



SENIOR SCHOLARS' SERIES THE PASSIONS THAT DRIVE ACADEMIC LIFE *presented by the UBC Association of Professors Emeriti*

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 distil 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

FROM BASIC SCIENCE TO CLINICAL RESEARCH: A NEUROSCIENTIST'S JOURNEY

Joanne Weinberg, Cellular and Physiological Sciences
Thursday, October 10, 2019, 5:00 pm

After teaching high school biology for several years, Joanne Weinberg entered a PhD program in Neuroscience as the oldest student in the class. Research opportunities and fortuitous connections with people along her path led her from basic studies on the effects of early life experience and stress on brain and biological development to a focus on the adverse effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, utilizing rodent models to examine alcohol's impact from the prenatal period through adulthood. Her latest research, part of the NIH Collaborative Initiative on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (CIFASD), investigates alcohol-induced effects on immune profiles of pregnant women and on immune function and health of children across the lifespan, a critical but understudied area in the FASD field.

BROADENING HORIZONS: REFLECTIONS OF AN ENGINEER IN ACADEMIA

Michael Isaacson, Civil Engineering
Thursday, November 14, 2019, 5:00 pm

Michael Isaacson is Professor of Civil Engineering at UBC. After completing his degrees at Cambridge, he was appointed to a postdoctoral fellowship in Honolulu undertaking tsunami research, and he then joined UBC in 1976. He has since been active in education, research, engineering practice, university administration and professional service. Michael will reflect on these five aspects of his career. Michael's research and engineering practice contributions have been in coastal and ocean engineering, relating, for example, to ocean waves, the prediction of water levels (including tsunamis and sea level rise), the design of offshore drilling rigs, and coastal studies of beaches and marinas. Michael's university service has included an eleven-year term as Dean of Applied Science, and participation in the establishment of UBC Okanagan.

CONFESSIONS OF AN ACADEMIC DILETTANTE, OR WHAT I LEARNED FROM G. GORDON LIDDY

Jerry Wasserman, Theatre and Film
Thursday, December 4, 2019, 5:00 pm

Jerry Wasserman retired at the end of 2016 as Professor Emeritus of English and Theatre after 44 ½ years at UBC, including five years as Head of the Department of Theatre and Film. But his career profile was not exactly conventional. Most successful university professors go for depth in their chosen field of research. He went, instead, for breadth. Call him eclectic. Or a dilettante. His scholarship ranges from modern fiction and Canadian drama to blues music. And he'll bet he is the only academic in North America, or maybe the world, who worked simultaneously for decades as teacher and scholar, professional stage and screen actor, and professional theatre critic.

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

EXPLORING NEW VISTAS: PRAGMATISM, PRACTICE AND SCHOLARSHIP

Wendy Hall, Nursing
Thursday, January 9, 2020, 5:00 pm

Wendy Hall has taken surprising paths that have opened up new vistas over the course of her life. They have all informed her work and her development as a researcher and teacher. She has moved from working class girl to bedside nurse to geophysics crew member to homesteader to faculty member. After over 30 years as a faculty member studying the transition to parenting, Wendy is acknowledged for her expertise on children's sleep problems. Her story highlights effects of both the careful and impulsive choices that have underpinned her life and academic career. It also highlights effects of influential colleagues, friends, and family members who were not always supportive of her choices. Wendy Hall is Professor Emerita, School of Nursing.

UNIVERSITIES AND THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH: THE UNANTICIPATED EDUCATION OF AN IDEALIST

Paul Marantz, Political Science
Thursday, February 13, 2020, 5:00 pm

Born long ago, in a place far away (Brooklyn, to be precise), Paul Marantz went off to university to study physics but wound up specializing in Soviet politics and the Cold War. He arrived at UBC for what he assumed would be a short stay, but remained here for his entire career. Along the way, he came to appreciate the importance of collegiality, civility and mutual respect; he shed some comforting illusions; learned much about the challenges of engaging in the fair-minded weighing of evidence; and witnessed the entirely unexpected demise of the Soviet Union and cessation of the Cold War. Over the years, academic fashions changed, and earlier ideas about truth and free speech are now widely contested.

SINKING, SWIMMING, OR JUST TREADING WATER? MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF AN ACADEMIC CAREER IN THE HUMANITIES

Herbert Rosengarten, English
Thursday, March 12, 2020, 5:00 pm

The son of refugees from Nazi Germany, Herbert Rosengarten grew up in a post-war Britain that saw radical changes to public health and education, and that offered new opportunities to the children of the working class through state funding. A sound, if somewhat conventional education led him to Vancouver and the English Department at UBC, just at the time when universities in North America were experiencing the first stirrings of student challenges to traditional authority. Rosengarten experienced the impact of such unrest at UBC, both in the changing attitudes and expectations of students, and in the workings of his department, which became a battleground between liberal and conservative factions, each striving to impose its notions of academic governance. The latter part of his career has been spent largely in administrative posts, which have given him some interesting, if not always positive, insights into the intricacies of academic politics.