



I am The **ROCK**

Athula Herat

Job: Assistant professor of physics.

Joined SRU: August 2004.

Background: I was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, a busy cosmopolitan city of 6 million people facing the Indian Ocean. When I was 9, I got hooked on astronomy after listening to a talk given by Dr. Arthur C. Clarke, the famous sci-fi author of '2001: A Space Odyssey.'

Interests: My research interests focus on applying mathematical modeling and scientific computing techniques to study physical and biological systems. I love reading, playing with my 8-year-old daughter, playing and watching cricket and cooking.

Last book read: 'American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson' by Joseph Ellis.

Why I work at The Rock: I have a great passion for teaching, and at SRU I get the opportunity to interact with students with a wide range of backgrounds and interests. For me teaching goes beyond the classroom experience. Some of the best teaching moments that I have come across have been during one-on-one interactions with students engaged in research projects with me. Several of the students that I have had the privilege of teaching over the past five-plus years at SRU have gone on to some of the best graduate programs in the country and are excelling in their postgraduate work. So, when the grading piles up, committee work seems never ending and the next break seems too far away, what keeps me going are the e-mails I get from these SRU alumni, praising the solid foundation they received from The Rock.

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