

**Michael Durcanin**

**BSc Geological Sciences 2006; MSc 2009**



### **Why Geology?**

Like many geologists you will come to meet, I didn't originally start as a geology major. I ventured into the world of geology from the peripheral field of environmental science. I realized I was more interested in learning the science, than I was governmental policy. Like all subjects though, there will be classes you will love and classes you will hate, but if you continue maintain a desire to learn about the world around you will not be disappointed! I had the awesome opportunity to get college credit by spending six weeks in Iceland and Ireland learning aspects of field work and geologic mapping during the summer of my junior year. During my senior year, I had the opportunity to do an independent research project looking at volcanic rocks in East Africa under the direction of Dr. Gail Ashley. I even got a chance to present my findings at a major technical conference

### **What am I doing now:**

I knew that I wanted my career to have a strong technical component to it, so I decided to continue on with graduate studies at Rutgers under the direction of Drs. Martha Withjack and Roy Schlische.

After graduating with my M.S. in 2009, I was fortunate enough to secure a position as a geologist in the oil and gas industry. I have had the amazing opportunity to travel and look at geologic data from all over the world. It truly is one of the most rewarding careers for a scientist. Every day I go to work to solve interesting technical puzzles that help us secure the energy to power our future.

### **Plans for the future:**

Recently, I reconnected with Rutgers as a visiting researcher in the structural geology group. This position allows me to bridge the gap between industry and academia, by facilitating the transfer of the latest industry technology and high quality geological and geophysical datasets to RU for both undergrad and graduate research projects. I hope to use this opportunity help mentor and develop the next generation of geoscientists.