The Leakey Foundation Oral History of Human Origins Research: Fredrick Kyalo Manthi

Interview conducted by
Bernard Wood
In 2026

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Bernard Wood (00:00:10):

Kyalo, it's good to be talking to you. You're in Kenya and I'm in Washington. We like to start by asking you to give us your full name and the title of the post you occupy now.

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:00:42):

My full name is Fredrick Kyalo Manthi. If you want to be official, you can also call me Professor Manthi. Thanks to the University of Utah, I'm now a professor!

Bernard Wood (00:00:58):

Congratulations.

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:01:00):

I have been working with Utah colleagues for a very long time! Currently, I am the Director in charge of Antiquities, Sites and Monuments at the National Museums of Kenya [hereafter NMK] in Nairobi., as well as a Principal Research Scientist at the NMK. Those are my two titles in Kenya now.

Bernard Wood (00:01:39):

The first post Glynn Isaac had in Kenya was Warden of the Prehistoric Sites. So that's a long and distinguished lineage. Could you please tell us where you were brought up, a little bit about your family, whether you have brothers and sisters, and where you went to school?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:02:18):

I was born in a place called Makueni, east of Nairobi. This is where I spent a good part of my childhood, where I went to primary school and where I went to high school. After high school, I joined the NMK as a research assistant. And as they say, the rest is history.

Bernard Wood (00:02:52):

Could you tell us about the connection between the Kamba and the NMK?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:03:00):

Mary Leakey and Louis Leakey had worked with the Kamba people for a very long time. I was told that they found them to be hardworking and trustworthy, and while I'm not saying that other people are not trustworthy, the Kamba are people you can trust, and they are easy to get along with. Among the first people who went to work with Louis and Mary were Kamoya Kimeu and Ango. I think Bernard you met most of them!

Bernard Wood (00:04:22):

Yes.

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:04:24):

In the 1970s, my Dad began to work with Mary Leakey at Olduvai Gorge. My Dad used to bring me books on archeology, geology, and paleontology. So, at a very early age I began to read about human evolution, stone tools, and early man, and from an early age I began to develop a passion for paleontology. I didn't like archeology as much, but I had a special love and passion for paleontology, largely because of what I was taught about how we came to be human beings, and how that resulted in many animals disappearing. It was through Kamoya that my Dad came to work with Mary, and then in the late 1980s, I also found myself working with Kamoya.

Bernard Wood (00:06:26):

Could I ask you about the rest of your family? If you have brothers and sisters, did they also go to the NMK or were you the only one?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:06:37):

I do have siblings, we're a family of seven, but although they enjoy hearing from me about my work, none of them took up a career in the paleosciences. They all did different things. I'm the only one who really took up from my Dad a special interest in paleontology.

Bernard Wood (00:07:09):

How old were you when you came to Nairobi and the NMK for the first time?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:07:14):

I had to wait to be exactly 18 years old to get an ID card because that was the rule then in Kenya. I came from a very humble background, and I'm the firstborn in my family. My Dad did not have a good job at that time, so he was not able to pay school fees for me to finish the two pre-university years. So, I told my Dad, "You know what? Let my brother who was behind me go to school just like me and get to the same level I was that time." When I was in high school, I wrote letters to Mary Leakey and expressed my interest in pursuing a career in paleontology, but she never wrote back to me

Bernard Wood (00:09:01):

What year was it when you went to Nairobi?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:09:07):

That was in 1986.

Bernard Wood (00:09:11):

Then you went to the Kenya Polytechnic?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:09:19):

When I came to Nairobi, I told Dad, "I want you to take me to meet Mary Leakey." We went to her home in Langata, and when I told her I'm the Kamba young man who wrote to you a few years ago, she remembered. She asked me, "What can I do for you?" And I told her, "I'm still very passionate about a career in paleontology, but there was no money for the school fees needed for me to take the two years before you go to the university. She asked me what I needed, so I told her, "I would like to get a job at the NMK, to begin my long journey into paleosciences." She told me she would speak to Richard [Richard Leakey was then the Director of the NMK] who was away on Rusinga Island. The first time I went to the NMK to see Richard Leakey [hereafter Richard] he was not there, but his assistant Teresa told me to come back a few days later. When I saw Richard, he asked Teresa to give me a piece of paper with instructions to write about myself and what I wanted to do. I wrote everything I wanted him to know about me. The paper was taken to Richard, and I was asked to come back the following Monday. When I came back on Monday, I was told I had a job, as a trainee or research assistant. My first assignment was to join Kamoya and his team in West Turkana, where the excavation of the Turkana Boy [KNM-WT 15000] was ongoing. My first assignment was to participate in the Turkana Boy excavation.

