

The Rock

MAGAZINE
SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

*Focus On:
A World Premiere*

SRU in the
National Spotlight





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Vision Statement

Slippery Rock University will excel as a caring community
of lifelong learners connecting with the world.

www.SRU.edu

About this Issue

The national spotlight is shining on Slippery Rock University more and more frequently. This issue of The Rock Magazine presents several of the most recent examples.

On the Cover

Fred "Mister" Rogers was awarded an honorary doctorate by SRU in 1982. This year, our students and faculty performed a world premiere of a tribute on the anniversary weekend of his death.

The Rock Magazine

Slippery Rock University publishes *The Rock Magazine* to keep alumni and others informed about its activities and programs and to encourage support for the University. Members of the Slippery Rock University Alumni Association receive an additional section of the magazine, *The Rock Insider*, which contains news and feature articles about alumni and association activities. University Public Relations, 201 Old Main, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Editor's e-mail is: ross.feltz@sru.edu

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VIEW FROM THE ROCK

The last four years at Slippery Rock University have been busy as we developed new programs, reorganized our structures, and made preparations for launching bold groundbreaking projects that would position the university for the future.

You will find throughout this issue that our labors are being noticed on state, regional, and national stages. Our goal to enhance the national visibility of our academic programs has taken a major step forward in the last several months.

Our university was approved for a chapter in the prestigious Phi Kappa Phi, the oldest national university-wide honor society. We will hold our first installation of members in the fall.

Our music students and faculty performed a world premiere tribute to Mister Rogers and were heard throughout the country on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

One of our dance majors has been selected to perform her original choreography at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Students, faculty and staff came together from a variety of disciplines to

host the National Women's Wheelchair Basketball Championships and tryouts for the 2004 Paralympics to be held in Athens.

School of Business students qualified for the national finals for the American Express financial planning competition involving six areas of personal finance planning.

And, one of our students, Kim Smith, an exercise science major from Girard, made a successful appearance on "The Price is Right" television game show, proving that Slippery Rock students can be financially practical in other ways.

Gigantic leaps

To be the institution Slippery Rock University wants to be in the 21st Century, all of us (students, faculty, administration, alumni, staff, and friends) must be willing to think more boldly, take greater risks, and act more resolutely. For students, that usually depends on having supportive faculty and staff to encourage and nurture them. For faculty, it depends on knowing the administration will support them. For administrators, it depends on finding the resources to support entrepreneurial ventures.

Each of us performs a key role in the drama that is being staged as your University grows to provide leadership in various national venues. For example, we added the words "performing arts" to the name of one of our colleges only four years ago. Today, our students and faculty are recognized on stage in ways that have rarely carried the Slippery Rock name. Now, we are seeking our own stage befitting the quality of the students we now attract (See page 10).

Our Adapted Physical Activity Program also is young, but we are already recognized as a premier program. Philanthropy is serving as the foundation for this program, as you will read on later pages.

We also have grand plans for a major leap forward in residential living and enhancing the overall spatial environment on campus. (See page 31).

Your support

To stay on the national stage, where the competition is most intense, we must increase our ability to attract major gifts and demonstrate unprecedented support for our aspirations. We have to act like we belong at the top.

Frequently, prospects for larger donations want to know how well our alumni support their University. Last year, 15 percent of our alumni donated to Slippery Rock University. Our goal is to raise that percentage to 20. If you have not responded to your annual fund request, please consider doing so.

I can promise you without reservation, that the students and faculty you read about regularly in the Rock Magazine are worthy of your support and encouragement. Their accomplishments will always make you proud of your association with The Rock.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Smith
Interim President

Also in the national spotlight:

U.S. Congresswoman Melissa Hart joined Interim President Smith on an inspection of the new Regional Learning Alliance facility under construction for its August opening. This SRU-developed concept will serve as a model for bringing together in one place a region's educational providers to form an "educational mall" to serve the workforce development and training needs of both employers and students.

Employers will benefit by having a one-stop access to custom-tailored workforce training and development programs offered by proven educational providers best suited to their needs. The Regional Learning Alliance will provide convenience in satisfying training and workforce development needs, saving employers time and money.

For more information, visit: www.RegionalLearningAlliance.com



Magical...

Hauntingly Beautiful

A world
premiere
tribute for
a great
neighbor



Mister Rogers with Neighbor Aber
(SRU '67) and Mayor Maggie

Fred Rogers
SRU Honorary
Doctor of Humane Letters, 1982

They knew it was special when Neighbor Aber and Mayor Maggie stepped to the microphone. The two, well-known residents of Mister Rogers' city of Westwood were greeted with "whoops," cheers and applause from the members of the SRU choir and orchestra ensemble.

While it was a break in the final rehearsal for a world premiere—serious stuff for these performers, it provided the first, solid connection to the friendly, wise man to whom they would soon pay tribute. You see, many of these college students were recalling childhood memories of being transported to that magical place called "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," where they routinely met up with wonderful, patient characters who helped them grow and understand.

"The biggest thing for me was seeing Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber," recalled Leigh Simonton, a sophomore music therapy/education major and tuba player from Pittsburgh. "I wanted to ask them who their childhood heroes were. They were mine." Her words spoke the thoughts of many of the performers.

The rehearsal was the prelude to two nights of powerful, hauntingly beautiful music experienced by nearly 1,300 people and replayed in part on National Public Radio.

A student's vision

The path to the national spotlight began with a conversation last summer between Mike Sypien, a senior music education major from Pittsburgh, and 21-year-old Luke Mayernik, the music director at historic St. Justin Church on Pittsburgh's Mt. Washington.

St. Justin parishioner Maggie Stewart (Mayor Maggie) had suggested to Mayernik that he compose a tribute to Fred Rogers, who had died on Feb. 27, 2003. After some persuasion, Mayernik decided to compose *In Memoriam: A Requiem for Fred Rogers*, and was now at the point of contemplating who could perform the challenging work.

Sypien, an enterprising sort who is a founding member of SRU's popular men's barbershop quartet, suggested that The Rock's choir and orchestra would be a natural. "I wasn't sure if SRU would even be willing to take on the project, but I started making phone calls to get the ball rolling," he recalled.

Sypien began with first-year music instructor and choir director Kevin Smith, who was quick to identify with the project. "I grew up with Mister Rogers, too," said Smith.

And from those conversations, maybe dreams, came the first steps leading to a

very special three days for the Slippery Rock University community and those who supported and appreciated the performances.

Bigger than envisioned

As the buzz started on campus in September, most thought this would be simply a very nice opportunity for SRU students to perform in a noteworthy event. But as time went by, it soon became apparent that music faculty, administrators and students had a huge, attention-getting project that they had yet to fully wrap their arms around.

Musicians found the composition challenging. Vocalists learned to sing in Latin. Orchestra conductor/instructor Warren Davidson took the seat as concertmaster while Smith directed both the choir and orchestra ensemble. Composer Mayernik joined them for one rehearsal each week. Through the months of work, no one really had a complete idea of how the entire composition would, or should, sound.

Meanwhile, Smith was also making arrangements for various aspects of staging the performance. That soon became so daunting that a team was formed that included Dr. Maribeth Knaub, chair of the music department; Dr. Bill McKinney, dean of the College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts; Barbara Frankenburg, music department secretary; the University Public Relations Department, Kathy Jack, executive assistant in the Office of Advancement; and Interim President Smith.

There was publicity to achieve, programs and tickets to produce, bus transportation to arrange, a reception to organize, and meals for the performers to arrange. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh had to be communicated with and Family Communications, Inc., which owns rights to the Mister Rogers properties, had to be consulted. It was growing into a major event.

The momentum intensifies

When composer Mayernik was quoted in *Newsweek*, and WQED-FM expressed interest in recording the performance, "We suspected we might have something very unusual on our hands," said Ross Feltz, director of public relations.

As Feb. 29 came closer, St. Justin parishioners went into high gear handling ticket requests, arranging for additional parking and baking amazing cookies for an elaborate reception after the performance. They wanted to be sure their guests were treated the way Fred Rogers might have done.



Memories of a world premiere.



Composer Luke Mayernik (right) has his picture taken with Joe Negri for the Pittsburgh Tribune's Fanfare section.



Arriving by bus, the students had little idea of the powerful performance to come.



Diane Zupi, a freshman music education and therapy major from Aliquippa asked Rock grad Neighbor Aber to sign her music as Mark Rodgers, a freshman music education major from Butler looks on.



Faculty member Warren Davidson served as concertmaster. Sarah Lipner, a music education major from Pittsburgh, joined him in the violin section.

When composer
 Mayernik was quoted in
 Newsweek,
 and WQED-FM expressed
 interest in recording
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 “we suspected we might
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 very unusual
 on our hands,” said
 Ross Feltz, director of
 public relations.

That weekend being the first anniversary of Mr. Rogers’s death, both Pittsburgh newspapers published pages of tribute, with major sections devoted to the premiere of Mayernik’s composition.

Premiere day

Choir and musicians arrived by bus and vans for the 2 o’clock rehearsal, now five hours before the performance. Mayernik took his position at the piano in the center of the performers. The choir accustomed themselves to the risers, on which they would stand for about 90 minutes straight during the performance. And, concertmaster Davidson led the tuning of the instruments.

After three of the 11-movements, Stewart and Aber took the microphone. The realization that this was special went through the students like a wave of memories might ripple through the mind’s eye at the thought of a loved one now gone.

From that point on, the rehearsal was very serious as student performers, led by their faculty and supported by four professional soloists and along with five professional musicians, methodically and lovingly, perfected the remaining movements.

Just when some of them might have been thinking that it’s not often students rehearse in the presence of heroes, in walked another famous neighbor: Joe Negri—known to children as Handyman Negri and to many adults as a renown jazz guitarist.

The audience began to arrive an hour before the downbeat of Smith’s baton. The performers donned their formal attire and tamed their butterflies.

The evening began with an added note of excitement as Ted Sohier of WQED-FM informed the audience that the performance was being recorded and would be considered for a special segment on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” to be broadcast the next day or day after.

Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber stepped to the piano with Mayernik.

“Parishioners and neighbors of St. Justin’s, I presume?”

“Correct, as usual Mayor Maggie,” the choir responded.

The audience, 800 strong, was now officially in the “Neighborhood.” With Mayernik accompanying, Stewart and Aber sang two songs of tribute written by Mayernik. Now, it was time.

The Requiem

As choir, orchestra and soloists began the *Introit* and *Kyrie*, the audience soon filled with a reverent awe as the movement opened with a fervent, yet peaceful plea for eternal rest and perpetual light to shine on both the departed and those who mourn.

The mezzo-soprano soloist took over the prayer and prayed for mercy. The choir then eventually took this plea for mercy as its own prayer and the intensity increased.

The seriousness of this work and the complexity of the task before these student performers was readily apparent as choir and orchestra presented the next two movements: *Rex tremendae* and *Credo*.

Movement IV, *Intercession*, used a capella choir and modulating percussion to set the tone and serve as backdrop for prayers read by Stewart and Aber – prayers that spoke to the gentle, loving nature of Fred Rogers.

“Help us to listen – not only to the words others speak, but to their hearts. Let us listen by hearing, empathizing, understanding, caring, helping, relating, loving. Teach us to really hear what others are saying. Help us to temper our own opinions and prejudices.”

“We pray for the most innocent of the world. Protect your children—the young and the old—all those who cannot protect themselves.”

“For those who, like Fred Rogers, have touched our lives so deeply and in so many ways. Those who have looked and listened...those who have helped us grow—on the inside as well as the outside...for those here with us and those who have gone ahead. In silence, now, we ask for your blessings.” And, it was silent. Really silent.

Choir, orchestra and soloists resumed with a triumphant setting of the *Sanctus*, another prayer for peace (*Pie Jesu*), and the *Agnus Dei*.

Meditation gave the audience time for reflection while listening to the melodic tones of jazz guitar as only played by Joe Negri, who found added meaning in his own reflection of how his father had lent his bricklayer’s hands to the building of St. Justin, the neighborhood church that meant much to young Joe.

The Requiem’s final three movements: *Lux aeterna*, a prayer for spiritual light and guidance; *The Sign of Peace*; and *In manus tuas, commendo spiritum meum* brought the premiere to reverent and peaceful conclusion.

Composer Mayernik, emotionally spent, eyes aflood, sat at the piano – head in his hands. Wonderfully grateful.

As was the audience, which quickly arose with a sustained ovation.

“It was awesome,” said one. Here! Here!



