

The G.J. Spencer Memorial Lecture Series at the University of British Columbia

A landmark in the past 35 years has been the G.J. Spencer Memorial Lecture series at the University of British Columbia. This series of lectures was to commemorate the achievements of G.J. Spencer, and ran from 1967 to 1999. The 33 lectures by eminent entomologists exposed faculty, students and guests to some of the major entomological research accomplishments in the world. The following gives a brief note on Spencer attached to the annual brochure circular each year, the list of lectures and their titles.

Prof. Emeritus George Johnston Spencer was born of missionary parents in Yercaud, South India, January 18, 1888 and died at his home in Vancouver, Canada, July 24, 1966. Prof. Spencer was renowned as a teacher. In 1924 Prof. Spencer was appointed Assistant Prof. at the University of British Columbia, and in 1945 Prof. at the same Institution. Retiring in 1953 he was elected Prof. Emeritus, Special Lecturer and Curator of the Entomological Museum.

In the early years of the University of British Columbia on its Point Grey campus, Prof. Spencer played a major role in establishing the Department of Zoology and his particular pride was the fine Entomological Museum that he established and which now bears his name. When he came to the University there were "less than a handful" of unlabelled specimens; when he left in 1966 the Museum contained over 300,000 specimens of perfectly mounted and labelled insects belonging to all orders. As a scientist he directed much of his energy to assembling a representative collection of the insect fauna of British Columbia. Prof. Spencer was a prodigious collector, even when ailing in the early months of 1966. His favourite study area was always the Dry Belt of British Columbia, an area that he insisted was "God's Own Country".

Year	Lecturer	Affiliation	Title
1967	Prof. Sir V.B. Wigglesworth	Cambridge University	Jan Swammerdam, preformation and insect growth.
1968	Prof. H.A. Schneiderman	Case Western Reserve University	Control systems in insect development.
1969	Prof. K.D. Roeder	Tufts University	Sonar and countersonar; the interaction of bats and moths.
1970	Prof. G. Hoyle	University of Oregon	Neural mechanisms underlying the behaviour of invertebrates.
1971	Prof. Th. Dobzhansky	Rockerfeller University	Genetics of behaviour in <i>Drosophila</i> .
1972	Prof. M. Locke	University of Western Ontario	Insect cells, and the study of basic problems in cell biology.
1973	Prof. L.P. Brower	Amherst College	Experimental proof of the palatability spectrum in natural populations of the monarch butterfly.
1974	Prof. V.G. Dethier	Princeton University	Hunger in the blowfly; a physiological analysis.
1975	Prof. D. Pimentel	Cornell University	The Economy of Insect Population.
1976	Prof. C.M. Williams	Harvard University	Hormones, Genes, and Metamorphosis.

1977	Prof. F.J. Ayala	University of California, Davis	The Genetics of Speciation: a Study with <i>Drosophila</i> .
1978	Prof. T.R.E. Southwood	Imperial College, University of London	Some Patterns of Nature.
1979	Prof. F. Engelmann	University of California, Los Angeles	Production of a yolky egg: aspects of hormonal control.
1980	Prof. E.B. Edney	University of British Columbia	Water balance in land Arthropods: some problems and solutions.
1981	Prof. P. Ehrlich	Stanford University	Population Biology of Checkered-Spot Butterflies: testing a theory in the field.
1982	Prof. E. Bursell	University of Bristol	The relationship of the tsetse fly and its host.
1983	Prof. G. Dover	Cambridge University	Molecular drive and the origin of insect species.
1984	Prof. K.G. Davey	York University	Sex among the arthropods.
1985	Prof. J.S. Edwards	University of Washington	Origin of flight in insects: an exercise in evolutionary neuroethology.
1986	Prof. C.S. Goodman	Stanford University	Embryonic development of the insect nervous system: the generation of neural specificity.
1987	Prof. H. Dingle	University of California, Davis	The genetic architecture of insect life histories.
1988	Prof. H.L. Carson	University of Hawaii	Newly-formed species: recognition and characteristics.
1989	Prof. R.G.H. Downer	University of Waterloo	Monoamines in insects.
1990	Prof. J.G. Hildebrand	University of Arizona	From semiochemical to behavior: Mechanisms underlying pheromonal communication in moths.
1991	Prof. J.H. Borden	Simon Fraser University	Semiochemicals: the essence of integrated management of the mountain pine beetle.
1992	Prof. G.M. Hewitt	University of East Anglia	Ice Ages, Species Substructure and the Significance of Hybrid Zones.
1993	Prof. G.R. Wyatt	Queen's University	The Juvenile Hormone of Insects: Elixir, Nemesis and Enigma.
1994	Prof. R.D. Alexander	University of Michigan	Species Problems in the Singing Insects.
1995	Prof. I.W.B. Thornton	La Trobe University	The recolonization of Krakatau.
1996	Prof. Jeremy N. McNeil	Laval University	Lepidopteran reproductive strategies and changing habitat quality.
1997	Dr. A.O. Nicholls	CSIRO, Australia	Conservation Evaluation, where to from here? An Australian Perspective.
1998	Prof. E. Bernays	University of Arizona	Why do insect herbivores specialize on plant hosts?
1999	Prof. G.G.E. Scudder	University of British Columbia	Insects in biodiversity conservation: some perspectives from the South Okanagan.