

## “I came from where? Approaching the science of human origins from religious perspectives” – what is your favorite part of the human origins exhibit?

This video was recorded at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History on March 28, 2011

- Connie Bertka: 00:12 I'll take one over here.
- Audience member: 00:21 Hi, my name is Fred Abby. I'm a volunteer with the Hall of Human Origins. I just wanted to thank you all for your contributions, your training and your knowledge sharing with us has really enriched our own experience here and helped enrich the lives of the people that visited. Also, a question of reflection, many of our experiences and interactions with our visitors; there are reflective moments in the Hall of Human Origins, I have three favorites. I was wondering, do you have a particular favorite place as a point of reflection in the Hall of a Human Origins that helps bring these questions to your mind?
- Connie Bertka: 01:03 I'll start with that one. I have a daughter right now who's very interested in bones and skulls and how we know things about the past from them. And the first time I walked through that exhibit and I saw the display on all the skulls, for me, that... Well, first of all, the first thought was, "Well I've got to show this to Kenzie", but the other point of it, and of course, if I remember right, that's either halfway through the exhibit or towards the end, at least in the direction that I visited, I had this just overwhelming gratitude that their stories, our stories, aren't forgotten. That there was just this overwhelming connection for me created by seeing that wall of skulls to the history of my origins and just a real gratitude that I had an opportunity to think about that.
- R. Wesley McCoy: 02:16 I'll mention something. I saw a child walk up to the I guess... Which infant is it? Is it a Neanderthal infant?
- Rick Potts: 02:23 Neanderthal.
- R. Wesley McCoy: 02:24 And call her Samantha and wanted to play with Samantha, the Neanderthal child. And I thought this child is recognizing that this is a possible sibling, a relative, someone that they can communicate with and someone they would be proud to be related to. Also am delighted every time I see the videos with Brianna and Jennifer Clark and Rick, where they keep saying, "And that's how we know." And that's how we know because

they're showing us in no uncertain terms how evidence is used to come up with conclusions about our history, a history of my family.

Fred Edwords:

03:10

Well, the part of the exhibit that I like to meditate on, and I always go to it, is the map of the world at night because it shows how all of the power, electrical power, is where the power, military and political power, is in the world. And it tends to be focused in the northern hemisphere. And you look at that and you see that there are dark parts of our planet still, and it's sobering and it's awakening to realize about our footprint and how it's unevenly distributed the way it is. I think that is cause for pause.

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