Complete program notes for The Requiem are available at <http://www.sru.edu/pages/8883.asp>

Guest Performers:

Maggie Stewart

Charles Aber

Joe Negri

Daphne Alderson, soloist

Dr. Colleen Gray Newbert, SRU faculty, soloist

Rashard Allen, soloist

Warren Davidson, SRU faculty, concert master

Joseph Bishkoff, cellist

World Premiere II

E v e n M o r e M a g i c a l

A second performance was scheduled for Succup Theater at Butler County Community College, because SRU's Miller Auditorium was already fully scheduled.

Again, WQED's Ted Sohler stepped to the microphone. This time, though, to tell the audience there would be a slight delay. "We're waiting for one of the musicians who has been delayed with a flat tire," he said. A key musician.

Then, some magic

Audience conversation stopped when Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber walked on stage. "We thought you might have some questions for us," the mayor said. Kind of like opening a neighborhood meeting.

It was a magical time for the audience, especially the younger ones, as a Mister Rogers'-style conversation took place. Soon, Joe Negri quietly moved onto the stage and suggested singing some "neighborhood" songs. The audience joined performers in singing *It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, *Tree, Tree, Tree*, and *It's You I like* (sung to a young boy in the audience).



Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber answer audience questions to fill time while awaiting one of the musicians.



First-year faculty member Kevin Smith conducts a world premiere on a national stage.



Historic St. Justin Church was filled in tribute to our special neighbor.

Congratulations to all!



Audience conversation stopped when Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber walked on stage.

“We thought you might have some questions for us,” the mayor said.

At the urging of the choir backstage, Mike Sypien and his fellow barbershoppers sang a rousing rendition of “I’m Sitting On Top of The World.”

What great impromptu entertainment.

The delayed musician arrived. Another audience listened in quiet tribute as Slippery Rock University students and faculty introduced more people to the incredible talent of SRU students as they fondly remembered Fred Rogers. His list of awards takes pages. In the early part of that magnificent listing is his honorary degree from Slippery Rock State College, 1982.

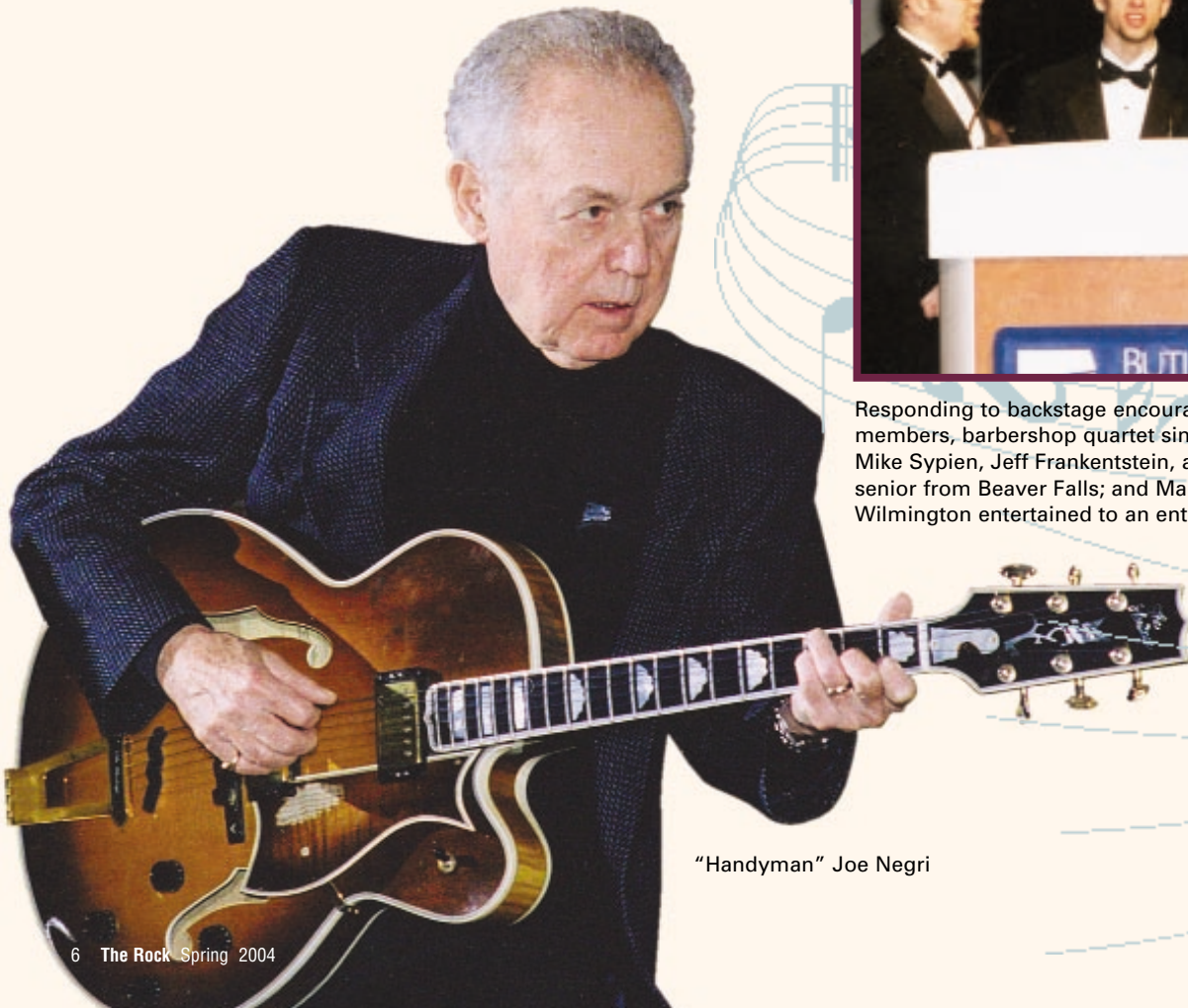
The requiem afterglow promises to boost SRU’s already-strong music department, which is nationally accredited and offers majors in music, music performance (voice or instrument), music education and music therapy. All requiem proceeds fund new music scholarships.



Three Visionaries: (l-r) SRU student Mike Sypien, “Mayor” Maggie Stewart, and composer Luke Mayernik.



Responding to backstage encouragement from fellow choir members, barbershop quartet singers (l-r) music education majors Mike Sypien, Jeff Frankenstein, a junior from Moon; Kit Keiper, a senior from Beaver Falls; and Mark Erickson, a senior from New Wilmington entertained to an enthusiastic audience response.



“Handyman” Joe Negri

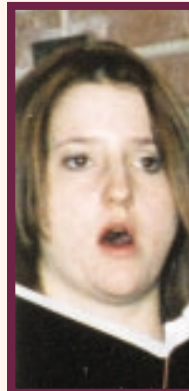
The Joy of Performing Stays Forever

"I watched Mister Rogers when I was little. When I saw the former cast members Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber (in the performance), it made it so much more special. It was exciting to sing the world premiere."

Michelle Dilanni
Kennedy Township—Alto, Concert Choir
music education major



Anyone who performs knows the rush it brings, the satisfaction of touching hearts and minds. SRU students won't soon lose the feeling of exultation they share through involvement with such a memorable event, "In Memoriam: A Requiem for Fred Rogers." The experience helped them grow as musicians and individuals.



"It was an honor to perform in the memory of Mister Rogers. You could feel the love in the room and how much he did for children. I felt like I was really part of something that went national, and it all started at Slippery Rock University. The music was hauntingly beautiful."

Megan Zulauf
New Castle—Alto, Concert Choir
Music therapy major

"We had been working on the music since the past September. When we performed it, it was the first time it really came alive. I watched Mister Rogers growing up. His show introduced me to a lot of music, so it was really wonderful to work with Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber."

Ashley Richards
Ellwood City—Alto, Concert Choir,
music education/voice major



"When I saw Mayor Maggie crying, you could tell how much he meant to her as a person. It was very exciting, and our conductor was really into it. He was pushing to get the most out of us."

Mark Erickson
New Wilmington—Baritone, Concert Choir,
music major



"It didn't really hit me until Sunday, when we were at the church for rehearsal and I saw Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber. Just to see Mayor Maggie standing there crying, seeing what the music meant to her, it put the whole thing into perspective. You could see what he meant to people."

Meredith Millstone
Bridgeport, West Va.—Alto,
Concert Choir, music
education major

"When I came here, I had no idea that Slippery Rock University would be a part of something that went across the country. It was a really invigorating experience. The music and the feeling from the audience were unbelievable."

Adam Katz
Pittsburgh—Viola, Symphony Orchestra,
music education major

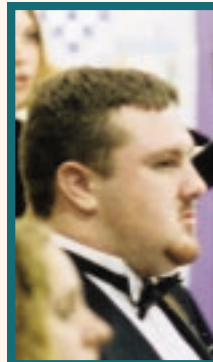
"The biggest thing for me was seeing Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber. I wanted to ask them who their childhood heroes were. They were mine."

Leigh Simonton
Ross Township—Tuba,
Symphony Orchestra
music therapy/education
major



"It was a magical evening, for me and everyone else, including the audience."

Andrea McClellan
York—Clarinet, Symphony
Orchestra; music therapy,
music performance majors



"Mister Rogers was my childhood hero. It was an amazing experience — people in the audience would just start crying. Certain parts gave me goose bumps, because it was just so beautiful."

Bill Duffy
Littlestown—Percussion,
Symphony Orchestra;
music education major

Reaching The Nation

It has been said that there is no more beautiful sound in the world than that of a well-trained human voice. The choir and orchestra ensemble performed Requiem for Fred Rogers with such emotion and skill, listeners in other parts of the country who heard excerpts on NPR Radio were moved to quickly send e-mails asking about a recording.

Here are just a few examples.

Columbus, Ohio **Gayle Karafil**

"Wow, I was on my way to vote when I heard the piece on NPR, and it knocked my socks off. I'm going to go ahead and give you my address and phone number, so you can let me know as soon as the CD is available."

Lubbock, Texas **Wes Naron**

"I am wanting to buy one desperately. I heard the program on NPR. I have never been so moved by the little that I heard. What a work of art! Fred Rogers' spirit seemed to shine through. As a Presbyterian, Fred Rogers was more than just a children's icon. He was an example of grace. You seem to have captured the very essence of that."

Springfield, Mo. **Sarah Dewey**

"I just heard NPR's All Things Considered. The music and performance from Slippery Rock University's choir and orchestra were stunning. I was wondering if it is possible to purchase an audio tape and/or video tape of the concert?"

Philadelphia **Kathleen Caughie**

"I will send my check for a CD version of the requiem. My sons, now 24 and 26, loved Mister Rogers. I so respected him for his upbeat and morally grounded message to all. Although so sadly missed, I will remember him as a kind soul who embraced everyone."

For news about media coverage of the requiem, see Rock Scoops, page 34.

To order a recording, cut this off and mail with payment to:

Slippery Rock University
Office of the Dean
College of Humanities, Fine and
Performing Arts
1 Morrow Way
Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057

(Checks payable to: Slippery Rock University)
Please send:

___ copies of CD @\$10 each
___ copies of VHS @ \$15 each
___ copies of DVD @ \$20 each

Total \$ _____

Mail to:

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Order forms also available at:

<http://www.sru.edu/pages/8883.asp>

All proceeds benefit music scholarship at SRU

Meet Neighbor Aber, '67

Like many Slippery Rock success stories, Chuck Aber, '67, points to a faculty member who nurtured his career start. The late George Bentel, then SRU choir director, not only encouraged Aber to audition for the musical *Bells Are Ringing*, he even sent another student to Aber's room to fetch him for the tryout. "Mr. Bentel all but pushed me out on the stage," Aber laughingly recalls, "and I am eternally grateful."

The stage that Aber originally had in mind when he arrived at Slippery Rock was made of grass. "I was a quarterback and I thought I could play at Slippery Rock," Aber recalled. "Besides, I thought it would be cool to go from Moon High School to Slippery Rock. I loved the names."

Below the surface, though, was an interest in being a performer. "I had never really said that to anyone. I had played trombone in grade school, but couldn't be in the high school band and play football at the same time. I chose football. But, I liked music, so I joined the high school choir. In retrospect, that influenced everything that was to come"

At The Rock, Aber banged up his knee as a freshman and wasn't playing as much football as he hoped. He did, however, win a letter primarily as holder for kicks in his junior year.

As might happen in a Mister Rogers' script, Aber was standing in line for lunch when another student (Carey McGiffen) heard him speaking and said he ought to try out for chorus. Aber and his roommate, Bob DeHaas, now retired from teaching in Mt. Lebanon, became part of Bentel's choir.

