November 9, 2015
MSE 2101 topics

• Impacts and extinctions
  - 65 million years ago: the K-T boundary layer
  - the frequency of extinctions of this magnitude?
  - the frequency of 10-15km body impacts?

• Truths or myths about humans?
  - we are primates, right?
  - we evolved from modern apes, right?
  - we share 98% of DNA with chimps, right?
  - different races have different DNA, right?
  - we only have to find the missing link, right?

• Limber arms, dexterous hands, locked-in eyes, parental care

• Hominids through time:
  - 6-7 million years ago: Toumai
  - 4.4 million years ago: Ardi
  - 3.2 million years ago: Lucy
  - 100,000 years ago: Homo sapiens
  - 30,000 years ago: the extinction of Homo neanderthalensis
  - 12,000 years ago: the extinction of Homo floresiensis

• Artificial life

• The top-down (Venter) and the bottom-up (Szostak) approach

• The ethics of creating life