Geometry Seminar Tuesday, Dec 6, 2011 Room 512 WWH at 6:00 P.M.

## Biogeometry, 1941

Marjorie Senechal Smith College

Seventy years ago Smith, Amherst, and Mount Holyoke Colleges made their first joint appointment to jump-start a new field of study. The appointee was a British mathematician, Dorothy Wrinch; the field was molecular biology, a phrase just coined and not yet taught anywhere. I will show how the course she gave (light on molecules, light on biology, but heavy on geometry) illuminates a fierce debate on the role of geometry and symmetry in the biological sciences.

For more information please visit the seminar website at: http://www.math.nyu.edu/seminars/geometry\_seminar.html.