Bentel also propelled Aber on to other venues. "I remember singing one of my first solos at a Butler restaurant and wondering if I'd remember the next line as I had to sing it. I was scared to death! But, Mr. Bentel continued to cajole and encourage me."

Aber has the distinction of being one of the first liberal arts majors from The Rock, graduating with an anthropology major and sociology minor. "But, when I realized how close I was to also earning a music major, I went back an extra year and earned that and an English minor, too."

Not too long after leaving Slippery Rock, Aber became acquainted with Don Brocket, the well-known Pittsburgh entertainer who would become Chef Brocket on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. "Many Pittsburgh-area performers owe their start to Don," Aber explained. "He wrote and produced shows for local venues and we did many corporate shows for special events."

In the mid-70s, Aber was performing in Kurt Weil — From Berlin to Broadway with Joe Negri and Betty "Lady" Aberlin. "Fred came out to see his friends, and that's when we met," Aber recalls. "I had performed previously with Maggie Stewart, and now became acquainted with Fred and his friends."

Eventually, Aber became the voice of Neighborhood puppet H.J. Elephant III, and by the early 80's, Mayor Maggie and Neighbor Aber were regulars — until that last taping, December, 1999.

Aber stays busy with various projects and enjoys time with his nieces Courtney and Casey; their mother is his sister, Janice Benard, also an SRU graduate.

"Fred was very pleased to receive an honorary doctorate from Slippery Rock," Aber says. "He knew my connection to SRU and took time to pick up one of the rocks the bookstore sold and bring it back for me. It's a gift I treasure to this day. He was surely special. The requiem was a terrific project. I was so very proud to be a part of it, especially as a Slippery Rock graduate."



RAISING THE “BARRE” FOR STUDENTS AND FANS ALIKE: SRU PLANS NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

This one's a tie for distinction. The music department scores a national hit with its Fred Rogers' requiem. Dance places a student at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Theater produces a “don't miss” show “Beirut” that captivates the American College Theater Festival.

SRU performing arts students in every area produce as entertaining a combination of high art and high camp as you will encounter. What they need – what the next generation needs – is a new performing arts center to match the talent level and keep SRU competitive.

In March, Interim President Smith briefed the University trustees on plans for a new student union/performing arts complex, the Crossroads Building. It would be built adjacent to Morrow Field House (see map and related story on page 31).

Said Smith, “We are pursuing a new functional student union combined with a performing arts complex to be at the ‘crossroads’ of the campus as a signature statement about the special relationship between student life and academic achievement.”

The arts world is a small world and word travels quickly

The American College Dance Festival invited three choreographers out of 40 adjudicated at the Northeast regional festival, including SRU's Francie Lloyd (above), to perform at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in June. Lloyd's provocative dance “Lady of the Lake” includes a complete submersion in a tank of water. Pittsburgh audiences have seen her in The Attack Theater's “This Ain't the Nutcracker.” She plans a career in New York City.



continued on page 10

about the different venues on the touring circuit. If facilities are new and beautiful and the city has nice accommodations, then soon everyone in the industry knows about them. Also, unfortunately, the reverse is true.

Philanthropy the key

The project depends on the support of our most important asset -- you, our audience -- even in recent times of economic and political turmoil. Music, theater



and dance bring entertainment, enrichment, diversity and new insights into life. Your support shows how much you value the fine arts.

"For our students to truly grow as professionals, as artists, we need state-of-the-art performance spaces," Dr. William McKinney, dean of the College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts, said. "We have the programs, because of the quality of our faculty."

Dancer: arts complex would 'take us to the next level'

The talent is clearly in place, too. Francie Lloyd, a senior dance major, was recently selected to perform her solo choreography at the Kennedy Center as part of the American College Dance Festival's June 1-3 gala.

Out of 40 works from 25 universities, the adjudicators chose Lloyd's choreography as one of 11 dances to appear on the regional gala. Out of the 11 works at the gala, Lloyd's was one of three chosen to move forward to the Kennedy Center. In addition, she was nominated to compete for Dance Magazine's Outstanding Student Choreographer Award, which carries a cash prize of \$1,000.

"The dance program is the reason I came here," Lloyd said. "A performing arts center would be a better environment to learn in. That's not to say you can't be

creative in the facilities we do have. But it would heighten our program. It would take us to the next level."

Since 1999, the dance department has grown from 35 to 100 dance majors with 50 dance minors, and has recently expanded its faculty with the addition of Melissa Teodoro, a native of Columbia with a specialty in dance ethnography.

"All aspects of the dance department are first rate, with the exception of the facilities," said Nora Ambrosio, department chair. "A program of this high artistic caliber needs an appropriate, modern facility that will allow the program to continue to grow and flourish."

In the past 10 years, the American College Theater Festival has selected three SRU plays for regional presentation, a huge accomplishment because festival representatives evaluate 400 plays a year and select three to five. Recent campus productions included "Hair" (upper left), "Dancing at Laghna" and "Twelfth Night" (bottom right).

The goal: an 'incredible reputation as a theater school'

In the past 10 years, the American College Theater Festival has selected three SRU plays for regional presentation -- a significant accomplishment considering that festival representatives evaluate 400 plays a year. They select three to five a year for presentation.

"At Slippery Rock, we have reputation for doing good theater," senior theater/political science major Evan Endress said. "If we get a new facility, we could have a reputation as an incredible theater school, as opposed to be a theater program that does good theater."

Miller Auditorium, more than 40 years old, makes it difficult to cover all aspects of theater education, Dr. Gordon Phetteplace, department chair, said.

Plays cannot include fly scenery because Miller is not high enough, although the department distinguishes itself by offering playwriting and one-on-one instruction from faculty. Miller lacks workshop studios and acoustic rooms for rehearsals, as well.

"When I have to do an audition monologue rehearsal, trying to get professional work, I go to Spotts World Culture Building and I move desks," Endress said.

Competing for the best students

"It is well known that excellent facilities are a large factor for prospective students to consider when choosing a college," Dr. Maribeth Knaub, music department chair, said. "The facilities can make or break their decision. Therefore, a new performing arts center would greatly enhance our ability to attract more students and more importantly, a higher caliber of student."

"We desperately need a new performance hall with wonderful acoustics, ample back-stage space, changeable performing areas, and one that is architecturally designed specifically for the arts," she added. "If the arts are to be a signature area for our University, then let us do all we can to make this project become a reality."



Major Hoop-la:

SRU's status as national hub for helping people with disabilities enhanced by hosting wheelchair basketball tourney, Athens 2004 Paralympic trials

Competitions showcase Adapted Physical Activity Program

Wheelchair basketball athletes are not just talented—they are spectacular. Sparked by aggressive, elusive and remarkable (there aren't enough adjectives) play, they are a bonafide phenomenon.

And just when the National Wheelchair Basketball Association needed a go-to venue to propel the sport to greater prominence, an experienced player delivered: Slippery Rock University.

The University's national reputation for helping people with disabilities made headlines this spring when SRU hosted the 30th National Women's Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament and Athens 2004 Paralympic Trials.

Arizona-based Sports 'N Spokes Magazine, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Butler Eagle covered the tournament, which brought 125 players from around the country to campus for down-to-the buzzer excitement.

John Sikora, coach of the Pittsburgh-based Steel City Starz, petitioned the National

Wheelchair Basketball Association to bring the tournament to Slippery Rock "because of its reputation for offering a variety of academic programs for people with disabilities," the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette noted in a centerpiece story with four pictures.

Pittsburgh area athletes – including



Rock freshman Diana Helt and graduate Norah Schneider – played for the Steel City Starz. Physical therapy students gave massages to sore players, and athletic training students provided valuable medical aid as well.

Out-of-town players – from California, Florida, Texas, Alabama and Illinois – raved about the facilities and hospitality.

"It was great, I think women's nationals should be there every year," Tomara Moss of the Orlando Ice said. "There were more than enough courts, people to massage the players after the game — unbelievable the way it was put together. You have my vote for Slippery Rock in 2005."



Providing equal opportunities

The National Organization on Disability reports that 40 percent of people with serious disabilities are not at all involved in their communities, which is almost twice the percentage for people without disabilities.

Not so at The Rock. The Adapted Physical Activity Program provides equal opportunities to people with disabilities through a variety of classes, sport and service projects. Programs include equine facilitated therapy, quad rugby, swimming and wheelchair basketball. Community



members also participate in classes such as "Sport and Disability," "Adapted Aquatics," "Biomechanics of Special Populations" and "Adapted and Therapeutic Exercise."

The first program of its kind in Pennsylvania, students prepare for careers by working with independent adults, chil-

An outstanding reputation for helping people with disabilities made SRU a natural choice for hosting the 30th National Women's Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament in March. More than 100 players from Pennsylvania, Florida, California, Texas, Alabama and Illinois competed. Arizona-based Sports 'N Spokes Magazine covered the tournament, as did the local media. About 250 students and community volunteers provided a valuable assist. Out-of-town players raved about the hospitality – "unbelievable the way it was put together," said a Florida player. SRU will host the tournament again in 2005, in the Robert N. Aebersold Student Recreation Center.





dren, those with mild retardation, cerebral palsy and people with profound disabilities. Graduates of the 24-credit minor find employment with school districts, community recreational facilities, residential treatment facilities and fitness centers.

"I see us as a real flagship, as developing into a national hub for adapted physical activity because of all the components we're bringing together here," said Dr.

those constituents who value people with disabilities at other institutions."

Major donors, including the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, have lent support. Most recently, Texas philanthropist Ethel Carruth donated \$250,000 to construct Storm Harbor Equestrian Center to boost therapeutic horseback riding. Through the efforts and support of U.S. Rep. Phil English, the



Susan Hannam, chair of the department of exercise and rehabilitative sciences.

"We have the whole package. We have the adapted physical activity expertise, plus an exercise science background. We have athletic trainers who are accustomed to working at events such as the Special Olympics. I don't know if you have all

Centers for Disease Control contributed \$161,000 to open the Center on Disability and Health.

Other exciting milestones

- Special Olympics International has enlisted SRU to be one of 10 schools in the country to implement its Special Olympics university curriculum. The Rock is going to start certifying and training coaches and referees for its competitions.

- The Kennedy Space Center in Florida selected exercise science/adapted physical activity student Chris Rebholz for a 12-week internship at its fitness center in Cape Canaveral. He was one of two students in the nation selected.

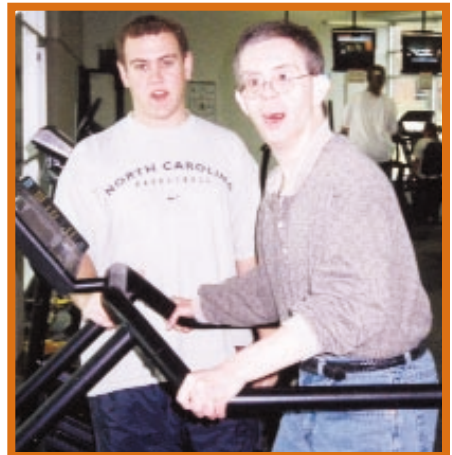
- The National Adapted Physical Activity Council adopted a Professional Advocacy and Leadership plan put together by SRU's student chapter.
- The Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation has contributed \$46,235 toward scholarships for students with spinal cord injury who enroll in the adapted program.

Meeting a mounting need

A recent USA Today article warned that obesity will overtake tobacco as the number one preventable killer among young people.

"People are overweight; they are getting diabetes at a younger age, and people with disabilities are at a higher risk of developing secondary health conditions," said Dr. Robert Arnhold, coordinator of Adapted Physical Activity Program.

"That's where the Center on Disability and Health comes in," he added. "That's our main focus, assisting people to be more active."





The adapted program organized a sports clinic for children with visual disabilities this spring. Using campus gyms, participants worked on their moves with dance instructor Thom Cobb. They scaled a climbing wall, had lunch together and played goalball (above), a sport in which athletes use their hearing to prevent a rubber ball from making it into a net.

Meanwhile, adapted students say they love the program because it provides experience.

“All of the classes I have taken in the adapted minor have offered me hands-on experiences,” Charity Whorl said. “I enjoy working with the people and directly applying what I learn from the instructors to my first-hand experiences. There are many opportunities to work with adapted populations through the program. Most recently, I volunteered at the National Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament and at the SportsVision Clinic for children with visual disabilities.”



The flagship Adapted Physical Activity Program teaches students to develop and manage exercise programs for people with disabilities. The first program of its kind in Pennsylvania and nationally respected, students take classes in adapted aquatics, equine facilitated therapy, sport and disability and biomechanics of special populations. They find employment with school districts, community recreation facilities and health and fitness clubs.

