Welcome to the Biodiversity Research Centre (BRC)! This newsletter is intended as an introduction to the BRC for those who are joining us and an update for all members.

The BRC is a community of UBC researchers with interests in the origin, maintenance, description and significance of the biodiversity of life, from the scale of genetic diversity to ecosystem functioning. Our members work in many faculties, on both UBC’s Vancouver and Okanagan campuses. About half of us work in the Beaty Biodiversity Centre building, which opened in 2009 and houses both the Beaty Biodiversity Museum and the BRC. My main goal as Director is to facilitate research connections: encouraging a collaborative, intellectually exciting, and rewarding research environment. You can find out more about our research activities at http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/

Want to be kept up-to-date about BRC happenings? Join our listserv for email updates. See information at the end of this newsletter.

NEW BRC Members: We are pleased to welcome five new faculty members this year!

- **Cole Burton** (Forest and Resources Management – arriving January 2017) Conservation biology, wildlife ecology, with broad interests in using science to inform biodiversity conservation and environmental management. coleburton@gmail.com
- **Juli Carrillo** (Faculty of Land and Food Systems) Plant-insect ecology, plant defense against herbivory, tri-trophic interactions, invasive species, domestication. juli.carrillo@ubc.ca
- **Adam Ford** (BRAES Institute – UBC Okanagan) Landscape connectivity, road ecology, human-wildlife conflict, and trophic cascades, with an emphasis on large carnivores and ungulates. adam.ford@ubc.ca
- **Matthew Pennell** (Zoology) Phylogenetics, comparative methods, macroevolution, macroecology, and informatics tools for the biodiversity sciences. pennell@zoology.ubc.ca
- **Jason Pither** (BRAES Institute – UBC Okanagan) Exploring causes of biodiversity patterns, especially beta diversity, to inform conservation strategies. jason.pither@ubc.ca

**BRC Post-docs:** We’re also pleased to welcome Rachel Germain as the new Killam/Biodiversity Research Centre post-doc! She will be joining Anna Hargreaves and Jenn Sunday as Biodiversity post-docs. A search for the next Biodiversity Research Centre post-doc will open in November 2017:

The next BRC post-doctoral fellowship deadline will be January 13, 2017
http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/research/ppostdoc.html

**Beaty Biodiversity Museum:** The Beaty Biodiversity Museum (BBM; http://www.beatymuseum.ubc.ca) is a partnership between the Departments of Botany and Zoology to curate UBC’s immense biological collections (over two million specimens of plants and animals) and to showcase both the collections and biodiversity-related research to the public. Rick Taylor (Zoology) is the director and the BBM includes more than 20 staff members and over 100 volunteers. Members of the BRC use BBM specimens in their research, act as faculty curators, and work with staff and volunteers of the museum to develop its exhibits and programs. The BBM is open from 10am - 5pm Tuesday-Sunday. If you have a UBC student or employee card, entry is free. The museum also has a gift shop, with an excellent selection of biodiversity-related books (including those by our own professors), artwork, and games. This year the BBM will be opening also on Thursday nights and exciting new exhibits include large North American mammals (including a muskox), the beginnings of a “made in BC” dinosaur trackway, and the Phylo game inspired Ecosystems in Play which opened September 17th.

One of the goals of the museum is to keep up with the discoveries and insights that BRC members make about biodiversity, so please send any compelling discoveries and story ideas to Luc Desmarais (luc.desmarais@ubc.ca). One of the rotating exhibits is called Researchers Revealed and features six BRC researchers in...
large, public-friendly panels that explain their projects and their motivations for scientific research. The BBM also has a blog (http://www.beatymuseum.ubc.ca/blog) to help communicate what we do and why it is interesting and important. Many BRC have written great blogs and are encouraged to continue to contribute. Please submit blogs to Amy Gibson (amy.gibson@ubc.ca).

The BBM has a dedicated group of volunteers to help deliver programs. Visitors love to interact with graduate students during tours and other programs. If you would like to become involved and gain experience in science communication and public education, please contact Nicole Balsdon (nicole.balsdon@beatymuseum.ubc.ca).

