

June 2011

Dear Member of the Class of 2015:

Each summer, we invite the students of the First-Year class to create a work in response to our Spectrum Series' campus-wide theme. Your work is collected in an exhibition, which serves as the first in a year-long, college-wide series of events that investigate the theme.



## MIGRATIONS

This year's Spectrum Series theme is "Migrations." Our prompt asks you to consider the ways that the migrations of people, animals, germs, ideas, food, and culture contribute to our sense of belonging or displacement, and how migration patterns shape our inquiries into the changing character of our existence. The prompt is printed on the reverse of this page. The benefit of a campus theme is that we can uncover the interesting connections that emerge when artists, scientists, social observers and writers think together and respond to a relevant cultural issue. Moreover, these collaborations and cross-disciplinary learning experiences are central to a liberal arts education, so in honor of your upcoming time at Denison we hope you'll read the prompt, then imagine, ponder, and produce something uniquely yours.

In addition, if you submit a creative response, you will receive an invitation to a VIP reception exclusively for contributors. There, you will have the opportunity to personally meet with Geneticist and National Geographic Explorer Spencer Wells who will be our Opening Convocation keynote speaker for the "Migrations" theme. Dr. Wells is a leading population geneticist and director of the Genographic Project from National Geographic and IBM. His fascination with the past has led the scientist, author, and documentary filmmaker to the farthest reaches of the globe in search of human populations who hold the history of humankind in their DNA. By studying humankind's family tree he hopes to close the gaps in our knowledge of human migration. The Genographic Project builds on Wells's earlier work (featured in his book and television program, *The Journey of Man*) and is being conducted in collaboration with other scientists around the world. Ultimately, the hope is that this project will capture an invaluable genetic snapshot of humanity before modern-day influences erase it forever. Submit a creative project so you can take advantage of this learning opportunity to meet like-minded peers and Dr. Wells at the Opening Convocation reception.

What you might find most rewarding, though, is the opportunity to kick off your college experience in a fun and creative way, truly demonstrating the spirit of creativity and intellectual engagement at the heart of a liberal arts education. I hope you'll join with other First-Year students, Denison faculty and staff in submitting a project related to "Migrations." Should you have any questions about this project, please contact me at 740-587-6224 or e-mail at [kretchmar@denison.edu](mailto:kretchmar@denison.edu). **Remember that all contributions must be received by Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be included in the gallery exhibit and possibly the anthology.**

Have an enjoyable and creative summer. We look forward to seeing you in August.

Matt Kretchmar  
Dean of First-Year Students

Marlaine Browning  
Academic Events Coordinator

**Call for Contributions**  
**MIGRATIONS**  
**Denison's Spectrum Series Theme for 2011-12**

To leave one place for another – a different city, region, state, or country – is a fact of life for many people today. Some travel voluntarily in order to explore new horizons, while others are pushed to do so by precarious economic or political conditions. But it is not just people who migrate; the movement of animals, the dispersion of seeds, the shifting of cells in our body, and the transmission of ideas are all migrations. What do these migrations reveal about the changing character of our existence? How have migrations contributed to the complexity of our world? What challenges are posed by mass migrations? How do we define belonging and citizenship in the face of migration? How does migration relate to the human desire to set down roots and construct a place called home?

Denison University and the Office of First-Year Programs invite you to join us as we begin our year-long investigation of migrations. Your response can take virtually any form: a poem or short story, a research report, a photograph or drawing, a piece of music or a short film. You can be artistic or scholarly, philosophical or applied. The only requirements are that your work be entirely your own, and that it be your best.

**Submissions must be received in the office by Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.** Because works received will be displayed in an exhibition and selections published in an anthology, no late submissions will be accepted. Written submissions should be sent as an attachment in an e-mail to: [firstyear@denison.edu](mailto:firstyear@denison.edu). Artwork may also be submitted electronically, if appropriate. Please mail other contributions to:

**Denison University**  
**The Office of First-Year Programs**  
**119 Higley Hall**  
**Granville, OH 43023**

In addition to your works being exhibited and considered for inclusion in the creative anthology, **contributors will be invited to a special reception with our Opening Convocation presenter, Spencer Wells, on Thursday, September 8, 2011.** Dr. Wells will receive a copy of the anthology in advance of the event.