



Northwestern University's Interdisciplinary Committee on Evolutionary Processes (ICEP)

2007 Darwin Lecture Series

presents

Dr. Neil Shubin

Discovering Tiktaalik:

Learning about the transition from fish to amphibian

Wednesday, May 9, 2007 5:30 PM Reception, 6:00 PM Lecture
Pancoe-ENH Abbott Auditorium, Pancoe-ENH Life Sciences Pavilion
2200 Campus Drive, Evanston Campus

Neil Shubin is Provost of the Field Museum of Natural History and Professor and Chair of the Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy, University of Chicago.

The fossil record provides essential information for the study of evolution. The discovery of fossils of organisms with intermediate body forms helps test predictions of evolutionary theory. In 2002, Dr. Shubin and a team of biologists discovered fossilized remains of an unusual fish in Devonian-aged rocks on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada. Unlike other ancient fish, this 375-million-year-old specimen, given the Inuktiut name "Tiktaalik," showed clear skeletal evidence of forelimb bones that allowed it to propel itself on land, establishing the "missing link" between fish and amphibians. Dr. Shubin will discuss the impact of his discovery as it relates to the study of the origins of life from fish to our own species.



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