

## Dorothy Pryor Award Recipient Announced at STCC

John F. Gately, retired English Department chairman, historian, and antiquarian book dealer, will be honored on Wednesday, April 1 with the annual Dorothy Jordan Pryor Award at Springfield Technical Community College. The Pryor award, established at STCC in 1994, honors a “living treasure” who has made significant contributions to our community.

The event, set for 11:15 a.m. in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference area of Scibelli Hall at STCC, is open to the public. The award recipient gives a talk, which is followed by a celebratory reception. Dorothy Pryor, who has been named Professor Emerita of STCC, taught in the college’s English department for many years and later served as STCC’s first affirmative action officer. Following her retirement, she was appointed by the governor to two five-year terms on the STCC Board of Trustees, where she was elected Vice Chairman of the Board.



Gately is a lifelong resident of Marlborough, and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. According to his biographical information, “He grew up in a house full of books and began collecting while a student at UMass. Beginning with standard sets of American and English authors, his collection and collecting interests gradually grew to such an extent that, in order to maintain the structural integrity of the house, he became a book dealer.” He and his brother founded Gately Bros. Books around 1986.

Gately taught English at STCC for 39 years, retiring in December 2008. He served as Chairman of the English Department for several years, and was significantly interested in American history. In 2006 he helped plan a major academic conference on Daniel Shays’ Rebellion, commemorating the 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ill-fated attack on the federal arsenal in Springfield. STCC is located on the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. In fall 2008 the Shays’ Rebellion website, funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, was launched at STCC. Gately is currently active in planning a conference at STCC scheduled for October, 2009, commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Brown’s attack on the federal arsenal at Harper’s Ferry.

As a result of his antiquarian book activities, Gately was elected to the Old Sturbridge Village Research Library Executive Committee in 1992, serving through 1998, and ending his time as Chair of the committee. He also served two terms as Overseer of Old Sturbridge Village, from 1994 through 1998.

Gately was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in 2000, and in that same year was elected President of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Antiquarian Booksellers Association, an organization of more than 170 businesses.