Bernard Wood (00:12:23):

I didn't realize that, Kyalo. Just to explain to people listening, that's on the west side of Lake Turkana, and Kamoya was the person who found the Turkana Boy. That excavation went on for at least a year, I think, maybe more. So, you were part of that?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:12:54):

The Turkana Boy was discovered in 1984. When I joined the team, they'd already been excavating for at least two to three months every year for two years, and the excavation went on up to 1988. I was learning to find my way around and to start to understand paleontology and fossil hunting and fossil identification. My very first time fossil hunting I found a bone! I was excited and called over Nzube [one of the senior members of Kamoya's fossil hunting team] who explained that it was an animal that had only been dead for maybe two to three months. He said it was so recent "You can even make soup out of this"! It was so funny.

Bernard Wood (00:14:19):

That sounds like Nzube! Who else was working on the excavation?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:14:36):

As well as Kamoya, Nzube, Kitivi, Mwongela, and Mutaba were from the earlier generation who had worked with Mary at Olduvai George. Wambua and Musa were younger than the others, but older than me by more than twenty years. Younger members of the team included Benson Kyongo and Blasto Onyango, who were five years or so older than me. I was the youngest, and they bullied me a lot. For example, they sent me to pick items for them that were closer to them than to me.

Bernard Wood (00:15:25):

People like Nzube and Wambua were extremely good at finding fossils, but they weren't necessarily interested in the science behind why people were looking for fossils. When did you start to behave differently from people like Wambua and Nzube?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:16:03):

From the word go, even when I first set foot in Turkana, I knew I wanted to go to school. I knew that was not the end of my journey towards the paleosciences. I met Frank Brown [hereafter Frank] my first year in the field, He called me Kijana, “young man” in Swahili, because I was small and skinny. The first question he asked me was "Why are you not in school?" I poured my heart out, explaining that although I came from a humble background I'd done well in my high school, scoring good grades that would've taken me to higher levels. I told Frank "I want to go to school. I'm here not because I wanted to be here, because I had to begin somewhere, but I really want to go to school." Frank took me and my circumstances very seriously, telling me, "You know what? Kijana, I'll take you to school!"

Bernard Wood (00:17:33):

We should explain to people listening that Frank was—sadly he passed away in 2017—was a geologist who started working in the Omo. There was controversy about the ages of the fossils and the archeology around the lake, so Richard recruited Frank to try and sort it out. We should explain that Frank was a “larger than life” guy who only liked being in the field. Basically, when he came to work in Kenya he got off the airplane in Nairobi, got into his Land Rover, bought the supplies he needed and then he would drive straight up to the lake. He spent the least time possible in Nairobi! Frank, who took the trouble to learn the languages of the Kenyans who were working with him, was a remarkable character. So, Frank took you under his wing?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:18:51):

My first meeting with Frank was memorable because we went to take a bath in the Nariokotome laga, and that was when I poured my heart out and told him how passionate I was about the paleosciences, but there was no money for me to pursue the education I needed. Frank learned a lot about Kenyan culture, and he tried to understand the Kenyan people. As you said, he learned Swahili, some Turkana and some of my language. People like Nzube would teach him some very bad words, and if Frank got angry with you he’d sometimes call you some of those bad words. We got along well, and he seemed to like me. I learned a lot in the three months we were out in the field, and I got along well with the people. Richard was happy enough to give me a job at the NMK in 1987 as a research assistant. Meanwhile, Frank offered to pay for me to go to school, so I went to the Kenya Polytechnic where I did a diploma in Earth Sciences. I did well and after a few years Frank got some more funds, even managing to persuade the Leakey Foundation to match his $10k, which was enough for me to go to school.

