Dr. Katona taught English at the College of Charleston for 24 years, from 1975 through 1999. Before her death in January, 2005, she was named Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Katona provided funds for a grant to the College that annually recognizes the graduating English major with the highest average in American Literature courses.

Originating from Debrecen, Hungary, Dr. Katona earned a Ph.D. in English and a Masters degree in English, German, French and Italian from the University of Debrecen, a Masters degree in Russian from the University of Budapest, and a Post-doctoral degree in Literature from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Her research awards included a British Council scholarship in Cambridge and London, a Ford Foundation Scholarship at the University of California, Berkeley, and an ACLS fellowship at Yale University.