

The Dr. Bertha Maxwell Roddey Distinguished Africana Lecture

The Africana Studies Department at UNC Charlotte inaugurated the Dr. Bertha Maxwell Roddey Distinguished Africana Lecture in 2008 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of Africana Studies at UNC Charlotte and as a direct response to the vision of the UNC Tomorrow on University Outreach and Engagement. The lecture is an annual intellectual and social forum for scholars, students, community leaders, and policy-makers on pertinent issues facing Africa-descended populations regionally and globally. The lecture honors and celebrates Dr. Maxwell Roddey's service as an educator, administrator, teacher, and community leader.

Dr. Bertha Maxwell Roddey: Special Guest of Honor



Dr. Bertha Maxwell Roddey has spent a lifetime educating generations of students, building institutions for the promotion of Black Studies, and working tirelessly for racial integration. She earned her bachelor's degree from Johnson C. Smith University (Charlotte), Master's degree from UNC-Greensboro, and her doctorate from Union Graduate School in Cincinnati. Dr. Maxwell Roddey joined UNC Charlotte in 1970, and assumed the leadership of the Black Studies Program in 1971. She served as the founding chairperson when the program became a department. During her tenure, she presided over the development of a four-year curriculum for the undergraduate major in African American and African Studies (now Africana Studies), and initiated a number of programs on multicultural education, service learning, and community outreach. In 1977, Dr. Maxwell Roddey spearheaded the establishment of the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS), an organization dedicated to the research and study of African American life and culture. NCBS is the largest professional organization for Africana Studies in the United States. She is also a co-founder of Charlotte's Afro-American Cultural Center. Since retiring as the Frank Porter Graham professor in 1986, she has taught African American Studies at the University of South Carolina, Lancaster.