Bernard Wood (00:21:51):

That's when you went to Cape Town?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:21:53):

That's when I went to the University of Cape Town.

Bernard Wood (00:21:55):

Let's go back to the Kenya Polytechnic. What topics did you study?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:22:04):

Paleontology and a lot of geology—metamorphic and igneous rocks, sedimentology and mapping. It was all relevant to the career I wanted to make for myself.

Bernard Wood (00:22:27):

Just to be clear, if it wasn't for Frank, you wouldn't have been able to go to the Kenya Polytechnic?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:22:35):

No, I would not. And because Frank asked the Leakey Foundation [hereafter LF] to match his funds with a Baldwin Fellowship, I was able to go to Cape Town.

Bernard Wood (00:22:52):

When did you get your Diploma in Science from the Polytechnic?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:22:58):

That was in .

Bernard Wood (00:23:17):

Was Cape Town your choice, or the obvious choice?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:23:23):

A good question. Allow me to take you back a little bit. Even when I got the job with the NMK, Richard allowed me to spend a lot of time with Frank whenever he was in Kenya. We went to a lot of places in the Turkana Basin, to Koobi Fora, to the West of Lake Turkana, and I learned so much from Frank. Even before I went to Polytechnic, I was almost a budding field geologist!

Bernard Wood (00:24:00):

I doubt whether there is anyone alive who has been to more places in the Turkana Basin [hereafter TB] than Frank!

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:24:15):

I agree with you completely. He knew the TB so well. Between the time I went to the Polytechnic, I spent a lot of time there with Frank. Right now, thanks to Frank, I'm one of the few people who is much more familiar with the whole of the TB, especially the region west of Lake Turkana. You asked earlier about why I went to Cape Town. The LF trustees were concerned that if I came to the US for my studies I may not go back home because several Kenyans and Africans who went to the US never returned. So, the LF were involved in selecting Cape Town. I was very happy with that. The University of Cape Town [hereafter UCT] is a wonderful school. I went to UCT in 1997 and the following year in 1998 the the LF trustees came to Cape Town for their annual general meeting. I was honored to meet the trustees, and they were pleased with my progress.

Bernard Wood (00:26:15):

What was your impression of Cape Town? South Africa is very different politically than Kenya. How did you find, and cope with, that?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:26:48):

It was very interesting because it was only a few years after South Africa became independent and Mandela became the first president of the free South Africa. The UCT was still very white, and the number of students with my skin color were few, and among the professors and lecturers I think around 0.01% were non-white, and many of those were

from Zambia and Zimbabwe and other parts of Africa. Yes. it was a very interesting time. I had a diploma from the Kenya Polytechnic, so I did my bachelor's at UCT majoring in archeology and in social anthropology. After I finished my bachelor's, I took a one-year break, came back home, then I went back to UCT for my master's, which was a two-year program. I finished my master's, again thanks to the support of LF.

Bernard Wood (00:28:34):

Who was your advisor for your master's?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:28:39):

it was Margaret Avery, Richard's ex-wife, and John Parkington. I was interested in using micromammals to reconstruct past environments, and Margaret Avery was one of the top experts on micromammals. She was instrumental in my early years as a paleontologist.

Bernard Wood (00:29:42):

When did you get your master's degree?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:29:45):

That was in 2002.

Bernard Wood (00:29:48):

And this was while you were still being supported by the LF?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:29:53):

I think I am the longest recipient of the Baldwin Fellowship!

Bernard Wood (00:30:02):

Then you did your PhD?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:30:13):

When I was finishing my master's, around November before my graduation, I talked to Meave [Meave Leakey] who was extremely supportive. I told her "I think I would like to go to the US and just see whether I'll be interested in doing my PhD there". Meave paid for my travel from Cape Town to Dallas. It was my very first time out of Africa. My host in Dallas was Alisa Winkler. That year the SVP [Society for Vertebrate Paleontology] was meeting in Oklahoma, so Alisa, Lou Jacobs and I went there for the SVP. That year the Annual Meeting of the LF Trustees was in Austin, so I also went to Austin to meet the trustees. I remember engaging with the trustees about whether I would be interested in doing my PhD in the US or remain in Africa. At the end of those discussions, I said to myself, "You know what? I want to finish my PhD in Africa." So, I went back to UCT for my PhD.

