Michael Zieg

Job: Associate professor and department chair of geography, geology and the environment.


Background: I earned a bachelor of science degree in geological sciences from Michigan State University in 1994; a doctorate in earth and planetary sciences from Johns Hopkins University in 2001 and completed a two-year National Research Council post-doctoral fellowship at NASA Johnson Space Center.

Interests: My professional interest is in the cooling and crystallization of magma to form igneous rock, particularly in association with meteorite impacts and continental rifting. Outside work, most of my time is spent with my wonderful wife, Suzanne, and our five children: Teresa, Anthony, Nicholas, Mary Grace and Vincent. Number six is on the way.

Person(s) I would like to have dinner with: P.G. Wodehouse, an English humorist writer.

Why I work at The Rock: My first attraction to SRU was the surrounding countryside, but I quickly realized that the students and my colleagues are the real reasons to work at The Rock. I am very fortunate to be able to study and teach a subject I love, with so many great people around me, in such an ideal setting.