

Find Your Inner Fish at Scripps Oceanography Lecture

Distinguished scientist and evolutionary adventurer Neil Shubin to discuss evolutionary origins at free May 5 public presentation

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A celebrated scientist who has traveled the world searching for clues to the evolutionary origins of animals has been selected for the fourth annual Richard H. and Glenda G. Rosenblatt Lectureship in Evolutionary Biology at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego.

Neil Shubin, a University of Chicago researcher, will present "Finding Your Inner Fish" at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, in Sumner Auditorium on the Scripps Oceanography campus, 8602 La Jolla Shores Drive in La Jolla, Calif. (Sumner Auditorium is one-half block north of El Paseo Grande). **The lecture is free and open to the public.**

Shubin discovered *Tiktaalik roseae*, a 375-million-year-old fossil fish unearthed in the Canadian Arctic in 2004 that has been dubbed "the missing link" between fish and land animals. Also called a "fishapod," *Tiktaalik roseae* has features of both a fish and the first four-legged animals and sheds light on the pivotal point when the first fish ventured out on land.

Shubin is the Robert R. Bensley Professor and associate dean in the University of Chicago's Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy as well as provost of The Field Museum.

Last year Shubin published the popular book: "Your Inner Fish: A Journey Through the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body."

The Rosenblatt Lectureship is part of an endowed series of yearly lectures by distinguished evolutionary biologists. It was created by Scripps ichthyologist Richard Rosenblatt and his wife, Glenda. Richard Rosenblatt, who has been associated with Scripps since 1958, is a Scripps professor and curator emeritus of the Marine Vertebrate Collection, part of the Scripps Oceanographic Collections, the largest and most complete university-based oceanographic collection in the world.

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