Work embraces virtues championed by “Mister Rogers”

Fred Rogers helped people all his life, encouraging people to be their best. The cardigan-wearing Mister Rogers—inspiration for a major SRU orchestra and choir concert in March—once told a reporter, “The whole idea is to present as much love as you possibly can to a person who might feel that he or she needs it.”

The Adapted Physical Activity Program embodies those ideas, through empowering people with disabilities to become more fit and lead healthy lives.

What a great neighborhood.



Sikira Scheetz, daughter of Pittsburgh physician LaDonna Fuge, made it to the top of the climbing wall in the Robert N. Aebersold Student Recreation Center during a sports clinic for children with visual disabilities. Charity Whorl, a special education/adapted physical activity student, helped her. Sikira was “ecstatic” to participate, her mother said. “To get the chance to have that kind of body awareness and see about getting physical activity, which is a benefit to overall health, is a godsend. It’s important to do it in a safe environment.”



SRU's Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service Proves Rousing Success; Foundation for Future



Pride in SRU and pride in working together were apparent Jan 19 at the University's first-ever Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service.

In writing of the project, Interim President Smith noted, "I witnessed a vision of SRU yesterday that was one of my most exciting experiences since I've been here. The concept of the 'Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service' developed by Robert Clay, DaNine Fleming and their committee can't be described any less than 'This is Slippy Rock University.'" Fleming is director of the Office of Intercultural Programs, with Clay as assistant.

"Not only was this a day of recognition of diversity, reconciliation and celebration of individual triumph, but it was a day of commitment to service and a



communion of community. Every aspect of the day articulated through action the core values of what this institution purports to be. More than 90 students completed a day of community service and five campus leaders were presented the University's first Civil Leadership Awards." Recipients were Dr. Bernice Brown, associate professor of elementary education and early childhood, Dr. Catherine Massey, assistant professor of psychology, Jeff Milliner, a communication major from Aliquippa and president of SRU's Student



Government Association, Dr. Renay Scales, assistant vice president of human resources and diversity, and Sandra Stevenson, assistant director of diversity and employee training.

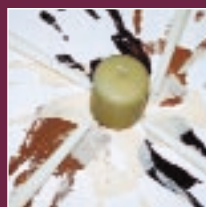
The president called for additional support for next year's program noting, "The event expresses by action what the University means to its students, the community and to each other." He said the event should be a day when our surrounding communities find a place they can come to join in education and inspiration.



Clay explains, "We wanted to honor Dr. King and the values he stood for. We could think of no better way to call attention to his leadership than to offer community service to others. Our goal was to make the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service a day 'on' not a day 'off.'"

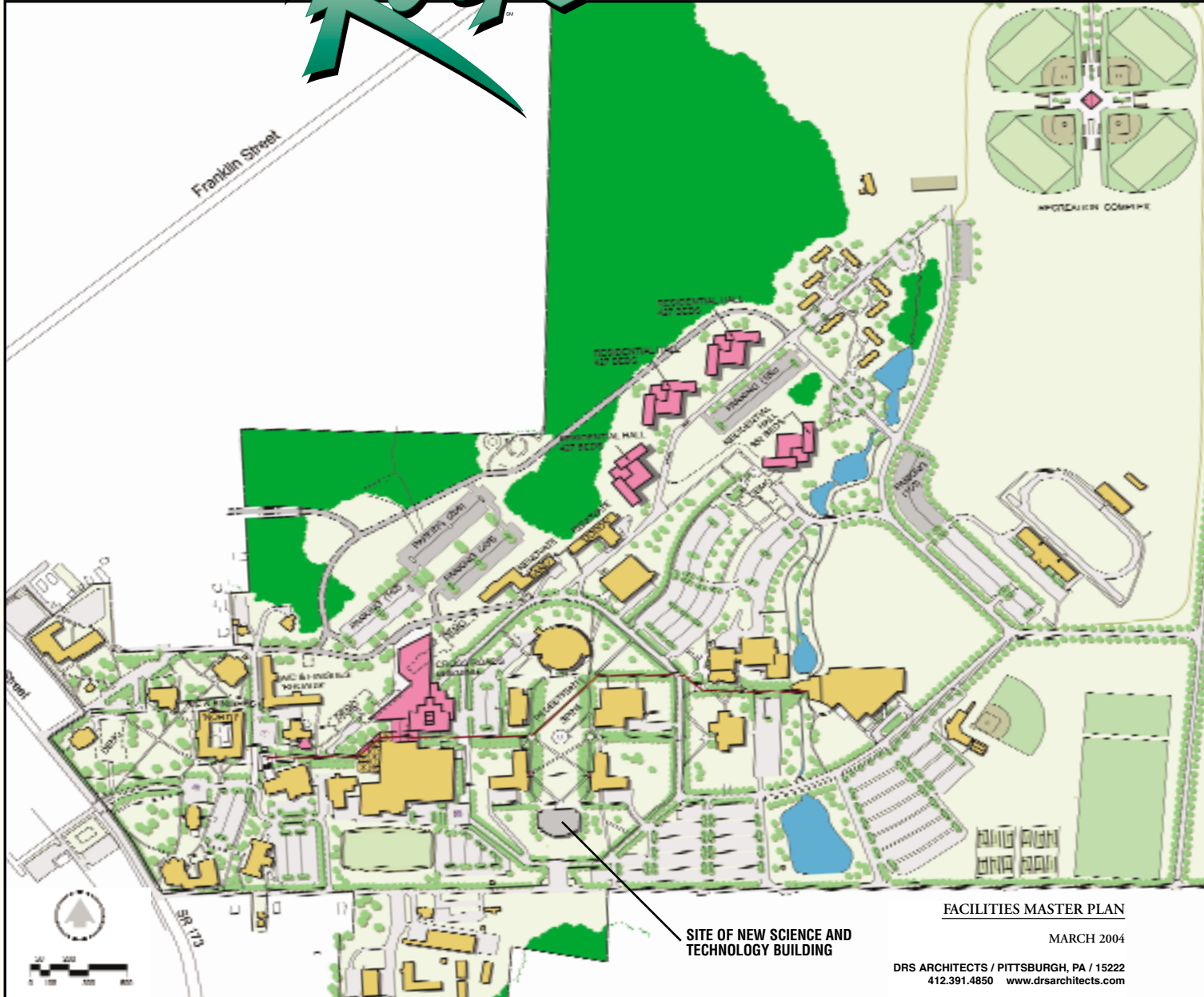


Photos by Liz Ellis



ARE YOU AN INSIDER? >>>

If the next page of this magazine is the front cover of *The Rock Insider*, you are a member of the Alumni Association, or you have been chosen at random to preview a copy of *The Rock Insider*. If the next page is page 31, you're missing out on class notes, information about Alumni Reunion Weekend, Upcoming Events, Rock Alumni Around the Globe, and other alumni news. *The Rock Insider* is the official alumni publication of the Slippy Rock University Alumni Association and is sent exclusively to members of the Association. To start getting your copy of *The Rock Insider*, call 1-800-GET-ROCK or e-mail us at alumni@sru.edu.



Magenta buildings show where new residence halls and a university union/performing arts center (Crossroads Building) will be built under a long-range plan. The gray building marks the new Science and Technology Building, scheduled for construction this year.

\$83 million building plan presented to University trustees

Discussions began this spring on an \$83 million building plan when administrators presented the proposal to the University trustees. Components include four new residence halls with suite-style bedrooms and a new university union/performing arts center (Crossroads Building).

“We will have to continue an aggressive plan of transformation if we are to meet the needs of the students we want to attract to SRU,” Interim President Smith said.

DRS Architects is developing the master plan for construction, scheduled for implementation over the next nine years. Four new residents halls would occupy land behind Founders Hall. Eventually, SRU would demolish Founders and renovate Dodds, Rhoads, Bard and North halls. Tearing down Patterson and Harner would make room for a university union/performing arts center adjacent to Morrow Field House. Smith envisions the new building becoming the center of campus, linking classroom buildings to the historic section of campus. Other components:

- An education building would likely occupy the Miller site after completion of the performing arts complex.
- Construction of an intramural sports complex at Branchton and Harmony roads, near the Slippery Rock Township building. It would include baseball and soccer fields, a sand volleyball lot and jogging trail.

Campus projects to be completed this summer include a new pedestrian corridor through a highly used area of campus that will make it “one of the most appealing sections of campus,” Smith said.

Interim President Smith receives national student-retention award

For his commitment to the success of first-year students, Interim President Smith has been named one of 10 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocates in the nation by the University of South Carolina's National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition and Houghton Mifflin Publishing Co.

The award, in its 15th year, honors outstanding work on behalf of first-year college students. Recipients were chosen from 235 nominations.

(<http://www.sc.edu/fye/centerinitiative/advocates/currentyear/index.html>)

The center noted that Smith has been a staunch advocate for first-year students and that his tireless work has decreased attrition and helped SRU turn eight years of enrollment decline into four consecutive years of enrollment increase – even though the university's own consultant in 1999 predicted continued drops because of poor demographics. Smith arrived in 1999. Since then, enrollment has increased from 6,803 to 7,830.

"Dr. Smith's leadership in publicly recognizing the value and significance of these efforts continually sets priorities for new initiatives and efforts at Slippery Rock," the center said on its Web site.



The McLachlan Student Health Center in Rhoads Hall promotes an optimal level of wellness. The professional staff evaluates each student's health within the context of an individual's circumstances, family, community and culture. One service: hepatitis vaccines from Nurse Patti Bintrim (right).

'Center on Disability and Health' advances national reputation for adapted physical activity

Building on its national reputation for adapted physical activity, the University will use a \$161,000 federal grant to open the "Center on Disability and Health." The resource center will help people with disabilities develop healthy lifestyles through education and daily workouts.

"A hot topic today is obesity, and people with disabilities are even more vulnerable, leading to secondary conditions such as diabetes and heart disease," Dr. Robert Arnhold, professor of exercise and rehabilitative science and center coordinator, says. "If we get people healthy and active now, we'll reduce a lot of secondary health conditions, and we'll save on healthcare costs."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided the grant working with U.S. Rep. Phil English, of Erie. The on-campus outreach center will open later this year.

The center targets those with disabilities and their families. It will provide parent and teacher training, printed materials, professional contacts and exercise programs six days a week.

Students to benefit from health center study

The American College Health Association has awarded Slippery Rock University's McLachlan Student Health Center one of two national needs assessment grants which are being used to conduct a review of the center's operation related to building and strengthening capacity to prevent infection and outline other important health problems among youth.

The grant is part of ACHA's Building Healthy Campus Communities Project, a cooperative agreement between the organization and the Division of Adolescent and School Health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Once the process, which is already under way with focus groups and staff interviews is completed, we will have more tools to work with students in providing information about HIV infection as well as other sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies," said Linda Beatty, health center director. "I see this as an opportunity for myself and our staff to expand our knowledge and to learn new ways of transmitting information to students."

Agreement with YSU opens opportunities for engineering students

Current and potential Slippery Rock University students interested in studying engineering now have additional choices following the signing of an articulation agreement with Youngstown State University's Rayen College School of Engineering and Technology.

The agreement signed by YSU President David C. Sweet and Interim President Smith creates a "3+2 program" that allows undergraduate students to spend their first three years studying at SRU, including work in physics, before being admitted to YSU to complete their engineering studies.

Up to a dozen students are initially expected to open the program.



Returning alumni will notice 30 new banners on Campus Loop and Kiester Road, all of them promoting Rock Pride. There are three different banners. The Rock Rowdies fan club placed its lion logo on one. Another features an "S" and represents athletics. The third says "Slippery Rock University."



Communication students impress New York Communication Association

Public relations majors Andrea Romo (seated, far right) and Jeffrey Milliner (seated at middle) so impressed leaders of the New York State Communication Association during a research conference that members appointed them to leadership positions in the New York association. Members appointed Romo director of advertising and public relations, selecting her over faculty and graduate students at other universities. Milliner was appointed student representative. With them (seated) is SRU's Dr. James Laux, associate professor of communication, and student Jacquie Ward. Standing are students Charla Vogel and Autumn Kenrick. Students presented research at the conference.

Automated Call Center to boost donations

A new "Automated Call Center" increases efficiency in contacting alumni and friends and provides opportunities for increasing awareness of on-campus programs and projects.

The center allows student workers to contact alumni for gifts more efficiently by pre-dialing the calls and providing the student caller with information about alumni, such as where they work. The data helps personalize calls.

