics who combine the intellectual rigour of a fine analytical mind with initiative, foresight and empathy. We salute today her achievements as a pioneer of developments in her discipline at this University. She has been a model for her students and colleagues and for those women whose lives and prospects she has enriched through her dedication and persistence.

It is my pleasure and privilege to present Dorothy Lilian May Jones for the award of Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa.