



NEWS RELEASE

Evolutionist Gould to speak at USI

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Dr. Stephen Jay Gould, who has been called America's best known evolutionist, will visit the University of Southern Indiana on Wednesday, April 2, as a guest in the new Distinguished Lecture in the Natural Sciences series.

Dr. Gould will deliver a public lecture at 7:30 p.m. in Carter Hall on the topic "Human Insignificance and Geological Immensity: The Proper Measure of our Ecological Crisis." He also will attend a 7:45 a.m. breakfast with USI science honor students and participate in a student/faculty symposium at 9 a.m. His visit is supported by a private fund administered by the USI Foundation and is being coordinated by Dr. Jerome Cain, dean of the School of Science and Engineering Technology.

Dr. Gould was born in New York City in 1941, received his B.A. from Antioch College in 1963, and the Ph.D. in paleontology in 1967 from Columbia University. He has since taught geology, biology, and the history of science at Harvard University, where he is professor of geology and curator of invertebrate paleontology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

He is the author of 200 consecutive essays which make up the popular column, "This View of Life" in *Natural History Magazine*, and ten books, five of which are collections of the magazine essays. He also contributes to *Discover Magazine*.

Dr. Gould regards himself as an evolutionary biologist and has won numerous prestigious awards for his work, including the American Book Award for *The Panda's Thumb* and the National Book Critic's Award for *The Mismeasure of Man*. *Discover Magazine* named him Scientist of the Year in 1982 and he received the Phi Beta Kappa Award for Science in 1990. His books of essay collections include *Ever Since Darwin*, *The Panda's Thumb*, *The Flamingo's Smile*, *Hen's Teeth and Horse's Toes*, and *Bully for Brontosaurus*.

In the latter book, Gould declares, "Humans are not the end result of predictable evolutionary progress, but rather a fortuitous cosmic afterthought, a tiny little twig on the enormously arborescent bush of life, which if replanted from seed, would almost surely not grow this twig again."

Dr. Gould has been called evolution's Babe Ruth, perhaps not by chance since he has a passion for baseball and was featured in the PBS documentary on the game.