Bernard Wood (00:31:48):

What was behind that decision?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:31:50):

I felt that coming from Africa it might take me a bit of time to adapt to the US.

Bernard Wood (00:32:07):

For me adapting to the US coming from England was enough of a struggle. I think you made a wise decision.

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:32:16):

Exactly. I didn't want to waste time getting familiar with the environment, the culture and everything. I would rather just continue at UCT. I met Frank in Austin, we flew to Salt Lake City, and I stayed with him for a few days before returning to Dallas and then back to Cape Town.

Bernard Wood (00:32:51):

Who was your advisor for your PhD, and what was the title?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:32:57):

My advisor was still Margaret Avery, along with Alisa Winkler from SMU [Southern Methodist University]. Meave was also advising me from the Kenyan side because my PhD focused on using the micromammals from Kanapoi to reconstruct the environments of *Australopithecus anamensis*.

Bernard Wood (00:33:48):

When did you first go to Kanapoi?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:33:53):

I went to Kanapoi in 2003. The LF supported my field research. Meave and a small part of her team were there, along with Ann Gibbons from *Science*. Meave stayed for two weeks to show me around, and Craig Feibel helped me a lot with the geology.

Bernard Wood (00:34:46):

Craig, who was a colleague of Frank's, has taken over the geology of the Turkana Basin. Meave effectively gave you Kanapoi as a site?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:35:12):

She did. After I finished my PhD, I was the first TBI [Turkana Basin Institute] postdoc at Stony Brook so I went back to Kanapoi. Meave, Lawrence Martin, and John Fleagle came to see how I was doing.

Bernard Wood (00:35:40):

When you were the TBI postdoc were you at Stony Brook much, or mainly in Kenya?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:35:50):

The postdoc was designed to help me grow as a scientist and begin to publish. I spent a lot of time in Kenya and in Utah because I was also beginning to use isotopes for habitat reconstruction, and because of Thure Cerling Utah has a very strong program on isotopes.

Bernard Wood (00:36:40):

By this time, you were living your schoolboy dream of being a paleontologist, but you were also beginning to start to ask research questions that needed an interest in paleoclimate and the paleoenvironment, and you were beginning to look at stable isotopes.

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:37:09):

Exactly. We did a lot of isotopic analyses of both fossils and modern fauna from different ecosystems. The idea was to understand the isotope signatures from these different living rodents to see what that could tell us about their diet and ecological niches. We came up with a wonderful database that speaks to the dietary preferences of the faunas from different ecological niches.

Bernard Wood (00:38:12):

Were you suggesting just now that you were maybe more interested in the microfauna than you were in the macrofauna?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:38:22):

No, the micromammals were for me a stepping stone to understanding the overall paleoenvironment.

Bernard Wood (00:38:33):

You must start somewhere!

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:38:35):

Exactly. My PhD was largely on micromammals, but I had a whole chapter that discussed the macrofauna.

Bernard Wood (00:39:06):

When did you start to work with Carol Ward and her colleagues?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:39:15):

I got my PhD in 2006. From 2007 to around 2011 I was working alone. From 2009, I begun to work further north in the Nachukui Formation, including at sites such as Nariokotome and Lomekwi. It was in 2012 that Carol Ward and Mike Plavcan joined me and together we established the West Turkana Paleo Project.

Bernard Wood (00:39:57):

Where is Kanapoi in relation to Lake Turkana?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:40:05):

Kanapoi is at the southwestern end of Lake Turkana. As a follow-up to your earlier question, when I was looking for collaborators to join me Richard and Meave recommended Carol Ward and Mike Plavcan. The three of us went to Kanapoi in 2012. We had discovered a hominin metacarpal at Nariokotome, so we went back to sieve the site with funds provided by Frank. On the way home I took Carol and Mike to Kanapoi, and we have been working there as colleagues ever since.