**Biodiversity Public Lecture:** The Beaty Biodiversity Museum and BRC co-host a very well attended public lecture series (http://beatymuseum.ubc.ca/events/bls). The next lecture will be

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<th>Dr. Nancy Turner</th>
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<tr>
<td>“A rose by many other names”: Sharing and Adapting Ancient Knowledge in Northwestern North America</td>
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<td>October 27 2016 @ 7PM in ESB 1013</td>
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<td>RSVP at the link above</td>
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If you are interested in helping out with the series, let me know (email announcements to follow).

**BRIT Training Program:** Although NSERC funding for our Training Program in Biodiversity Research, locally called BRITE (Biodiversity Research: Integrative Training and Education) came to an end in March 2015, BRITE continues! Through funding from the BRC and an endowment (donations always accepted!!), we will continue to support many of the great aspects of BRITE including:

- Graduate internships in governmental, industrial, and non-profit sectors (six per year)
- Post-doctoral awards (one every other year)
- Workshops
- Biodiversity Research Seminar Series

Any student of a BRC member is considered a BRITE ‘affiliate’, eligible for BRITE offerings. Please see: [http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/BRITE/index.html](http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/BRITE/index.html) for more information.

**Research Cluster for Adapting Biosystems:** Thanks to Sally Otto, the BRC is receiving $100K to strategically advance research excellence in biodiversity research. The funds will be used to update our website, hold catalysis meetings, and support training workshops (see below). If you have suggestions for website re-design, please contact Matt Pennell (pennell@zoology.ubc.ca).

**Workshops:** Is there a topic or skill-set that you really want to see explored at the BRC? Apply for funding support from BRC (see form at [http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/BRITE/BRITE_workshops.html](http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/BRITE/BRITE_workshops.html)) or email me with suggestions.

**Seminars:** The BRC hosts a variety of seminars and discussion groups, including

- The Biodiversity Research Seminar (BRS) series is our flagship seminar series and has a great line-up of speakers for the upcoming year. This is meant to be a broadly aimed seminar series that should appeal to the diversity of members of the BRC, regardless of Departmental affiliation. This seminar series is held Wednesday at noon in the auditorium of the Beaty Biodiversity Museum.

- We also have an internal seminar series, the Biodiversity Lunchtime Internal Seminar Series (BLISS), held on Mondays at noon in the Museum auditorium. This series lets us showcase all the great work happening here.

For more information, see [http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/research/seminars.html](http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/research/seminars.html).

**Twitter enthusiast?** Please follow us @UBCBiodiversity

Hot news off the press? Email brcadmin@biodiversity.ubc.ca with any news to post on our website and twitter feeds.
Computing: Housed in the BRC, the Zoology Computing Unit manages the network and computing infrastructure for Zoology and Biodiversity. People in those groups can get free accounts or member accounts for access to enhanced services such as: our server cluster, automatic backups, custom web blogs/sites, etc. Please contact Alistair (Alistair@zoology.ubc.ca) for more information.

Shared Equipment: Need to borrow a piece of equipment? Check the shared equipment list: http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/research/resources.html. Have a piece of equipment that others could borrow? Let Katie Beall (brcadmin@biodiversity.ubc.ca) know.

Next Generation Sequencer: The BRC is also home to an Illumina HighSeq 2000 facility run by technician Anastasia Kuzmin (office hours in lab room 260: Tuesday, Thursdays 11AM-12PM, email ahead of time to confirm availability: kuzmin@biodiversity.ubc.ca). This facility has fast turn-around times and can help researchers enter into the world of genomic analyses. For further information, please see https://sites.google.com/site/biodiversitynextgensequencing/home.

Office Space (being updated now): Looking for somebody in the building? Check the office directory at: http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/where/. Note that offices are assigned to foster communication and integration across labs, with offices housing students from more than one lab.

Security: Dial 911 in emergency. Dial 2-2222 for Campus Security (604-822-2222 from a non UBC phone). To help reduce thefts, all building access is controlled by cards/fobs. Two doors provide open access during working hours (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm): at the south west corner of the courtyard and from the courtyard patio. Please direct your visitors to these doors. Please do not let anyone into the building after hours. Also, do not prop exterior doors open at any time, and when you leave the building please check that the door has closed behind you. Please ensure that windows are locked when you leave the room. Laptop computers and other valuables should be locked in desk drawers when not in use. Finally, make sure to close and lock your office door when you leave the room (use the deadbolt at night and weekends).

