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 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

TERM I

DRIVEN BY Curiosity: A LIFE OF DISCOVERY IN CLINICAL GENETICS
Judith G. Hall, Medical Genetics and Pediatrics; Foundation Fellow of Green College
Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 5:00 pm, with reception to follow

Set on her way towards a traditionally male profession by a mother who loved biology, Judith Hall entered medical school just as the science of genetics was coming of age. She became interested in the genetics of short stature during her training, and that led her into career-long clinical research on all types of congenital anomalies, particularly multiple congenital contractures (arthrogryposis), discordant twins, and non-traditional inheritance. In her talk she will relate some of the clinical discoveries that she has witnessed and how long it took for them too to “come of age”—i.e., for their underlying mechanisms to be understood. She will also reflect upon her scientific life-journey in Clinical Genetics and Pediatrics, her good fortune and sometimes dumb luck, and on how much she now likes being an academic Elder.

A CAREER OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY IN CHEMICAL PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS AND SPACE SCIENCE
Bernard Shizgal, Chemistry
Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 5:00 pm, with reception to follow

Bernie Shizgal's multidisciplinary research work has been based on the kinetic theory of gases, applied to chemical reactions and later to the escape of planetary atmospheres and space science. This has led to collaborations with space scientists at NASA (Pioneer Venus), at ISAS (Japan) and at the University of Calgary (ePOP terrestrial satellite). Particular mathematical and numerical methods were developed for the solution of a multitude of applied problems in chemical kinetics, quantum mechanics, nucleation and image resolution for tomography. The talk will focus on his earliest research work and on the numerous scientists worldwide whose work had a profound and lasting effect on his scientific career.

MULTIMEDIA, BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACES AND MEDICAL INSTRUMENTATION: DISPATCHES OF A PIONEER WOMAN IN ENGINEERING ACROSS CONTINENTS
Rabab Ward, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 5:00 pm, with reception to follow

Rabab Ward grew up in a Moslem family in Lebanon, and has worked there as well as in Zimbabwe and North America. A specialist in the field of signal processing, she has had to overcome many hurdles in the course of a career in engineering that began in the early 1960s. For much of her working life she was the only woman in otherwise all-male academic departments. In this talk she recalls some of her formative professional experiences and discusses some of the exciting developments and applications in electrical engineering that have kept her curiosity sharp over decades.

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