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## BIOGRAPHIES NOVA



RICHARD HOWARD FOR WGBH

### Paula S. Apsell

As Director of the WGBH Science Unit and Senior Executive Producer of the PBS science series *NOVA*, now in its 36th season, Paula S. Apsell has overseen the production of hundreds of acclaimed science documentaries, including such distinguished miniseries as *The Elegant Universe* with Brian Greene, *Origins*, and *Evolution*. In 2005, Apsell introduced a spinoff in *NOVA scienceNOW*, a critically acclaimed science magazine series hosted by astrophysicist Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson. Today, *NOVA* is the most watched primetime science series on American television and has won every major broadcasting award, including the Emmy,

the Peabody, and the duPont-Columbia Gold Baton Apsell has been recognized with numerous individual awards, including the New York Hall of Science's Distinguished Service Award for Public Understanding of Science and the Carl Sagan Award given by the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. Apsell has served on several boards, including that of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and Brandeis University's Science Advisory Council. She is also a trustee of the International Documentary Association.

## *Becoming Human: Unearthing Our Earliest Ancestors*



### Sarah B. Hrdy

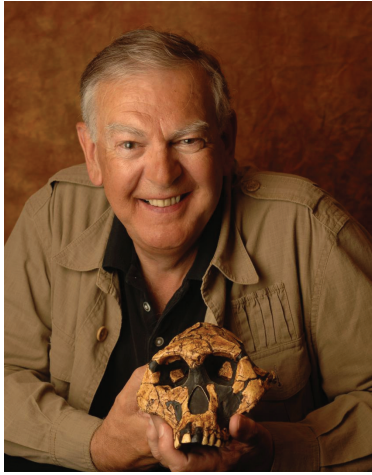
#### ANTHROPOLOGIST/PRIMATOLOGIST

Sarah Hrdy graduated *summa cum laude* from Radcliffe College (1969) and earned her doctorate in anthropology from Harvard (1975). She is currently professor emerita at the University of California, Davis. A former Guggenheim fellow, she has been elected to the California Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is the author of five books, including *The Woman That Never Evolved* (1981, new edition 1999), selected by *The New York Times* as one

of the Notable Books of the Year; *Mother Nature: A History of mothers, infants and natural selection* (1999), which won the Howells Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Biological Anthropology and was chosen by both *Publisher's Weekly* and *Library Journal* as one of the "Best Books of 1999"; and *Mothers and Others: The Evolutionary Origins of Mutual Understanding* (Belknap Press of Harvard, spring 2009). She has also co-edited several other books. For many years, she edited the *Foundations of Human Behavior* series and continues to serve on editorial boards for *Evolutionary Anthropology* and *Human Nature*. She lives with her husband Dan, a retired medical doctor and walnut grower, on their farm in northern California, where they are involved in sustainable agriculture and habitat restoration.

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## ***Becoming Human: Unearthing Our Earliest Ancestors***



### **Donald C. Johanson PALEOANTHROPOLOGIST**

Many consider Donald C. Johanson to be among the most important and accomplished paleoanthropologists of our time. Over the course of his illustrious career, he has produced some of the field's groundbreaking discoveries, including the most widely known and thoroughly studied fossil find of the 20th century—the "Lucy" skeleton.

Although the 20th century has been peppered with important fossil hominid finds from both eastern and southern Africa, it was Dr. Johanson's 1974 discovery of a 3.2-million-year-old hominid fossil in Ethiopia that added a crucial link. "Lucy," as the skeleton was called, prompted on-going debate and major revisions in our knowledge and understanding of the human evolutionary past. The skeleton possessed an intriguing mixture of ape-like features such as a projecting face and small brain, but also characters we consider human such as upright walking. "Lucy" continues to be a diadem in the crown of hominid fossils and serves as an important touchstone for all subsequent discoveries.

In the 34 years since Johanson earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, he has led field explorations in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and the Middle East, and effectively reached across multiple media platforms—hosting and narrating the Emmy-nominated *NOVA* series *In Search of Human Origins*, co-authoring nine books, and lecturing at universities, corporations, and public forums—to share his findings and stimulate healthy debate. Driven by a notion that we cannot fully grasp who we are and where we are headed as a species until we have a more complete knowledge of our evolutionary roots, Johanson founded the Institute of Human Origins, a human-evolution think tank. He is an honorary board member of the Explorers Club, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and a distinguished member of the Siena Academy of Sciences in Italy. He also serves as the Virginia M. Ullman Chair in Human Origins at Arizona State University, where he teaches.

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## ***Becoming Human: Unearthing Our Earliest Ancestors***



**Rick Potts**

### **PALEOANTHROPOLOGIST**

Rick Potts is the director of the Smithsonian Institution's Human Origins Program and curator of anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History. A renowned specialist in human origins research, he has spent much of his career piecing together a record of Earth's environmental changes and human adaptation to those shifts.

Dr. Potts leads excavations at early human sites in the East African Rift Valley, including the famous handaxe site of Olorgesailie, Kenya (pictured left) and Kanam near Lake Victoria, Kenya. He also co-directs ongoing projects in southern and northern China that compare evidence of early human behavior and environments from eastern Africa to eastern Asia.