Building Manual (for individuals with offices in the building): The building manual contains information on many things from how to book the meeting rooms to courtyard use (http://biodiversity.ubc.ca/research/resources.html). Please send any additions to Katie Beall at brcadmin@biodiversity.ubc.ca.

Please help keep our building clean and tidy, particularly in the kitchens and the common areas. If everybody pitches in, even just a few minutes each month, we all benefit. Consider cleaning the microwave, tossing long-expired items from the fridge, or emptying the dish rack while you are waiting for your lunch to warm up. It is your responsibility to empty the trash and recycling bins from your office.

NEW Dogs in the workplace Policy: if you are considering bringing your dog to work, first read our Dogs in the Workplace Policy (http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/research/resources.html) and bring your permission request form to Katie, room 115.

NEW Four bat houses were donated to the Beaty Biodiversity Centre and were installed this fall behind the east side of the building.

Pesky pests

Because of recurrent pest problems in the Museum, we no longer allow food in the Museum auditorium. Cups with lids are permitted. We also continue to have moth and roach problems in the research wing. Please ensure that food containers are securely closed, and wash your dishes every day.
COURTYARD: A huge thank you to the gardening committee, and especially Linda Jennings and Derek Tan for all of their hard work battling the weeds in the courtyard! The berms look so much better now with the paths through various native plants. Thank you! Also, there are sunk-in clips for the volleyball net on the east side of the meadow (contact Alistair for access to the nets).

Interested in gardening? The building has a landscaping group. If you want to take part, please e-mail Jennings, Linda (lindaj@mail.ubc.ca)

Before closing, thanks to Sally Otto for serving as Director for the past 8 years (2008-2016), and to Patrick Keeling and Mary O’Connor, who have served as Associate Directors of the BRC since 2013. A big thanks also to the many people who serve the BRC and make it such a great community, including, the BRC Postdocs Anna, Jenn, and Rachel (BLISS), Doug Altshuler, Brian Leander, Diane Srivastava (BRS), Kai Chan, Mary O’Connor (BRITE internship program), Katie Beall (all things facilities and administrative), as well as the many others who keep everything running from the coffee co-op to our Friday socials!

Regards,
Loren Rieseberg (Room 217)
Director, Biodiversity Research Centre, UBC
loren.rieseberg@botany.ubc.ca
604-827-4540

Biodiversity Listservs

There are several mailing lists that we use to announce seminars/discussion groups related to ecology, evolution, systematics, and biodiversity. If you are interested in receiving email about the following and have not already subscribed, please see the instructions below. Also, please pass this email along to any new students and postdocs in your group.

Posting to most of these email lists is only possible if you have subscribed to the list and if you send emails from the email address that you used to subscribe. Also LARGE emails don’t go through, so embed a link to a large file if you need to send one.

To subscribe to list "thename", please send email to thename-request@zoology.ubc.ca with the word "subscribe" as the subject (dropping the quotation marks). To get off the list, do the same, with "unsubscribe" as the subject. For example, email research-request@zoology.ubc.ca to subscribe to the main BRC mailing list.

"research": The main mailing list for Biodiversity Centre activities (http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/), including the Biodiversity Research seminar series on Wednesdays (http://www.biodiversity.ubc.ca/BRS/BRS.htm). [For general biodiversity-related announcements, email research@biodiversity.ubc.ca].

["building": Occupants of the Biodiversity Research Centre are included in this listserv. This listserv is for building related issues only. If you have something that you would like to distribute to the building and don’t know if it is appropriate to distribute, please email Katie Beall (brcadmin@biodiversity.ubc.ca). (If you don’t seem to be receiving any building related emails even though you work in the building, you can add yourself by emailing building-request@biodiversity.ubc.ca with subscribe as the subject.)]

"edg": The Friday evolution journal club (http://www.zoology.ubc.ca/edg)

"bdg": The Biodiversity Discussion Group (http://www.zoology.ubc.ca/bdg/)

"deltatea": The Delta-Tea series of informal presentations

"DUGWOED": Dedicated but Underorganized Group Working On Evolutionary Descent, a local mailing list for phylogenetic issues.

"veg": The monthly Vancouver Evolution Group (http://www.zoology.ubc.ca/veg);

"let": The LET'S ASSUME discussion group about theoretical papers (http://www.zoology.ubc.ca/let)