

**W**e often associate migrations with the movement of people and animals. Consider, too, how the migration of cells, plants, planets, language, food, arts, and ideas have contributed to the complexity of our world. What do all these migrations reveal about the changing character of our existence?

Join us in exploring these ideas as part of  
**Migrations: Denison's 2011-12 Spectrum Series.**

# MIGRATIONS

*Opening Convocation*  
*September 8, 2011*  
*Spencer Wells, Presenter*



*Spencer Wells, Population Geneticist*

This scientist, author, and documentary filmmaker set an extraordinary goal for himself—using DNA from indigenous peoples, he aimed to document and create the first-ever map of human migration, showing how humans came to populate the planet after leaving the cradle of Africa some 60,000 years ago. Little has been known about our journey until now. A National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Spencer Wells also serves as Director of the Genographic Project—a partnership with IBM, the Waitt Family Foundation, and National Geographic and the most ambitious research project in the Society's 120-year history. The project is working to capture an invaluable genetic snapshot of humanity before modern-day influences erase it forever.

Wells' journey of discovery began at the University of Texas, where he enrolled at 16, majored in biology, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa three years later. He then pursued his Ph.D. at Harvard University and conducted postdoctoral training at Stanford University's School of Medicine with Luca Cavalli-Sforza, considered the "father of anthropological genetics."