Maltby Center houses the eight-station center, headed by George F. McDowell, assistant director for University Advancement.

"Last year, SRU alumni and friends gave \$1.12 million for University programs through the Annual Fund," McDowell said. "These are gifts helping provide scholarships for students, program enhancements and library resources beyond the standard state legislative funding."

Alumni and friends may call 1-800-GET-ROCK to reach the Alumni Association, or 1-888 SRU-6389 for Advancement Services Office, or they can download www.srufnd.org.

Senior 'pops the question' at graduation rehearsal

During winter graduation rehearsal, senior Nathan Pfeiffer surprised his girlfriend Amanda Nesbit by proposing in front of hundreds of other students, who shouted, "Yes, Yes, Yes."

Pfeiffer took the stage under the guise of delivering remarks to fellow graduates. He asked his girlfriend to join him, dropped to one knee and presented a ring, a white gold princess cut with sapphires.

Nesbit said "yes," sealed with a kiss. Students cheered.

"I like big moments to remember events," Pfeiffer told the Butler Eagle.

Pfeiffer and Nesbit have been a couple since their senior year at Plum High School. Both majored in elementary education. Both graduated in December. Both work as instructional aids for the Penn Hills School District.



School of Business students qualify for national American Express finals

The three-student American Express Planning Invitational Team qualified for the national finals to be held at the company's Minneapolis headquarters April 21-24. Rock finalists were Jesse Cline of Somerset, Jim Kuminkoski of Prospect and Joe Yamrozik of Pittsburgh.

Thirty-one schools from across the U.S. competed by preparing a comprehensive financial plan integrating six areas of personal finance planning: investment planning, insurance planning, tax planning, retirement planning, employee benefits and estate planning. Finalists were selected based on accuracy of calculations, definitions and use of financial planning concepts, strategies, creativity and appearance.

'IN MEMORIAM: A REQUIEM FOR FRED ROGERS' GRABS NATIONAL HEADLINES

Publicity for the world premiere of "In Memoriam: A Requiem for Fred Rogers" reached across the nation. *The Associated Press*, *Houston Chronicle*, *USA Today*, *New York Times* as well as local newspapers and television stations posted stories about the requiems honoring the late Fred Rogers.



National Public Radio broadcast an eight-minute segment featuring music and an interview with composer Luke Mayernik. *Pittsburgh Catholic*, which circulates throughout the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, also publicized the requiem, and the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* published a front-page picture of SRU freshman Ellen Gross, who played chimes.

Nearly 1,300 people attended the two performances by SRU's Concert Choir and Symphony Orchestra, at St. Justin Church in Mount Washington and Butler County Community College.

Former "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" cast members Chuck Aber (Neighbor Aber), Maggie Stewart (Mayor Maggie) and Joe Negri (Handyman Negri) participated.

FRESHMAN APPEARS ON 'PRICE IS RIGHT'

Kim Smith, a freshman sprinter on the Slippery Rock University women's track and field team, appeared on "The Price Is Right" television game show in March. She won two chairs, a washer and dryer, \$1,000 and an outdoor shed.

Smith, a native of Girard, was in California with her teammates to compete in a pair of competitions. She was selected from the studio audience in attendance at the show's taping, SRU head track and field coach John Papa said.

"The Price Is Right," now in its 31st season, is the longest running game show in television history. The March 1, 2004, show was the 6,000th in the show's history; the first show aired on Sept. 1972. The show is hosted and directed by Bob Barker, the winner of 12 Daytime Emmy awards.

NEW CASTLE NEWS PROFILES SRU PROFESSOR ABBASS ALKHAFAJI

After the American military captured Saddam Hussein, the *New Castle News* published a front-page story about SRU professor and Iraqi native Dr. Abbas Alkhafaji, who shared his observations about Iraq after visiting The United Arab Emirates.

The business professor told the News, "I'm hoping to see a free and democratic Iraq where there are free elections...so we can build a modern country."

FOSSILS ILLUMINATE BOTANICAL LEGACY, PROVIDE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *Butler Eagle* published stories about 70 new fossils on campus, bequeathed in his will by Louis Souzer, a former SRU biology major. Souzer and his wife Ann collected the fossils on their Mercer County farm over many years.



The newspapers quoted SRU biology Professor Dr. Thomas Gaither, who taught Souzer.

Gaither estimated the fossils' age at 320 million years and said biology and geology students will use them for research and class work.

BUTLER EAGLE OUTLINES BUILDING PLANS

The *Butler Eagle* ran a two-day package overviewing SRU's \$83-million building plans, including new residence halls and the possibility of a new student union/performing arts center.

Interim President Smith told reporter Kris Miller initial plans call for four residence halls in the area behind Founders Hall, with the eventual demolition of Patterson, Founders and Harner halls.

DRS Architects has developed a comprehensive housing study to cover the next nine years.

MEDIA COVER NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT

Sports and Spokes, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and the *Butler Eagle* sent a photographer and writer to campus in March to cover the 30th National Women's Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament, held in the Robert N. Aebersold Student Recreation Center.



The tournament shed light on SRU's national reputation for helping people with disabilities. Eleven teams competed. Local coverage focused on the Steel City Starz, which includes SRU student Diana Helt and SRU graduate Norah Schneider. Players from other states loved SRU's accommodations.

"The facilities were top of the line, and the space and service were excellent," said Joyce Prakke, a player for the Orlando Ice. "It was one of the best tournaments we have been to."

PG PROFILES ART PROFESSOR DICK WUKICH

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* profiled art Professor Dick Wukich and the Potters for Peace organization after Wukich spent 11 days in Iraq.

The group's mission was finding clean water for those without it in Iraq. Wukich examined the clay and filler with which Iraqi potters work. He brought home a small amount of the clay and some native bricks.

"Eleven thousand children die every day from bad water," Wukich told the PG.

The Associated Press picked up an abbreviated version of the story for its wires.

SUSTAINABILITY MOVEMENT LEADER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Organic farmer Ron Gargas, co-founder of the Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research, received this year's Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award. The *New Castle News* profiled Gargas, and columnist Mitchel Olszak wrote a column that started on the front page.

Gargas donated the \$1,000 prize to the Macoskey Center.

Gargas, still an adjunct professor, taught at SRU from 1990 to 1994. He was former President Jimmy Carter's conservation director.

SRU professor finds: communication is key in Africa University or SRU

For Dr. Barbara Blackstone, associate communication professor, few teaching experiences have been so difficult, or paid so great a reward as spending five months in Africa at Zimbabwe's Africa University.

Blackstone, who first visited Africa in the 1980s, spent August-December as a visiting professor and says despite all of the problems — 300 percent inflation, large scale, abject poverty, political unrest and disease — “I'd go back in a minute.”

The 1,500-student, undergraduate and master's degree-granting university is United Methodist Church supported. Its Web site offering is similar to SRU's, including photos, an on-line application form, a look at internship programs, and points out “campus buildings are red brick structures with tiled roofs in harmony with the surroundings.” African University students come from 25 countries on the continent. Many see education as a way out of poverty, explains Blackstone.

At AU, Blackstone taught some 200-plus students in “Communication Skills” classes, similar to a combination of SRU's “Research Writing” and “Public Speaking” courses.

“After breaking students of the unrelenting habit of quoting others without attribution, the course went very well. Mid-term papers found only one student failing proper attribution, and many explored topics similar to my SRU students. The final assignment called for a ‘problem-solving speech’ and research paper. Their topics included saving the soil, the trees, the wildlife, and the tourist industry. Others examined the ‘girl-child’s rights across

Africa,’ prospects for an African Union similar to the European Union, consequences of AIDS, preservation of a diminishing free press, and Zimbabwe's return to an agricultural-based economic foundation.”

She says the papers were excellent and the work focused. “However, I really enjoyed the earlier assignment calling for an ‘informative speech’ where the topics ranged from ‘How to Hunt the Wild Pig and Warthog,’ ‘Secret Societies’ Rituals [witchcraft] in Malawi’ to ‘Africa’s Three Addictions: Children to TV; Students to the Internet; and Adults to Cell Phones.’ ”

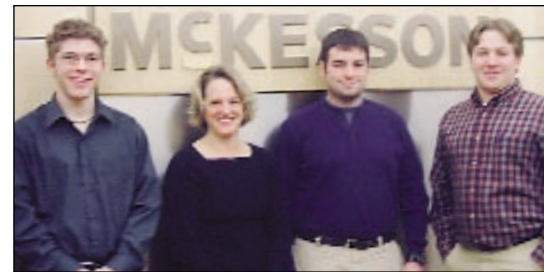
The visit was not all teaching; Blackstone found herself learning too, as she visited with students and rode daily with fellow educators to the campus from nearby Mutare, Zimbabwe's third largest city with a population of 160,000. “The country is run by President Robert Mugabe, a dictator. While he helped bring about peace following 15 years of war, many of his policies are failing — especially agriculture and the economic situation is worsening. While I was there the price of sugar, a major Zimbabwe crop, increased 300 percent due to export controls; tuition increased equally. Zimbabwe must export sugar to secure hard currency to buy oil and food. The salary level is low: One teaching assistant was promised 1,000 Zim-dollars per hour — after taxes she would work two hours to purchase a Coke.”

“Drought, the spread of AIDS, governmental oppression, including newspapers, are additional daily problems,” says Blackstone, adding, “However, the dedication of students and their interest in learning made the hardships worth the trip. The experience was fascinating. My SRU students will hear about the visit throughout spring — and coming semesters.”

Dr. Blackstone joined the SRU communication department in 1970.

Shadow Day for computer science students

Lori Jashinski, manager of software development at Cranberry's McKesson Inc., (second from left) joined three of eight



SRU students, including (from left,) Matt Beilstein of Slippery Rock, Greg Barker of McKeesport and Brian Decima of Pittsburgh at the company offices where students shadowed company officials for the day as part of a computer science department program. Managers at McKesson provided job-specific examples of job requirements related to design, software analysis, implementation, testing, deployment and maintenance of company products. Students toured the company's testing facility in Thornhill and were shown products, including a robot for automated dispensation of medications in hospitals. Vice President of Software Development Phil Spano offered a one-hour session on the skill sets, qualities and knowledge needed for a successful career in the software industry. Other SRU students shadowed officials at Highmark and the Pirates baseball club.

School of Business students qualify for Am-Ex Nationals

The three-member SRU's School of Business American Express Planning Invitational team have qualified for the national finals to be held at the company's Minneapolis headquarters.

The finalists are: Jesse Cline of Somerset, Jim Kuminkoski of Prospect and Joe Yamrozik of Pittsburgh.

Thirty-one schools from across the U.S. competed in Phase 1 by preparing a comprehensive financial plan integrating the six areas of personal finance planning — investment planning, insurance planning, tax planning, retirement planning, employee benefits and estate planning — from a case profile presented by AE. Eight teams will compete in the finals, where they will update their plan.





A Name as Good as Gold

NO QUESTION, THE PUBLIC VIEWS SRU AS A PREMIER UNIVERSITY FOR TEACHER PREPARATION, EVEN THOSE FROM THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY

When SRU College of Education Dean Dr. Jay Hertzog recently visited his college daughter Stephanie in Los Angeles, he found out just how well word of his college has been dispatched.

He provides details of the story with relish:

“One of my hobbies is collecting old magazines, especially those with clippings related to the Kennedy assassinations, so when I spotted ‘Book Castle’s Movie World,’ a 30-year business touting a large collection of movie memorabilia, old newspapers, and back-issue magazines, I had to go in.”

After locating several “must-have” items, Hertzog joined the checkout line. A young man ahead of him asked the cashier, “Is there a student discount?” and was politely told, “No.” With a bit of humor, the dean asked, “Is there a faculty discount?” to which the clerk responded, “Where are you a faculty member?”

Thinking few in California would know the name “Slippery Rock University,” he responded, “A small university in Pennsylvania.”

The clerk pressed, “No, really, where?”

When Hertzog replied, “Slippery Rock University,” a smile filled the clerk’s face: “Yes, they have a fine teacher’s education program.”

The education dean has retained an ear-to-ear smile ever since.

‘Permanent Record’ takes on new meaning for education majors through TaskStream

The meaning of “permanent record” is changing dramatically for SRU education majors with the College of Education’s adoption of new on-line assessment system that is helping future teachers track their success from the first day of class through their student teacher experiences.

