Love my job

Dr. Matt Tocheri 00:01 Every day I wake up, I can't wait to get here. Dr. Brianna Pobiner I absolutely love my job. 00:03 Jennifer Clark: 00:04 It's hard to describe to people that you can come in and have fun at your job every day. Dr. Rick Potts: 00:10 Well, I am what you call a paleoanthropologist. That's an anthropologist who studies people and paleo means old stuff, old people. Dr. Matt Tocheri 00:18 Mostly right now, my research has focused on the evolution of the hand and the foot. Dr. Brianna Pobiner 00:23 My specialty is understanding the evolution of human diet. Dr. Rick Potts: 00:26 It helps us answer, "Where did we come from?" Dr. Brianna Pobiner 00:29 When we were filming one of the videos for our exhibition, I had to eat termites to imitate what our human ancestors would have done as they were out on the savannah. The termites didn't taste particularly good, but it was definitely an adventure. Termites have a nutty flavor, and they are very nutritious. Jennifer Clark: 00:47 The most surprising moment, I think was the first time I went into the field, to Kenya, after months of working in the collections of the museum and studying stone tools. I knew what they looked like, but it was very exciting, my first summer in Kenya, when I'm walking along a stream bed and I see one. That was just really overwhelming. I get a little choked up about it now, even talking about it. To reach down and pick that up and make a connection that the last person whom held that stone tool was not quite like me, another species. I had a very emotional experience thinking about that. Dr. Rick Potts: 01:35 I like to consider myself a time traveler. I not only travel to other countries, but when I get to those countries, we dig holes and we're able to travel back into time, thousands of years, sometimes millions of years, where we find the evidence of our ancient ancestors, the things that they

made, the ways in which they lived. I just love that concept of taking those objects, that evidence, and using my imagination and the work of other scientists to build a picture of where we came from.

Dr. Matt Tocheri

02:08

so If that's not fun, I don't know what is.

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