Potts is the author of numerous research articles and books such as *Early Hominid Activities at Olduvai* and *Humanity's Descent: The Consequences of Ecological Instability*. His novel theory, referred to as the "Variability Selection Hypothesis," has stimulated wide attention and new research in several scientific fields. He has been interviewed many times on various national radio and television programs and has received a number of honors, including a Certificate of Honor from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for the Emmy Award-winning *Tales of the Human Dawn* on PBS (1990) and The Peter Buck Chair in Human Origins at the National Museum of Natural History (2008).

He received his B.A. in anthropology from Temple University in 1975 and his Ph.D. in biological anthropology from Harvard University in 1982, after which he taught anthropology at Yale University and served as curator of physical anthropology at the Yale Peabody Museum.



**Graham Townsley**

Graham Townsley is an award-winning filmmaker and anthropologist. His historical and ethnographic documentaries have been shown on PBS, National Geographic, Discovery Channels and the BBC. Born in Canada, he has a Ph.D. in social anthropology from Cambridge University based on long fieldwork in the Amazon. He now lives in Washington, D.C.

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## Hubble's Amazing Rescue



### Rush DeNooyer

Rush DeNooyer is an accomplished filmmaker who has written, produced, and directed numerous documentaries and PBS *NOVA* films, including many about space exploration. His work includes *Sputnik Declassified*, which reveals President Eisenhower's secret strategy for space and why Ike wanted the Russians to orbit the world's first satellite. DeNooyer also directed *Failure Is Not an Option* and *Beyond the Moon*, which together document the 50-year history of NASA's Mission Control and the engineers who control American spaceflight. *The New York Times* hailed *Beyond the Moon* as a "startlingly frank depiction of the soul of an extraordinary human undertaking," and *Failure* received the Columbus International Film Festival's Silver

Chris Award and a CINE Golden Eagle. DeNooyer also wrote and produced the *NOVA* special *Hitler's Lost Sub* for PBS, which was the genesis for the bestselling book *Shadow Divers*. The film received the Writers Guild of America Award for Outstanding Television Documentary Writing and the International Documentary Association's Distinguished Achievement Award. His work has also been honored with a George F. Peabody Award, several Emmy nominations, and numerous CINE Golden Eagles. DeNooyer is also a musician and has scored a number of original *NOVA* productions.



### John M. Grunsfeld

#### NASA ASTRONAUT

A veteran of five space flights (STS-67, STS-81, STS-103, STS-109, and STS-125), John M. Grunsfeld has logged more than 58 days in space, including 57 hours and 90 minutes during eight spacewalks.

During his most recent mission, STS-125, the final repair mission to the Hubble Space Telescope, Grunsfeld served as mission specialist 3, conducting three spacewalks with fellow crewmember Andrew Feustel.

Grunsfeld has worked several technical and managerial positions within NASA since being selected as an astronaut candidate in 1992. During the George W. Bush administration, Grunsfeld served as chief scientist detailed to NASA headquarters, where he helped develop the President's Vision for Space Exploration. His honors include three NASA Exceptional Service Medals (1997, 1998, 2000), NASA Distinguished Service Medal (2002), and a NASA Constellation Award (2004), just to name a few.

Grunsfeld received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in physics from the University of Chicago.

NASA astronaut Dr. John Grunsfeld is a native of Chicago.

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## ***Hubble's Amazing Rescue***



### **Michael J. Massimino**

#### **NASA ASTRONAUT**

NASA astronaut Dr. Michael Massimino was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in May 1996. Massimino is a veteran of two spaceflights, STS-109 in 2002 and STS-125 in 2009. He has logged a total of 571 hours and 47 minutes in space, including more than 30 hours during four spacewalks.

During his most recent mission, the fifth and final servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope, Massimino served as mission specialist 4, where he performed two spacewalks with fellow crewmember Michael Good.

Upon completion of the mission, the crew successfully upgraded the telescope with four new or rejuvenated scientific instruments, new batteries, new gyroscopes, and a new computer. The mission ended after traveling 5.3 million miles in 197 Earth orbits and landing at Edwards AFB following two days of wave offs due to poor weather in Florida.

Massimino's honors include NASA Space Flight Medal, Order of Sons of Italy in America 2005 Guglielmo Marconi Award, Aviation Week & Space Technology 2002 Laurel Award, and Sergei P. Korolev Diploma.

He received a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering from Columbia University, a Master of Science in mechanical engineering, a Master of Science in technology and policy, a Degree of Mechanical Engineer, and a Doctor of Philosophy in mechanical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Now in its 36<sup>th</sup> season, NOVA is the most-watched primetime science series on American television, reaching an average of five million viewers weekly. The series remains committed to producing in-depth science programming in the form of hour-long (and occasionally longer) documentaries, from the latest breakthroughs in technology to the deepest mysteries of the natural world. NOVA airs Tuesdays at 8pm ET/PT on WGBH Boston and most PBS stations. The Director of the WGBH Science Unit and Senior Executive Producer of NOVA is Paula S. Apsell.

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