

COLORADO

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TUESDAY 20 MAY 2008

at the **Wynkoop Brewing Company**

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18th and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver
About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

Who made the Laetoli footprints 3.6 million years ago?

Charles M. Musiba, PhD
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Many of us who have visited natural history museums in the northern hemisphere are familiar with the "I Love Lucy" dioramas portraying a hominin couple (*Australopithecus afarensis*) walking side by side into the East African savannah sunset. The two individuals are accompanied by a juvenile behind a recently erupted volcano in the Serengeti Plains. That place portrayed in many museums is Laetoli, a Pliocene site that preserves the world famous 3.56 million years' old hominin footprints at Site G within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority in northern Tanzania. Much has been written about the pedal morphology of the Laetoli printmakers. Most of the scientific interpretations provided for positional behavior and bipedal locomotion of the Laetoli printmakers remain controversial; who made those prints? Was it *Australopithecus afarensis* or another species? Dr. Charles Musiba will discuss the Laetoli hominid footprints and current conservation and preservation plans of these unique prints.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat in the restaurant area, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There's no charge. The Wynkoop is generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** so that everyone can take part in the discussion.

The Colorado Café Scientifique in Denver is organized by an informal committee of faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as writers, students, and science fans from industry, government and all over. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to John.Cohen@UCHSC.edu

Essential information on our Web site at <http://CafeSciColorado.org>