



SENIOR SCHOLARS' SERIES THE PASSIONS THAT DRIVE ACADEMIC LIFE

This series is convened on behalf of Green College and the UBC Association of Professors Emeriti. It provides opportunities for senior academics to describe their personal experiences and journeys through their own academic careers. Presenters will distill a lifetime of scholarly work. Some will examine the new projects that have grown out of that work; others may reflect upon their changing attitudes to university life. The series is multidisciplinary and gives expression to the speakers' mature and personal insights. The speakers hope to engage graduate students with senior faculty, to expose the academic community to UBC's most experienced academics, and to welcome the greater UTown/Point Grey neighbourhood to the richness of academic life at UBC.

ALL TALKS ARE AT GREEN COLLEGE IN THE COACH HOUSE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT CHARGE

TERM ONE

OF SERENDIPITY, STEEL AND (NOT ONLY MECHANICAL) ENGINEERING

Indira Samarasekera, Metals and Materials Engineering; 12th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Alberta (2005-2015)

Thursday, September 20, 2018, 5:00 pm, with reception to follow

Indira Samarasekera's journey from the Island of Serendip, now known as Sri Lanka, to an exciting career of discovery and application in steel processing, was marked by moments of genuine serendipity. One of a dozen female engineers from the University of Ceylon in 1974, she spent two years doing materials research at the University of California. Following a Masters degree, she came to UBC and stumbled into an opportunity to do mathematical modelling of steel processing at a time when large-scale computing was just becoming a reality. Her research had a significant impact on the steel industry worldwide and was accompanied by fascinating experiences of working in a nearly all-male environment. Then, what she thought would be a brief detour into university administration, as Vice-President Research at UBC, turned into a second career...

A JOURNEY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: THEORY, POLICY, ACTIVISM

Ashok Kotwal, Economics

Thursday, October 11, 2018, 5:00 pm, with reception to follow

Ashok Kotwal grew up in India, and worked first as an electrical engineer in that country and then in the computer industry in Massachusetts. The gap in standards of living made it natural to ask why countries like India stayed so poor while others

prospered. Economics provided an answer: stylized facts could be explained by a hypothesis based on basic assumptions about behaviour. That was the appeal of 'theory.' Over the years, however, the field of Economics would become more empirical, techniques of analysis more sophisticated, and Ashok's own interests more policy-oriented. He also discovered that there was much to learn about grass-roots realities from social activists. For the last six years, he has been editing an online newsletter called *Ideas for India*. Its mission is to enhance the quality of public debate in India by making the findings of academic research accessible to the lay public.

MAKING SENSE OF BEING AN INDIGENOUS SCHOLAR

Jo-ann Archibald Q'um Q'um Xi'em, Educational Studies

Thursday, November 8, 2018, 5:00 pm, with reception to follow

The speaker will share her reflections about her career in Indigenous Education, focusing on what it meant for her to be one of the very few Indigenous scholars in the academy. She will tell stories about her mentors, milestone moments, and key challenges related to her faculty and leadership positions at UBC. Core themes will include making systemic changes in the academy, creating space for Indigenous knowledge systems, working with Indigenous communities and organizations, and facilitating opportunities for reconciliation. Lessons learned from Raven, Eagle, Coyote, and Thunderbird will be included in these reflective stories.

Those attending talks at Green College are warmly invited to come to dinner. For information on making dinner reservations, see www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner