



I am
The ROCK

Thomas Flynn

Job: Professor and chair of the communication department. Over the years, I've taught courses in public relations, public speaking and communication law.

Joined SRU: Fall 1995.

Background: The strongest influence on my thinking and teaching came from the late Paul Boase, one of my professors at Ohio University. He had a very strong commitment to free speech and social change. I did my doctoral work at the University of Nebraska, where I focused on politics, culture and constitutional law.

Interests: My research these days concerns First Amendment issues, politics and how we use space to communicate. I'm currently involved in a writing project about ballparks. My legal and political commentary have appeared in more than 70 news stories in print, radio and television, including The New York Times, Roll Call Magazine, The Guardian and on National Public Radio.

Last book read: 'Pops' a recent biography of Louis Armstrong

Why I work at The Rock: The primary satisfaction in this job comes from working with and helping students. I began my career at a research-oriented school and was told to "reduce student contact hours" and to focus on my research if I wanted to succeed. I felt that was just wrong, and left to come here. I've been very happy with my decision.

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