Mike Zerby is currently an adjunct faculty member at the University of Minnesota – Minneapolis in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, teaching Visual Communication and Electronic Photojournalism. He has also taught at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota and the University of Missouri, Columbia. Additionally, he was an associate director of the First International Photojournalism Workshop, sponsored by the University of Missouri and held in Sofia, Bulgaria, and associate director of the Second International Photojournalism Workshop, held in Budapest, Hungary, and faculty member for Somosfoto workshop in Quito, Ecuador sponsored by the University of Miami.

Zerby is a 37-year veteran photojournalist. He came to the Minneapolis Star Tribune as a photography intern, working part- time while earning his degree in journalism at the University of Minnesota. After graduation, he joined the staff full-time. In addition to his work at the Star Tribune, Zerby has freelanced for the New York Times, Washington Post, and other papers. He has also done assignments for National Geographic, Time, Newsweek, Business Week, Forbes and Geoworld among other publications. His assignments were many and varied, and included being embedded with invading Marines during the recent Iraq war, where he shot stills and video for his paper. CNN also aired some of his video. Zerby covered all the US presidents but one, from Richard Nixon to George W. Bush. In addition, Zerby documented the launch of two space shuttles, traveled to Alaska three times for the installation of the oil pipeline, tracked a dogsled expedition to the North Pole at 72 degrees below zero and followed Gov. Jesse Ventura to Japan. Zerby witnessed the continuing struggle for human rights in the Lakota Sioux villages of South Dakota, documented racial strife in the cities and townships of South Africa, observed the quiet lives of a rural Hutterite community in South Dakota and reported in-depth on a crack-ridden Minneapolis inner-city neighborhood.

Zerby lives in Fridley, Minnesota with the love of his life, his wife, Judy. They have three children, Scott and Chris Zerby, Laura Charles, and six grandchildren.