

Stranger in a Strange Land

lle Moita rarely ventures far from Olduvai Gorge in his native Tanzania, where he serves as a guide and field assistant to anthropologists searching for hominid fossils. So when the 38-year-old Maasai herdsman was invited to the New Brunswick campus by Robert Blumenschine, director of Rutgers' Center for Human Evolutionary Studies, he didn't know what to expect. Moita, who once

guided Hillary and Chelsea Clinton through Olduvai Gorge, was impressed by Rutgers' laboratories, New York's skyscrapers, and America's modern conveniences. "In my village, we live in huts without plumbing and electricity and depend on livestock for food," says Moita, who once stared down a leopard. "I certainly don't regret the life I'm living, but I do believe my children and my people need more schools and education. It is important for a better life."