Dr. Judy Werner, associate professor of elementary education/early childhood, brought the “TaskStream” software to the attention of the dean who then supported her and Dr. Suzanne Rose, assistant professor of elementary education/early childhood, for a fall semester pilot program. The system is being considered for collegewide adoption.

“This software offers students learning tools to help them both prepare for their classroom duties and better understand the importance of meeting SRU, state and national teaching standards required of today’s teachers,” says Rose, who began using the Web-based system in her “Teaching Elementary Reading” course last August.

“This software allows educators to develop lesson plans and collaborate with colleagues. It also allows faculty to manage and distribute course materials, review student work and track student progress on line,” she explains, noting, if the program is adopted across the college, every student taking education courses at SRU will be part of the tracking system. “Using the system, students create Web portfolios which eventually become a permanent record of their skills and professional development all held in a central, organized location.”

“Students will develop a Web page that can be made available to potential employers. The student’s portfolios will also be available for review by others who have permission to access the information on TaskStream,” says Werner.

The biggest advantage Rose sees in the new program for faculty and teacher education majors alike is that it provides a way to keep everyone involved abreast of

assessment standards, including those required for National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education accreditation, which, Rose points out is required by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education as a way of showing the system’s teacher education programs are viable. SRU was the first teacher education program in Pennsylvania to earn five-year NCATE accreditation under its new guidelines which stress accountability.

“Students are overwhelmingly supportive of this high-tech system,” says Rose, pointing out she thinks students – and faculty — will become even more supportive as they reach their senior year and have all of the necessary materials easily accessible and in a central location on the Internet to show their progress and skill development to potential employers.

The system allows education majors to submit work for review and evaluation on-line and allows on-line grading and feedback by faculty. A major advantage of this feature is that the program can then aggregate the data for the candidate assessments, thereby providing useful data for program evaluation and accreditation reports. The TaskStream system will also allow teacher candidates to gather both “before” and “after” data from their K-12 students to show their teaching successes — or to learn from their mistakes.

Rose says the program aids in building lessons, mentoring, curriculum and computer literacy while focusing on the all-important standards that allow SRU’s teacher education programs to remain at the forefront of a rock solid education.



School of Physical Therapy; Departments of Allied Health, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Exercise and Rehabilitative Sciences, Geography, Geology and the Environment, Mathematics, Nursing, Parks and Recreation, Environmental Education, and Psychology; the Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research; the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education

Rare fossils provide picture of area's botanical legacy, many new learning opportunities

A Slippery Rock University graduate bequeathed a "rare and unique" collection of fossils to the University, providing outstanding opportunities for students to examine the plant life and geology of western Pennsylvania as it existed 320 million years ago.



Photo Credit: Butler Eagle

Biology Professor Dr. Thomas Gaither handles some of the 70 fossils a former student, the late Louis Souzer, bequeathed to SRU in his will to enhance biology and geology studies.

The late Louis Souzer, a 1977 biology graduate, and his wife Ann collected the 70 fossils on their property in Mercer County. Louis Souzer died in 2003.

The fossilized Carboniferous plants are in "particularly good shape," says SRU's Dr. Thomas Gaither, a biology professor who remembers Souzer as a student. He says the cache is rare because the pliable nature of sand seldom preserves non-woody plants.

Typically, fossils form after a rapid burial of plant or animal life in layers of mud that over millions of years harden to stone.

"How they were preserved is a scientific study in itself," says Dr. Tamra Schiappa, assistant professor of geography, geology and environment. "It's a very rare and unique collection."



Photo Credit: Butler Eagle

One of the fossilized plants, *Calamites*, is similar to the modern horsetail that still grows in the area.

\$250,000 gift to fund Storm Harbor Equestrian Center

Philanthropist Mrs. Ethel Carruth of Houston, Texas, has continued her support of Slippery Rock University by giving \$250,000 to develop the 20-acre Storm Harbor Equestrian Center on campus, providing a merge point for studies in equine therapy, biology, agriculture, green building design, farming and environment.

The center will occupy land on the Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research, near N. Kerr Thompson Stadium. Plans include stables and an indoor riding arena to advance SRU's flagship Adapted Physical Activity Program, which includes equine facilitated therapy. Students learn to use horses in developing therapeutic recreation programs for children and adults with disabilities.

SRU equestrian team members will board their horses at the center as well.

"This is a huge development for Slippery Rock University," Dr. Jane Fulton, dean of the College of Health, Environment and Science said. "The equestrian center honors our rural heritage, and it gives more credibility and visibility to our adapted physical activity minor, which is the largest in the country with 70 students."



After philanthropist Mrs. Ethel Carruth gave \$250,000 to construct Storm Harbor Equestrian Center at SRU, College of Health, Environment and Science Dean Dr. Jane Fulton (above right) brought two horses to campus for a celebration luncheon. The horses belong to Nancy Banner, SRU's equestrian instructor. They have been specially trained to work with persons with disabilities and are so gentle a girl rode bareback at the picnic. Carruth's daughter, retired SRU faculty, Carolyn Carruth Rizza (above left), attended the luncheon.



Organizers have completed two years of planning and program development and hope to start construction this summer so students will be able to have their horses boarding for the fall semester, Fulton said. Undergraduate and graduate students will use the site.

College leads by example with stop-smoking campaign

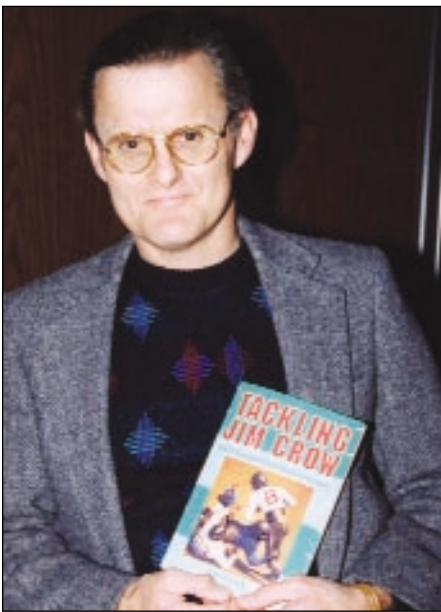
The College of Health, Environment and Science is doing its utmost to help students "kick butt." The college joined a Pennsylvania Department of Health program that offers \$1,000 renewable scholarships for students who join the state's "Students Working Against Tobacco" campaign for 2004-2005. Students plan several stop-smoking activities on campus during the school year.

The college also posted a \$300 award for developing the best campaign logo, said SRU's Dr. Jane Fulton, college dean and coordinator of SRU's Students Working Against Tobacco efforts. Part of the college's mission is promoting healthy lifestyles.

'Tackling Jim Crow: Racial Segregation in Professional Football'

HISTORY PROFESSOR ALAN LEVY TACKLES IMPORTANT SPORTS TOPIC

While most sports fans know the story of Jackie Robinson and the integration of Major League Baseball, few know the sequence of events leading to the 1946 integration of professional football. Slippery Rock University history Professor Dr. Alan Levy is helping to change that with his latest book "Tackling Jim Crow: Racial Segregation in Professional Football."



The 172-page work, available at bookstores and online, offers an in-depth study of the segregation and integration of football and of the surrounding culture and politics.

Levy, a member of the SRU faculty since 1985, conducted most of his research at the Library of Congress. His book includes photographs of some of the early African-American pro-football players, obtained through the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

"Baseball and football were integrated at much the same time. The social impact of baseball's integration was much more profound than football's," Levy explains.

"In the 1940s, football did not have nearly the fan interest it has today."

The more established sport during the segregation era, baseball had a fully formed set of African-American leagues. Levy's book details how some people tried to develop such organizations in football but were unsuccessful.

In the 1940s, racial barriers began to crumble. Levy details how "World War II presented the obvious point that the nation was fighting to end the evils of racism as carried out by Hitler, and, for at least some Americans, the maintaining of racial segregation at home was too obvious and embarrassing a contradiction."

The Cleveland Browns of the old All-America Football Conference and the Los Angeles Rams of the NFL initially broke the racial barriers in 1946. The Washington Redskins, Levy notes, was the last to integrate in 1962. The 1969 Kansas City Chiefs were the first to have a 50-50 racial mix.

SRU theater professor writes comic, psychological thriller

PLAY STAGED IN FIVE PERFORMANCES AT MILLER AUDITORIUM

Dr. David Skeele joined the SRU theater faculty to teach theater courses and direct plays. He recently added the responsibility of writing a black comic, contemporary psychological thriller students presented in five Miller Auditorium performances.

Titled "Double Bulldog," the two-act work tells of Denny Davis, played by Evan Endres of Ligonier, who dreams of being president of his neighborhood Christian militia. When the dream comes true, there is a dark turn as his charismatic, second-in-command Boyd Painter, played by Marc Epstein of Beaver Falls, raises the stakes, proposing to assassinate a Marilyn Manson-style shock-rock band he believes is corrupting American values. Davis suffers an attack of conscience, leading to a suspenseful struggle for control of the group.

Holy Cow! SRU art students selected to decorate 100-pound bovine for 'Harrisburg Cow Parade'

Most art students start with a blank canvas, but two SRU art majors – Jennifer Clugsten and Nicole Fiedler — started their latest project with a life-size blank cow as part of the world-recognized "Cow Parade" project.

Unusual, but true. The 100-pound, fiberglass cow will be part of an outdoor, public art exhibition coming to Pennsylvania's capital city Harrisburg later this year under the auspices of the Whitaker Center for Science and Arts, which launched the parade as a fund-raising event. The Whitaker serves as the center for scientific, artistic, cultural and educational activities in the Harrisburg region. Major businesses, industries and individuals throughout the capital region are sponsoring cows.

Similar, "Cow Parades" have been held in 15 cities around the world, including New York, Chicago, Houston, Las Vegas, London, Zurich and Sydney. Additional displays are planned this year for Dublin, New Zealand, Atlanta, Brussels and England.

The SRU art students say their winning design, which earned them a \$500 scholarship from M&T Bank, also made use of their photography talents as well as their artistic interests. Their design called for covering the cow with various black-and-white photographs of cows.



Art students Jennifer Clugsten (left) and Nicole Fiedler designed this fiberglass cow for "Cow Parade Harrisburg 2004," a fund-raising event in the capital region.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY ROCKS ON!

CAMPAIGN STIMULATES A CULTURE OF GIVING

Those with a sincere willingness to add value to the academic enterprise at Slippery Rock University, certainly are exhibiting the culture of giving that exists within its constituents.

Energized through The Campaign for Slippery Rock University, a 10-year effort to generate \$33 million, charitable gifts received annually have surpassed the \$3 million level during three of the last four years. Contributions during those four years total \$12,551,910, and marks the most significant period of generosity by constituents in the University's 115-year history.

"This tremendous display of support confirms that generosity is one of the fabrics woven into the culture of Slippery Rock University," said Interim President Smith. "Many of the individuals who have been leaders in crafting our culture have stated that 'giving is something that is not taught

here, but is caught at Slippery Rock.' Slippery Rock University students are, indeed, fortunate that so many of our constituents realize charitable gifts add the margin of excellence for their educational opportunities."

The Campaign for Slippery Rock University began as an effort to generate \$11 million during a five-year period. The goal of the campaign was increased to \$33 million within 10-years due to the overwhelming response that surpassed the \$11 million goal in the first 18 months. To date, \$14,913,744 has been contributed and committed.

Individuals have accounted for more than \$9 million, representing 64 percent of the total realized to date. Friends of Slippery Rock University have gifted and committed nearly \$5.7 million – 38 percent of current total. Gifts and commitments from alumni total nearly \$3.9 million or 26 percent of the total.

In addition, the corporate community has provided a total of \$4.5 million or 30 percent of the campaign total. And some 6 percent of the total, \$882,459, was gifted by foundations and other organizations.

The Campaign for Slippery Rock University has three featured objectives:

- \$17 million for portions of capital projects, including a new Science and Technology Building, Performing Arts Center, Regional Learning Alliance in Pittsburgh's North Hills, and a crossroads building that will provide computer labs, study areas and student service facilities. Gifts will also fund enhancements to existing buildings, including McKay Education Building.
- \$8 million for scholarship endowment to enable Slippery Rock University to recruit academically deserving students and to offer a college education to those students who might not otherwise be able to afford it.
- \$8 million for academic excellence, including an Honors College, new and enhanced academic programs, and technology upgrades.

SHIRING FUND WILL HELP EDUCATION MAJORS

Family and friends of Mark A. Shiring have established the Mark A. Shiring Teacher Education Fund at Slippery Rock University. Students majoring in elementary, secondary or special education within the College of Education will benefit from the fund.

