



Dr. Michael R. Perfit

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Dr. Michael Perfit grew up on Long Island where he got his love for the ocean that has continued today in his personal and professional life. He attended St. Lawrence University in upstate New York where he graduated with a BS in Geology in 1971. He first entered the graduate program at Lamont/Columbia as a student of Maurice Ewing and later, Bruce Heezen receiving an M. Phil. in Marine Geology in 1974. He continued at Lamont to obtain a Ph.D. in Geochemistry in 1977 under the mentorship of Robert Kay and Ian Ridley.

After graduating, he became a Research Fellow in geochemistry at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia for 5 years where he investigated volcanoes and submarine ridges in the southwest Pacific. In 1982 Dr. Perfit accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He has worked his way through the academic ranks to become a Full Professor and recently served as Chair of the Department (2007-2013). His research has primarily focused on submarine petrology, volcanism and tectonics. Dr. Perfit has served as the Chair of the Deep Submergence Science committee and has had over 30 dives in the submersible ALVIN. He has also held visiting research fellowships at Cornell University, the University of Tasmania, the Institut de Physique du Globe (Paris), and the Australian National University. Dr. Perfit was recently elected as a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union.