

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Dinosaurs Among Us: The Link to Birds

Week 1

Introduction to Dr. Mark Norell

Mark: Hi, I'm Mark Norell, Chairman of the Division of Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History. I'm also Curator in the Division, and my specialty is dinosaur paleontology. I'm the online course scientist. In my job, I do all kinds of different things. I go all the way from dealing with budgets and running the Division of Paleontology, which is about 50 people, to going out to the Gobi Desert and collecting dinosaur fossils. I try to have an active research group and keep an active research group going, and within that research group we do all kinds of things: we work on dinosaurs, we work on fossil lizards, we even do some computational biology and a little bit of molecular biology. The Division of Paleontology here at the American Museum is really divided into two sections: one is the Department of Invertebrate Paleontology, which is ammonites, trilobites, molluscs, and things like that, and then the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, which is dinosaurs, fishes, fossil mammals, and reptiles. We have seven curators in the entire department, and each one of us have technicians who are preparators, or illustrators and photographers, as well as post-docs and graduate students who work with us in our research group.