The fund will help students who need financial assistance for special travel opportunities, conferences and out-of-class projects that enrich their preparation for the teaching profession.

The fund is established in memory of Mr. Shiring, professor emeritus of curriculum and instruction. He served Slippery Rock University students 27 years from 1960 to 1987 following his teaching tenure in the Butler Area School District.

Additional tax deductible gifts may be directed to the Mark A. Shiring Teacher Education Fund at Slippery Rock University.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

GOAL: \$33 MILLION

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| FRIENDS | \$ 5,669,317 | 38.00% |
| CORPORATIONS | \$ 4,495,297 | 30.15% |
| ALUMNI | \$ 3,866,670 | 25.93% |
| FOUNDATIONS | \$ 658,539 | 4.42% |
| ORGANIZATIONS | \$ 223,921 | 1.50% |
| TOTALS | \$14,913,744 | 100% |
| | (45.19% OF GOAL) | |

CAMPUS SADDENED BY DEATH OF ETHEL CARRUTH

“The entire Slippery Rock University community is deeply saddened to learn of the death of its longtime friend, benefactors and moving force on campus, Mrs. Ethel Carruth. We will all miss her leadership, dedication and enthusiasm for Slippery Rock University,” said Interim President Smith on learning of Mrs. Carruth’s April 17 death.

Mrs. Carruth, 81, mother to Dr. Carolyn Carruth Rizza, and mother-in-law to Dr. Paul Rizza, both professors emeritus at SRU, died in Houston, Texas.

Honorary chair of The Campaign for Slippery Rock University, a 10-year effort to generate \$33 million in private gifts, Mrs. Carruth served as a leader in the on-going campaign by helping launch it with a \$2.5 million gift to help restore a campus landmark. The building is now known as Paul and Carolyn Carruth Rizza Hall, in honor of her daughter and son-in-law who served SRU during a combined total of 52 years. Mrs. Carruth’s gift is the largest ever received by SRU.

“A very generous benefactor, Mrs. Carruth did not attend Slippery Rock University, but through Carolyn and Paul’s long tenure, saw the need and the potential of our students and agreed to graciously lend her support. During her last visit to campus, Mrs. Carruth enthusiastically visited with students, faculty and staff and beamed with pride at knowing she was both helping build our

reputation and helping students,” Smith added.

In addition, Mrs. Carruth in February gifted \$250,000 for the creation of what has been named the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center. The facility, that will be built on a 20-acre site on the east side of campus, will allow students to learn about and to implement equine-facilitated therapy within the adapted physical activity and therapeutic recreation program.

SRU trustees enthusiastically expressed their gratitude for Mrs. Carruth’s latest gift by naming the equestrian center for Carolyn’s award-winning show horse.



Ethel Carruth
1922 – 2004

“Mrs. Carruth’s kindness and generosity will forever impact Slippery Rock University. Her leadership in philanthropy has helped establish a culture of giving at the University that would not have been possible without her. Mrs. Carruth’s greatness was her kindness and her compassion. The University has lost a great friend. She will be missed, and we extend our deepest sympathy to her family,” said Robert Mollenhauer, vice president for university advancement.

“Mrs Carruth’s gift of the equestrian center will have an impact on the lives of so many for years to come,” said Dr. Jane Fulton, dean of the College of Health, Environment and Science, “We will remember her with great fondness.” The center will be housed in Fulton’s college.

In announcing her \$2.5 million commitment to SRU, Mrs. Carruth said, “My prayer for the University is that the Lord will continue to guide, direct, and bless Slippery Rock University, and that all of the young people who pass through here will acquire a love of learning, love of their fellow man, and love for all of earth’s creatures. We also hope that they will be led to give back to the University, their community, and the world out of the bounty they have received.”

Those words are engraved on a bronze plaque that is permanently displayed in the portico of the main entrance to Carruth Rizza Hall.

Mrs. Carruth was awarded the Eberly Medal for Philanthropy by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education in honor of her significant generosity to SRU. Also, Mrs. Carruth and her family endowed the Ralph Emerson Greasley Memorial Scholarship at SRU in honor of her father.

Mrs. Carruth’s late husband, Allen H. “Buddy” Carruth, was a managing partner for the John L. Wortham Insurance Co. One of his mentors was Gus Wortham, who founded the Wortham Foundation, one of the largest philanthropic foundations in the country. A fountain in Carruth Rizza Hall serves as a permanent memorial to Mr. Carruth.

COEN FOUNDATION CREATES SCHOLARSHIP

The long-time efforts of a Washington County businessman and his wife to help young people obtain an education has reached students attending Slippery Rock University.

The Charles S. and Mary Coen Family Foundation gifted \$50,000 to establish the Charles S. and Mary Coen Scholarship that will support the educational objectives of students with a major in one of the nine academic departments within the College of Health, Environment, and Science.

Charles S. Coen, founder of Coen Oil Co., established the foundation Jan. 10, 1959. But even before that, he helped young people out of his own pocket, according to his son Charles R. Coen. “Although he was a great businessman, Dad did not have the opportunity to attend college,” he said. “It was something he always valued very highly and wanted to help as many young people as possible get a college education.”

Charles S. Coen died in 1983, his wife, Mary, died in 1982.

LIFE-ESTATE WILL ENDOW YARGER SCHOLARSHIP

James “Flash” Yarger, best-known in the local area, with his late wife, Linda, as former owners of Ye Olde Camera Shoppe in downtown Slippy Rock and as a longtime contract photographer for University Public Relations and the Office of Sports Information, has given back to the University by providing for the Flash and Linda C. Yarger Endowed Scholarship for geoscience and music majors.

In 2000, the Yargers established an annual scholarship that continues to

support deserving students majoring in geoscience.

Yarger, a 1970 graduate who lives in Durham, N.C., is supporting The Campaign for Slippy Rock University through a life-estate plan that enabled him to gift his



James “Flash” Yarger

\$130,000 townhouse to the Slippy Rock University Foundation, Inc. The life-estate plan allows him to live in the townhouse for life. Following settlement of his estate, the foundation will sell the townhouse and fund the Yarger Endowed Scholarship with the sale proceeds.

“While other benefactors have funded gifts to the campaign with real estate, Mr. Yarger is the first to make a gift of his home and receive the immediate tax benefits provided by a life-estate plan,” explains George F. McDowell, director of the SRU Annual Fund. “We appreciate

their previous contributions as well as this latest gift. Clearly, this consistent support demonstrates Mr. Yarger has not forgotten his Slippy Rock roots.”

Yarger says he acknowledged the advantages of the life-estate plan and wanted some way he and his wife, who also attended classes at SRU, would be remembered. “The purpose of the gift is to help someone else obtain the Slippy Rock University experience that both Linda and I shared,” explains Yarger, adding that his wife was part of all business undertakings.

AUTOMATED CALLS BOOST PHILANTHROPIC, PROGRAM SUPPORT

Slippy Rock University has further expanded its use of technology by implementing an Automated Call Center that increases efficiency in contacting alumni and friends and provides opportunities for increasing awareness of on-campus programs and projects.

Lead by George F. McDowell, director of the SRU Annual Fund, the eight-station ACC is located in Maltby Center and allows students or staff to contact alumni making use of automated dialing. The high-tech system links callers with data about the individuals being contacted to help personalize the call.

“This new system opened Jan. 26 and allows us to speed up our fundraising and tele-fundraising,” explains McDowell. The Annual Fund is

a yearly program that contacts SRU alumni with requests for philanthropic support to specific priority programs and projects.

“Last year, alumni and friends gave \$1.12 million for University programs through the fund. These gifts help provide scholarships for students, program enhancements and library resources beyond the standard state legislative funding. They

allow the University to be distinctive in its academic offerings,” McDowell explains.

The call center allows students to contact alumni for gifts more efficiently by pre-dialing the calls and providing the student caller with a screen of information about the person being contacted. “We can try to steer a graduate’s gift to their specific area of interest,” says McDowell, explaining, “We can ask a biology graduate for a

contribution to a new microscope fund, or a computer science graduate for a gift to the new Science and Technology Building.” The system reshuffles calls resulting in busy signals or that are unanswered or picked up by home answering machines.

Students who traditionally make the gift solicitation calls from campus also update alumni about other campus events, including upcoming cultural and athletic events, McDowell says, adding the ACC will be used by the SRU Alumni Association in seeking new and renewed memberships as well as calls to regional alumni about major upcoming campus events, homecoming and alumni weekend. It also will be used to provide information to prospective students and their families.



Calling Center

GROVE CITY COUNTY MARKET SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

Dave and Vicki Knopp, owners of Grove City County Market, a well-recognized, community-oriented grocery, have endowed the Grove City County Market Scholarship with a gift of \$25,000 to The Campaign for Slippery Rock University. It is the second scholarship established by the couple to help area students attend SRU.

“Slippery Rock University is indeed fortunate and proud to count Dave and Vicki Knopp among its friends and benefactors, said Interim President Smith. “Already the David and Victoria Knopp

Scholarship has provided thousands of dollars in support of Grove City County Market employees and their families pursuing an education at Slippery Rock University. The culture of giving at Slippery Rock University was initiated by caring individuals Dave and Vicki.”

The Grove City County Market Endowed Scholarship will provide financial assistance to students matriculating to SRU from Grove City, Mercer and Slippery Rock school districts who demonstrate dedication and perseverance in their academic work. It will be available to first-year students regardless of their academic

major beginning in the fall.

The endowed scholarship is further evidence of Grove City County Market’s community spirit. With more than 85 percent of undergraduates in



Dave and Vicki Knopp

need of financial aid to attend the University, scholarship support provided by alumni and friends is critical.

“Vicki and I are pleased to permanently endow this scholarship to encourage the academic initiatives of area students,” said Dave Knopp, a member of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc., board of directors. “This July will mark the 20th year the Grove City County Market has served the area. “We are remodeling the store for customer convenience, and we will continue to find ways to better serve area residents,” said Knopp.

SCHOLARSHIPS IS FOCUS FOR CORAOPOLIS WOLVES CLUB

They have different career pursuits. They range in age from 20s to their 80s. Some live in town, while others make their homes in suburban areas. Some are college graduates, and others entered the workforce immediately after high school graduation.

But the 28 members of the Wolves Club of Coraopolis are united by their goal to make a college education possible for students. This organization believes strongly in the academic mission of Slippery

Rock University and has established an endowed scholarship program through its gifts totaling \$70,000.

The Coraopolis group is part of the National Association of



David Scappe, president and Ross Pisano, scholarship chairman

Wolves that is comprised of 14 dens within four districts throughout western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. “Pro Bono Publica,” a Latin phrase meaning “for the good of the public,” guides their efforts. The act of giving and offering help to those in need is the character of the main objective of the organization.

The Wolves Club of Coraopolis Scholarship Program at Slippery Rock University is available to students matriculating from Cornell, Montour, Moon and

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart high schools. Each award has a value of \$10,000 and is provided annually in \$2,500 increments.

Established in 1954, the Coraopolis Wolves Club has awarded more than \$410,000 in scholarships to talented and deserving students. David Scappe serves as president, Mario Lacenere as vice president, Tom Lattanzio, secretary, and Dick Wolfe, treasurer. Ross Pisano serves as scholarship chairman and as a national director.

ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS BENEFITS FROM STRACKA SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS

A \$50,000 commitment from a 1980 alumnus has endowed an academic scholarship and an athletic scholarship.

The Jim Stracka Scholarship in Computer Science and the Chip Shearer Baseball Scholarship have been endowed by Jim Stracka, chief executive officer of W5 Technologies, Inc.,

of Spring, Texas. Stracka is also a member of the President’s Advisory Council at Slippery Rock University.

Beginning in the 2004 academic year, rising seniors who are full-time students majoring in computer science will benefit from the \$1,000 annual awards based on academic achievement.

Stracka was one of the first computer science degree graduates from SRU. “I

continue to have great respect for my mentor Dr. Sharad Joshi,” he said. Dr. Joshi currently serves as chair of the computer science department. Stracka added, “Attending Slippery Rock was an impulsive decision for me, but it was a great experience.”

Half of Stracka’s gift will also endow The Chip Shearer Baseball Scholarship that was established on an annual basis by

Shearer’s family in 1980 in memory of Richard “Chip” Shearer, one of Stracka’s close friends who was killed in an automobile accident while returning to SRU at the start of his second year.

The Shearer Baseball Scholarship will provide financial assistance to generations of deserving student-athletes participating on The Rock baseball team.

athletics



Student-athletes excel in classroom

Members of Rock athletic teams personified the scholar-athlete ethic last fall by attaining grade-point averages that compare favorably to the University's student body as a whole.

