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Calendar Listing

WHAT: “What’s Hot in Human Origins?”

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Rick Potts, curator of the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Baird Auditorium (Ground Floor)

Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History

10th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History offers a wide variety of new and engaging exhibitions for all ages and interests. Its newest permanent exhibition, the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins, tells the epic story of human evolution and how the defining characteristics of our species have evolved over 6 million years as our ancestors adapted to a changing world.

On Saturday, November 27 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., Dr. Rick Potts, curator of the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins, discusses the latest scientific findings in human origins in an illustrated lecture, “What’s Hot in Human Origins?” His lecture will focus new findings on the genome of Neanderthals, our closest extinct relative; the announcement of a new species of early human, *Australopithecus sediba*; details of the 4.4 million year old partial skeleton nicknamed “Ardi”; recent findings of possible evidence for meat-eating 3.4 million years ago; and ongoing research on *Homo floresiensis*, the “hobbits” of human evolution.

Paleoanthropologist Rick Potts is the Peter Buck Chair of Human Origins and curator of anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History. Since joining the Smithsonian in 1985, Dr. Potts has dedicated his research to piecing together the record of Earth’s environmental change and human adaptation. His ideas on how human evolution responded to environmental instability have stimulated wide attention and new research in several scientific fields.

Dr. Potts leads excavations at early human sites in the East African Rift Valley and also co-directs ongoing projects in southern and northern China that compare evidence of early human behavior and environments from eastern Africa to eastern Asia.

Come and hear about the latest discoveries in the field and join the discussion. Copies of Dr. Potts’s recent book, *What Does It Mean to Be Human?* are available for purchase at the Museum Store.

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