

2009 Herbert Schneider Award Citation: Charlene Haddock Seigfried

The Herbert Schneider Award recognizes a career-long achievement of “distinguished contributions to the understanding of American Philosophy.”

This year’s award goes to Professor Charlene Haddock Seigfried, Professor of Philosophy at Purdue University since 1991. She joined that faculty in 1979, having previously taught at Loyola University and at Oakton Community College.

Professor Seigfried was the John Dewey Lecturer for 2007 and won the John Dewey Society Outstanding Achievement award in 2005. Her areas of specialization are American Philosophy, Pragmatism and Feminist Theory.

Charlene is the author or editor of four books in these areas, two of which offer original and stimulating analyses of the work of William James. *Chaos and Context: A Study of William James* presents, among other things, what is arguably the clearest description of James’s notion of “pure experience” available. *William James’s Radical Reconstruction of Philosophy* argues forcefully and persuasively that James “was not in principle opposed to ratiocination, but only to its excesses.”

Her more recent books, *Feminist Interpretations of John Dewey* and *Pragmatism and Feminism: Reweaving the Social Fabric*, have focused upon the mutual benefits to be gained by comparing and contrasting these two philosophical paradigms.

In addition, Professor Seigfried has been the author of numerous book chapters and journal articles dealing with American Philosophy. She has presented over 55 invited papers in this area. Much of her work has focused on bringing the contributions of Jane Addams to the forefront of our philosophical consciousness. Professor Seigfried wrote introductions for reprinted editions of Addams’s works, *Democracy and Social Ethics* and *The Long Road of Woman’s Memory*. Indeed, *Charlene’s championing of Jane Addams has been a major factor in Addams’s rehabilitation.*

Professor Seigfried has worked tirelessly to further the goals and aspirations of SAAP. She served as President of the organization from 1996 to 1998, and was on the Executive Committee from 1984 to 1987, and 1996 to 2000. Charlene also chaired the Coss Lecture Committee from 1999 to 2007. In addition, she is a past President and Vice President of the William James Society and is the co-organizer of the Mid-West Pragmatist Philosophy Group, having served in this role since 1997.

Finally, we should emphasize Charlene’s significant contribution to the profession in her role as mentor and role model for those young people aspiring to become philosophers. It is with great pleasure that we present to her the Herbert Schneider Award for 2009.

Bill Gavin

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