During the fall semester of 2003, 14 of The Rock's 23 intercollegiate varsity athletic teams attained a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher, which translates to a "B" average.

As a group, Rock student-athletes achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.935 on a 4.0 scale. Female student-athletes recorded a 3.126 GPA, while male student-athletes had a group GPA of 2.761.

SRU's student body as a whole attained a 2.928 GPA during the fall semester; female students attained a 3.069 GPA and male students attained a 2.750.

The Rock women's tennis team, the reigning Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and NCAA Division II East Regional champions, had a team GPA of 3.333 to lead the student-athlete group.

SRU's women's track and field team, also the reigning PSAC champions, attained a 3.257 GPA, followed by women's field hockey at 3.244; men's tennis at 3.236; women's volleyball at 3.218 and women's cross country at 3.216.

Approximately 25 percent of The Rock's 473 intercollegiate student-athletes attained GPA's of 3.5 or higher during the fall semester, with 7 percent holding a perfect 4.0, and just less than 50 percent of the student-athletes had GPA's of 3.0 or higher.

Slippery Rock University currently has the third highest number of intercollegiate varsity sports among NCAA Division II institutions in the nation, behind only California-Davis – which has 25 sports and will move to Division I status in 2004-05 – and Mercyhurst (24 sports).

THE ROCK'S 14 ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OF ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

The following 14 Rock intercollegiate sports teams achieved cumulative grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher during fall semester 2003:

| Sport | S-A | GPA | 4.0 | 3.5-3.99 |
|---------------------------|-----|-------|-----|----------|
| Women's tennis | 9 | 3.333 | 1 | 3 |
| Women's track and field * | 43 | 3.257 | 6 | 8 |
| Women's field hockey | 18 | 3.244 | 2 | 6 |
| Men's tennis | 8 | 3.236 | 1 | 2 |
| Women's volleyball | 17 | 3.218 | 1 | 5 |
| Women's cross country | 17 | 3.216 | 2 | 2 |
| Women's softball | 23 | 3.166 | 2 | 6 |
| Men's cross country | 12 | 3.088 | 2 | 2 |
| Women's basketball | 17 | 3.083 | 3 | 2 |
| Men's track and field * | 40 | 3.005 | 5 | 7 |
| Men's wrestling ** | 19 | 3.000 | 1 | 4 |
| Women's water polo *** | 14 | 3.000 | 2 | 0 |

STUDENT-ATHLETE TOTALS:

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|----|----|
| Women's sports | 202 | 3.126 | 22 | 38 |
| Men's sports | 271 | 2.761 | 12 | 33 |
| TOTAL | 473 | 2.935 | 34 | 71 |

STUDENT BODY:

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Women | 3.069 |
| Men | 2.750 |
| Overall | 2.928 |

* Indoor and outdoor teams combined

** Rounded up from actual average of 2.986

*** Rounded up from actual average of 2.959

S-A = number of student-athletes on that athletic team

GPA = Cumulative grade-point average during fall semester 2003

4.0 = Student-athletes who attained perfect 4.0 GPA during semester

3.5-3.99 = Student-athletes who attained GPA of 3.5 to 3.99 during semester



Sarah Arsenault



Meghan McGrath



Carrie Osborne



Amber McFeely



Stacey Green

Arsenault, McGrath named to first-team All-America honors

SARAH ARSENAULT and **MEGHAN MCGRATH**, the mainstays of The Rock's first-ever Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference championship team last fall, earned first-team All-America honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

The duo are the first two players in the 11-year history of Rock women's soccer to be named to the top honor and are the third and fourth players in the program's history to earn All-America status.

MAUREEN ENNIS was a second-team selection in 2001 as a midfielder and **SONYA MAHER** was a third-team selection as a midfielder in 1999.

Prior being named to All-America honors this fall, Arsenault was named as the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference "Athlete of the Year" and earned both first-team All-Northeast Region and All-PSAC honors for the third successive season. She also set the SRU career and single-season goals scored and points records last fall.

McGrath, prior to earning All-America and all-region honors, was named as the PSAC "Rookie of the Year" and earned first-team All-PSAC honors.

Rock head coach Noreen Herlihy, the PSAC "Coach of the Year" this fall, added the NSCAA Northeast Region "Coach of the Year" honor to her collection.

The honors came in the wake of the most successful season in Rock women's soccer history. In addition to winning the program's inaugural PSAC regular-season and playoff championships, the 2003 Rock squad compiled a best-ever 15-3-2 won-lost record and earned the second NCAA regional tournament berth in three seasons.

Osborne named as Assistant to Athletic Director

CARRIE OSBORNE, an SRU assistant women's basketball coach since 1996, was named in December as an Assistant to the Athletic Director at The Rock.

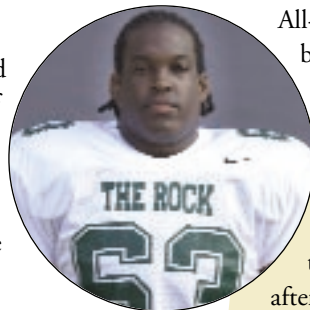
Her primary responsibilities will be in the area of athletic fund-raising. She will also continue to coordinate the Athletic Academic Advisement program, a role she has filled for the past three years, as well as oversee the SRU Camps and Conferences operation.

Osborne is a 1995 graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She received a master's degree in Sport Management from SRU and was named as an Outstanding Graduate Student in 2001.

She joins an athletic administration staff headed by Director of Athletics Paul Lueken that also includes Associate Director of Athletics Dr. Robertha Abney and Assistant to the A.D. Jeff Michaels.

Ricks earns Football Gazette All-America honor

Rock football standout **BILL RICKS** was named to honorable mention



All-America honors by Don Hansen's Football Gazette.

A senior center from Connellsville, Ricks received the honor shortly after being named to first-team All-Northeast Regional honors by the Football Gazette. He was also named to Daktronics all-region first-team honors in voting by the region's sports information directors and first-team All-PSAC-Western Division honors by the conference's coaches.

McFeely, Green reach milestones

Rock women's basketball standouts **AMBER MCFEELY** and **STACEY GREEN** reached significant milestones in the final game of the 2003-04 season.

McFeely, a sophomore point guard from Grove City, had 11 assists in the win at Lock Haven to finish the season with 180 assists. That total established a new school record; the old mark of 177 was set in 1981-82 by SRU Athletic Hall of Famer Kathy Lisman Wood.

Green, in the process of scoring 27 points at Lock Haven, became the 13th player in Rock women's basketball history to score 1,000 or more career points. She has now scored 1,020 points in her first three collegiate seasons, which ranks as the 12th highest total in SRU history.

Green ranks fourth in career rebounding with 714 and needs only 27 to take over third place (Lori Robinson-Nuzzo, 1993-98). The Rock's all-time leading rebounder is Kory Fielitz Malkus with 961.

Ferrone honored by Fox Chapel Schools

Former Rock men's soccer standout **GERRY FERRONE** will be inducted into the Fox Chapel Area Schools Hall of Fame on June 13, 2004.

Ferrone played at The Rock from 1964-67 under SRU and NAIA Hall of Fame coach Jim Egli. He currently ranks fifth in career scoring at The Rock with 93 points on 41 goals and 11 assists.

He ranks fifth in career goals, seventh in single-season goals (15 in 1966) and 16th in single-season points (30 in 1966).



2004 football schedule announced

The Rock's 2004 football season will kickoff with a Friday night home game on August 27 against Bloomsburg University, SRU officials announced.

The game will be played "under the lights" starting at 7 p.m. on Bob DiSpirito Field at N. Kerr Thompson Stadium and will be the culminating event of the University's "Move In Day" activities.

Fall Semester 2004 classes will start at SRU the following Monday, Aug. 29.

The opening game against Bloomsburg will be one of five home contests played by The Rock in 2004, and one of three that will be played under the lights.

The Rock will entertain non-conference rival Fairmont State (W. Va.) in a 6 p.m. game on Sept. 18 and Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference-Western Division archrival Indiana U. of Pa. in another 6 p.m. contest on Oct. 9.

The Rock will also play three night road games: Sept. 2 at NCAA Division I-AA foe Youngstown State, Sept. 25 at PSAC-West rival Lock Haven and Oct. 2 at conference foe California.

SRU's 2004 Homecoming Game will be played Oct. 23 against conference foe Edinboro with kickoff set for 2 p.m. The final Rock home game will be a Nov. 6 game against PSAC-West rival Clarion, with kickoff set for 1 p.m.

In addition to Youngstown State and Lock Haven, The Rock will travel to Shepherd (W. Va.) for a non-conference game and to Shippensburg for PSAC-West contests. Both of those games will kickoff at 1 p.m.

2004 ROCK FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|-------|----|-----------------------|------------|
| Aug. | 27 | BLOOMSBURG | .7 p.m. |
| Sept. | 2 | at Youngstown State | .7:30 p.m. |
| Sept. | 11 | at Shepherd | .1 p.m. |
| Sept. | 18 | FAIRMONT STATE | .6 p.m. |
| Sept. | 25 | at Lock Haven | .7 p.m. |
| Oct. | 2 | at California | .6 p.m. |
| Oct. | 9 | INDIANA | .6 p.m. |
| Oct. | 16 | at Millersville | .1 p.m. |
| Oct. | 23 | EDINBORO (Homecoming) | .2 p.m. |
| Oct. | 30 | at Shippensburg | .1 p.m. |
| Nov. | 6 | CLARION | .1 p.m. |



1970'S FOOTBALL TEAM REUNION

Approximately 30 members of The Rock's state championship football teams from the early 1970s returned to campus last fall for a reunion. SRU won the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference championships in 1972, 1973 and 1974 under head coach Bob DiSpirito. Coach "D" was present for the reunion, as were former assistant coaches Paul "Bear" Bruno, Stan Kendzioriski and Rod Oberlin. (Photo by Ross Feliz)

SRU Hall of Fame Class of 2004 selected

The Class of 2004 will be inducted into the SRU Athletic Hall of Fame during ceremonies in the Multi Purpose Room of the SRU University Union on April 17.

The newest additions to the Hall of Fame are **BILL BEATTY** (basketball, Class of 1956), **JOE DANIELS** (football and

gymnastics, Class of 1964), **KORY FIELITZ MALKUS** (women's basketball and track, Class of 1994), **VIRGINIA KELLY GRINDLE** (women's sports, Class of 1960), **EDWARD J. OLKOWSKI** (basketball and baseball, Class of 1953), **DR. JOHN A. SAMSA** (basketball, Class of 1983) and the late **MARK SEYBERT** (Class of 1979).

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

Schedule Of Events

Featuring the Classes of 1979 and 1954

Friday, June 18

- 10 a.m.** Registration/Silent Auction Begins, Alumni House, Runs All Day
- 11 a.m.** "A Parent's Guide to Searching and Financing Your Child's Education Seminar," North Hall
- Noon** Women's Athletic Golf Scramble, Pine Grove Golf Course, Grove City
- 5:30 p.m.** Alumni Reunion BBQ, Picnic Pavilion
- 6 p.m.** Golden Grad Class of 1954 Cocktail Hour, Grove City Country Club
- 7 p.m.** Golden Grad Class of 1954 Dinner, Grove City Country Club
- 8 p.m.** Musicians' Concert Band, Miller Auditorium
- 9:30 p.m.** Wine & Cheese Reception and Main Street "Pub Tour" – See the new Ginger Hill Pub and North Country Brewery

Saturday, June 19

- 6:30 a.m.** Sunrise Walk, Lower Campus
- 8 a.m.** Registration/Continental Breakfast, Alumni House
- 9:30 a.m.** SRU History Lesson, Old School House/Campus Tours
- 10 a.m.** Rock Wall Climbing Lessons, ARC
- Noon** Reunion Luncheon/Silent Auction Winners Announced/Class Recognitions/President's Address
- 2 p.m.** Class Pictures
- 2:30 p.m.** Classes of '79 and '54 Meetings
- 2:30 p.m.** Classes of '80 and '55 Meetings

Miscellaneous Information:

Staying in Rock Apts.?—Make sure you bring towels, toiletries and snacks. Linens provided.

Reunion Luncheon—Please indicate if you are attending the luncheon on your registration. Must have lunch ticket.

Auction Donations—Please feel free to donate any item to our Silent Auction. Crafts, memorabilia and household items welcome.

Homecoming:

Don't forget Homecoming 2004, "Rock to Eighties," October 22-23

For details, got to www.sru.edu

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