Michael B. Kruger
Brief Bio

Dr. Michael Kruger is currently the interim Chair of the Department of Geosciences and the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Missouri -- Kansas City. As Associate Dean, he is primarily responsible for all finance related issues, research and space allocation matters, and international recruitment and relations. He is also a Curator’s Professor for research (the highest and most prestigious academic rank awarded by the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri system) in the Department of Physics & Astronomy where he served as the Chair for nine years. An experimental condensed matter physicist, his research areas include high-pressure physics and nanoparticle fabrication through laser ablation in liquids. He was a recipient of the NSF CAREER Award and has authored 67 peer-reviewed publications. In 2010, Dr. Kruger received the UMKC College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Good Teaching Award and in 2013 he was honored with the President’s University Citizenship Award for Leadership from the UM System, which recognizes exemplary leadership in shared governance, innovative curricular and program reform, fostering collaboration, and economic development. In the beginning of this year, his introductory textbook, *Physics in Sports* was published.

Dr. Kruger graduated magna cum laude, and with departmental honors from Stony Brook University with a B.S. in Physics. He earned both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics from the University of California, Berkeley. He worked as a post-doctoral researcher at UC Berkeley in the Department of Geology and Geophysics and spent a year sabbatical as a visiting Professor in a group studying Bose-Einstein condensates at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. He is also the baseball rules committee science consultant for the National Federation of State High School Associations, a position he has held for the past 17 years.

As the first in his family to go to college, Dr. Kruger is grateful for the opportunity that higher public education has given him and has dedicated his career to giving back to the educational system that made such a profound impact on his life. Although, he is a native New Yorker, he considers the Midwest home having lived there for the past 23 years, and genuinely appreciates the warmth and openness so often attributed to Midwesterners. He and his wife have three children, two are in medical school and one is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering.