



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE

What: FREE Lecture and Reception

Where: Geological Lecture Hall, Harvard University, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA;
Reception follows in the Peabody Museum, 11 Divinity Ave.

When: Thursday, April 3, 2008, 5:30 pm

Contact: 617-496-1027 (public information)

Lecture title: **Modern Human Behavior: What is it? When Did it First Appear?**

Lecture by: Fred Wendorf, Henderson Morrison Professor of Prehistory, *emeritus*, Southern Methodist University

(Cambridge, March 4, 2008) The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology presents
Modern Human Behavior: What is it? When Did it First Appear?

Fred Wendorf discusses the controversial proposal that changes in lithic technology at or near the beginning of the Middle Paleolithic are a reflection of modern human behavior. There are two independent lines of evidence for modern humans: one is from the fossil record in Ethiopia, where the earliest identified modern human skeletal remains have been dated to about 165,000 years ago. The other line of evidence is archaeological, consisting primarily of changes in stone-flaking technology and in the typology of some retouched tools. It is suggested that these changes reflect a new level of intelligence that accompanied the appearance of modern humans, or occurred soon afterwards.

Speaker

Fred Wendorf received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and was the founding chair of the Department of Anthropology at Southern Methodist University where he is the Henderson-Morrison Professor *emeritus*. He also is a founder of the Fort Burgwin Research Center in Taos, New Mexico. Dr. Wendorf's interests include the archaeology of the U.S. Southwest and North

Africa, the Paleolithic, and the origins of agriculture. Dr. Wendorf has contributed to and written numerous publications such as: *Pipeline Archaeology: Report of Salvage Operations in the Southwest on El Paso Natural Gas Company Project*; *The Prehistory of Wadi Kubbaniya Volume 2: Stratigraphy, Paleoeconomy and Environment*; and *The Prehistory of Wadi Dubbaniya Volume 3: Late Paleolithic Archaeology*, and *Contributions to the Prehistory of Nubia*.

He has received numerous awards and honors, including election to the U. S. National Academy of Sciences, the prestigious Lucy Wharton Drexel Medal for Archaeological Achievement (given every five years), and three Distinguished Service Awards from professional societies. He has served as elected president of the Society for American Archaeology (1979–1981) and the Society of Professional Archaeologists (1995–1997). Southern Methodist University awarded Wendorf the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, in 2003.

About the Peabody Museum

Location: The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.

Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM, 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students and seniors, \$6.00 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 AM to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 PM to 5 PM (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. The Peabody Museum participates in the City Pass and WGBH programs. For more information call (617) 496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu.

Media Contact: Pamela Gerardi, Director of External Affairs
Peabody Museum
11 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Tel: (617) 496-0099; Fax: (617) 495-7535, gerardi@fas.harvard.edu