Smithsonian Institution's Exploring Human Origins Opening Week Programs

September 8th at 6:00 pm -- Grand Opening Program
Join Dr. Rick Potts, paleoanthropologist and curator of the traveling exhibit, as he explores the main themes and messages of the traveling exhibit in a program for the general public.

September 9th at 8:30 am -- Clergy Tour and Discussion
This is a dedicated, private time for area clergy members to view the exhibit. Dr. Rick Potts and Dr. Briana Pobiner, Smithsonian paleoanthropologists, will join the clergy in the exhibit space to discuss any questions clergy may have about the exhibit’s presentation of the science of human origins. Discussion and reception to follow.

September 9th at 3:30 pm -- Educators Workshop
Dr. Briana Pobiner, who leads the Human Origins Program’s education and outreach efforts, and Dr. Connie Bertka, co-chair of the Smithsonian Institution’s Broader Social Impacts Committee, will present a workshop on human evolution for science educators. The workshop is for classroom teachers; science, nature center, and museum educators; homeschoolers; and other local educators. It will feature exploration and hands-on practice in presenting the Human Origins Program resources provided for each community.

September 10th at 6:00 pm -- Community Conversation
Join Drs. Connie Bertka and Jim Miller, co-chairs of the Smithsonian Institution’s Broader Social Impacts Committee, as they encourage a community conversation about human evolution that helps us to understand each other’s perspectives, to identify areas of common interest or concern, and to explore the variety of ways human evolution connects to personal meaning.

September 15th at 6:00 pm -- "Farming and the Human Experience"
Join Living History Farms Educator Director Dan Jones as he explores agriculture and rural life from the time of the Ioway Indians and through to the 20th century. Combining slides and artifacts, this interactive program will encourage people to discuss not only the history of agriculture, but also how farming impacts their life today.

September 17th at 6:00 pm -- "Effigy Mounds American Indians"
Effigy Mounds Park Ranger Michael Douglass will present a program on the archaeological records at the Effigy Mounds National Monument and show the evolution of cultural ideas that tied ancient people to the land and to one another.

September 24th at 6:00 pm -- "Animals and Evolution"
Join Dr. Michael Bechtel, professor of Science Education, from Wartburg College, as he examines the adaptations and reverse adaptations of animals through the evolutionary process. The focus will be understanding how the process happens and that the extremely long evolutionary journey is driven by consistent and/or acute environmental factors ... not vice-versa. This opportunity will be a discussion-type, "hands-on" presentation where we will look at the basic scientifically-supported (logical) principles of evolution.

October 1st at 6:00 pm -- "Excavation of a 19th Century Cemetery"
Robin Lillie, Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa, will present a program about the excavation of a forgotten cemetery in Dubuque, Iowa. She will unravel myths and history of the cemetery and talk about the analysis of the human skeletal remains, which gives us a picture of life and death for Iowa’s early Euroamerican settlers.