Bernard Wood (00:42:58):

We should explain to people listening that Kanapoi was where a hominin humerus had been found quite a long time ago. I think Kay Behrensmeyer worked there in 1968, and then Meave decided the site should be reinvestigated in the 1990s. She found hominin remains she assigned to a new species, *Australopithecus anamensis*, and a good case has been made that *Au. anamensis* is the likely ancestor of *Australopithecus afarensis*. The Kanapoi discoveries are an important part of our knowledge about the early evolution of hominins within the Turkana Basin. Your research at Kanapoi was surely part of the reason you were elected an international member of the US National Academy of Sciences in 2025. This is a real distinction, and evidence that your work is recognized not just in Kenya but also beyond Africa. What are you doing now, and what are your plans?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:44:52):

It was a big honor being elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences, not just for me, but for Kenya. African scholars have endured a lot to get to where some of us are right now. I never saw it coming at all.

Bernard Wood (00:45:22):

I suspect you were nominated by Thure [Cerling] and Meave.

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:45:42):

It's been a long journey. Moving from Kanapoi, which is one of the sites that I love most, and going up north to the Nachukui Formation, beginning work at Lomekwi around Nariokotome, and later further north to the Kibish Formation, as well as going back to Kanapoi from around 2013 or thereabout after Mike and Carol joined me. We've made some wonderful discoveries, published quite extensively, and the collections we have recovered have helped us understand different aspects of our evolution. You asked what I'm doing right now. In the last few years, from around 2015, I began to work at a site near the Kenya/Ethiopia border in the Ilemi Triangle, in the Kibish Formation.

Bernard Wood (00:47:24):

This is on the west side [at the north end] of the lake?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:47:26):

Yes. To the west of the lake. In 2013, we were working with Carol and Mike to the north of the Turkana Boy site at Nariokotome, and I had to go and pick up Frank who was working in Ethiopia at the *Homo* site [Omo-Kibish] with John Fleagle, John Shea and a few other colleagues. Frank was supposed to join us for a few weeks. When I picked him from the border it was way less secure than it is right now. On the way back to our camp, which was half a day's drive from the border, Frank showed me some exposures at a place called Natodomeri, which is part of the Kibish Formation. Frank told me that for a long time he had been encouraging Richard and Meave to go there, but at that time it was very insecure.

Bernard Wood (00:49:06):

Because this is also the border with Southern Sudan?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:49:10):

And Ethiopia. The Ilemi Triangle was a kind of no-man's land disputed by the Turkana, the Nyangatom of Southern Ethiopia and the Toposas of Southern Sudan now, Sudan then. For a long time, it was a no-go zone.

Bernard Wood (00:49:57):

We should explain that the Kibish Formation is one of the more recent formations in the Turkan Basin. It is exposed in Southern Ethiopia along the Omo River and it was where Richard had recovered what is still the oldest evidence for *Homo sapiens*. So, in effect Frank was saying, "Hey, you guys, it's the same geology where Richard went and then much later where John Fleagle went. Why don't you work here?"

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:50:44):

Exactly. The others didn't take Frank's advice because they were working at other sites to the east of Lake Turkana, as well as Lomekwi and Nariokotome on the west side, and in

those days—I am sure you will agree with me—there was a lot of focus on the older fossil sites. Frank showed me the sites. It was a tense moment and even the Turkana who was guarding us would not allow us to go deeper into the exposures because he feared the Nyangatom from Southern Ethiopia. So, we only went at the edge of the exposures, where Frank told me, "You know what? I would like you to work here, but bear in mind it's a very insecure place, so if you must close down your camp, do it for the sake of the safety of your people." That was 2013. In 2015, I went up there with a small team for four days, but even in that short time we recovered close to 150 fossils. The place proved to be very rich in fossils, so when I came back at the end of that first season, I submitted a proposal to the LF and they gave me the money to go back to Natodomeri for a full season in 2016. We've recovered some very interesting fossils, including what is probably the most complete *Homo sapiens* skeleton from that time period. We're still working on this fossil, so I don't want to share too much about it.

Bernard Wood (00:53:22):

When you say we, who are the people in the research group that you're leading?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:53:29):

The team comprises Mike Plavcan from the University of Arkansas, and also my Kenyan colleagues who are the guys who find the fossils. The fossil hunters, as we call them, are also the cooks, the drivers, and the excavators. They are essential.

