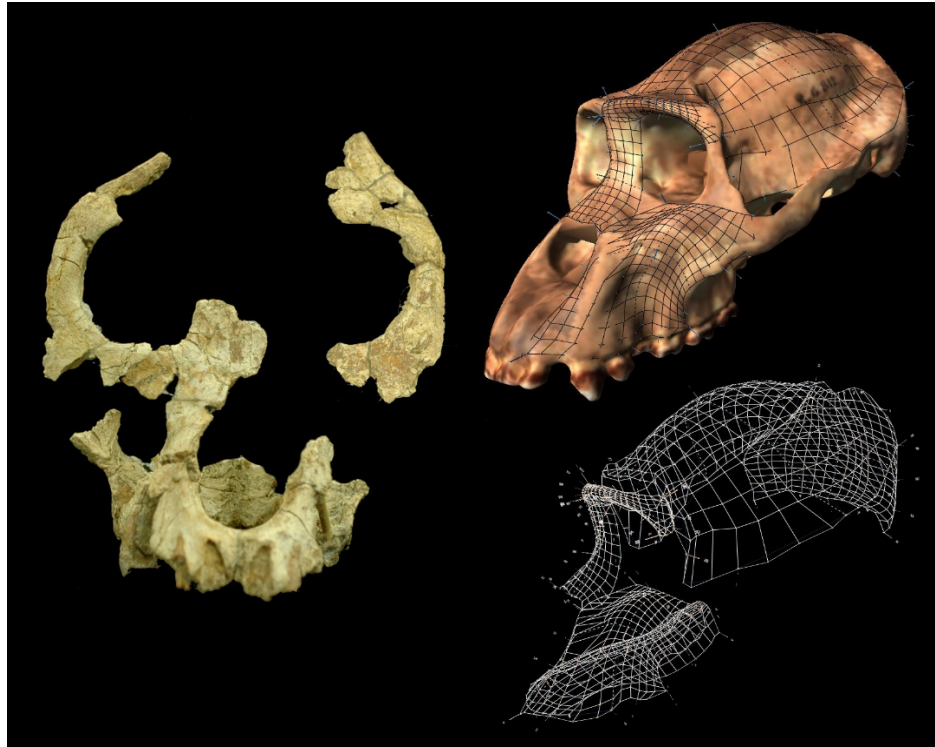


The Departments of Anthropology and Biological Sciences Present:

**New fossils of the early ape *Ekembo* with implications
for understanding human origins.**



Fossil apes from Rusinga Island, Kenya, have long anchored our knowledge of early ape adaptive evolution, but gaps in the fossil record have prevented researchers from answering key questions about their systematics. Recent discovery of a fairly complete, undistorted facial skeleton of the 18 million-year-old ape *Ekembo* presents opportunities for new modes of research on this pivotal taxon. In this talk, I discuss results of quantitative analyses aimed at clarifying the taxonomic and phylogenetic status of *Ekembo*. These bear strongly on its identification as an ape and its position within that clade. Importantly, this work calls into question our basic paradigm of the ancestral crown hominoid morphotype, and thereby suggests new hypotheses about the chimpanzee-human common ancestor and early human origins.

A lecture by Kieran P. McNulty, Professor of Anthropology,
University of Minnesota

Room 283 Galvin Hall @ 4pm Monday September 30th