Dr. Neil Guppy, who delivered the 2009 James E. Curtis Memorial Lecture, received his PhD in Sociology from the University of Waterloo in 1981 and has served at the University of British Columbia since 1979, where he is currently Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology. Between 1999 and 2004, he served as Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, and Associate Vice-President, Academic Programs. His research interests include social inequality, education, research methodology, and environment and natural resources. Dr. Guppy and Professor Curtis were collaborators and friends, including serving as co-editors (with Edward Grabb) of the fourth edition of the established standard reader in the area of social stratification, Social Inequality in Canada: Patterns, Problems, and Policies.