Bernard Wood (00:54:07):

You are currently working in the NMK. Would you say you are optimistic about its future?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:54:23):

I'm optimistic because right now we have many Kenyan researchers who have PhDs. The future for the paleosciences is very bright in Kenya, but it's a journey we cannot make alone. We cannot work in isolation. We need to work with our colleagues from the global north, from the US, Europe, and elsewhere. I'm optimistic because there's a good foundation now for a new generation of Kenyan scientists. We have a strong Kenyan team of young Kenyan archeologists and paleontologists, but we lack geologists. There is still a need for funds and resources for research because we don't have the kind of support that exists in Europe and North America. We still need help from the LF and other institutions like the Wenner-Gren Foundation and PAST to support research, because institutions in Kenya and in other parts of Africa do not yet have the resources to support research. Once again, I encourage all those who listen to this to look for ways of supporting paleosciences in Africa, and supporting institutions such as the NMK. There is a need for investment in infrastructure at the NMK for as you know the facilities where all these wonderful fossil collections are housed were constructed in the 1970s.

Bernard Wood (00:58:40):

We should be winding up, Kyalo. Is there anything you would like to talk about? Your 'infomercial' for the support of the paleosciences in Kenya and Africa was very effective, but is there anything else that you would like to talk about?

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (00:59:18):

For me, I must first of all thank the many people who supported the journeys that some of us have walked. There is a need for much more support to the young Africans who are trying to find their way. There is also a need for us to strengthen partnerships because research is about people working together. I would like to see not just more Kenyan or African students, but also, more of our colleagues from the US, and all of us building partnerships to address different research questions. In my view, the potential of the Turkana Basin is hardly scratched. There is still a lot that needs to be done there to fill gaps in our understanding of human evolution. There are still many unanswered questions, and my appeal is for all of us to work together to try to bridge those gaps and answer those questions.

A lot has been done, but there is still much to do. I would also like to encourage data sharing. For a long time, we have kept our data to ourselves, but it's now time for us to share the data, especially among African scientists. Whenever I travel for conferences in the US and Europe I get overwhelmed by the kinds of data that are being held by colleagues like you and others, and by institutions. These data are not as available to African scientists.

Bernard Wood (01:01:55):

That is a good point because it's one thing having a database, it's another thing for that database to be accessible to people. Last week I was in Portugal at the Human Evolution Research Center at the University of the Algarve, and there was a master's student from South Africa who asked if she could talk with me. She explained that her research interest was micromammals, and that she was wondering whether she should stay in Europe or go back to South Africa. I advised her to go back, but I was doing that knowing the resources were probably much better in Europe than in South Africa. Your story will be inspiring to people from Africa who would like to continue and make a career there in the paleosciences. In the next few days, expect an email from me with the information about this young woman, because it will be important that you explain to her that this is possible!

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (01:03:27):

It's possible!

Bernard Wood (01:03:29):

Kyalo, I thank you very sincerely for allowing us to have this conversation. I also want to congratulate you belatedly on the honor from the National Academy of Sciences and to wish you a good evening as it is in Kenya.

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (01:03:50):

Let me also thank you for hosting me. It's always a pleasure to talk with you. I knew you were going to be in Faro because I was there a few days before you arrived for the data workshop, so I just missed you by a whisker! Thank you so much for hosting me tonight and special thanks to the LF for all their support. The LF has held my hand for a very long time. They still do. I especially want to thank the LF trustees some of whom I know personally. They have made me part of the LF family. I also want to thank the staff of the LF, especially Sharal Camisa Smith and H. Gregory, as well as many others. Without their support over the years, I don't think I would have been speaking with you tonight. I am passionate about public education and I'm running some programs in Kenya that aim to grow and encourage more young Kenyans to pursue careers in the paleosciences. The LF has been extremely supportive of this initiative. Finally, please allow me to dedicate this interview to the late Frank Brown, who played such a key role in my journey.

Bernard Wood (01:05:53):

Well, let's metaphorically raise a glass to Frank. Thank you, Kyalo.

Fredrick Kyalo Manthi (01:06:03):

Thank you very much. Cheers. Bye-bye.