



# I am The ROCK

## Richard Findler

**Job:** Professor of philosophy and director of the SRU Center for Applied and Professional Ethics.

**Joined SRU:** 1992.

**Background:** I am a scholar in the area of Continental [European] philosophy and environmental ethics. I teach 'Ethics,' 'Philosophy of Human Existence,' 'Introduction to Logic,' 'Ancient Philosophy,' 'Existentialism and Phenomenology' and 'Environmental Ethics.' I lived and taught in Chicago prior to coming to SRU.

**Interests:** I am currently doing research in the area of animal ethics, which is a benefit for my 'Environmental Ethics' course. I am working on a manuscript satirically titled, 'Who Should We Eat First: Little Bobby or Fido?'

**Person(s) I would like to have dinner with:** Socrates.

**Why I work at The Rock:** I stay at The Rock because I enjoy my students and colleagues. The philosophy faculty members are excellent people and great colleagues. But the real reason I stay at The Rock is to try and come to grips with the terror of existence best expressed in the 'Wisdom of Silenus.' Silenus was a satyr who was captured by Midas, and when Midas asked him for the meaning of life, Silenus at first remained quiet. But as Midas pressed him, Silenus screamed out, 'Oh wretched, ephemeral race, children of chance and misery, why do you seek to know what it would be best for you not to know? What is best for you is never to have been born, not to be, to be nothing, second best, to die soon.'

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