Sport Management scores across the board
Dear Friends;

By any measurement of performance, 2007 was an outstanding year at Slippery Rock University.

Again last year, the University continued to post record enrollments while simultaneously improving the quality of the entering class. Our current student body of more than 8,300 students is among the most accomplished and diverse of any in Slippery Rock University’s history.

Another notable example of success was being awarded nearly $4 million for reaching Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education goals. The University demonstrated high achievement in every area. Most notably, the University’s faculty productivity and employee diversity goals returned more than half of the total money received. And, we are ahead of the target goals for 2009, having already met or exceeded goals for faculty diversity, faculty productivity, and the percent of faculty with an earned terminal degree.

I am especially proud of our students, faculty, staff and alumni who continue to be recognized by state and national organizations. Among those honored in 2007 were Dr. Jay Hertzog, dean of the College of Education, who was named Pennsylvania Teacher Educator of the year; David Woten, ’91, who was named Pennsylvania’s Teacher of the Year; Sandra Scurle Kalin, ’64, who received the National Distinguished Principal Award from the U.S. Department of Education and Scott Patterson, ’80, who was named Pennsylvania State Police “Trooper of the Year.” For every person recognized there are scores more who do outstanding work everyday in support of our mission and through the contributions they are making in their careers and communities.

As alumni, friends and donors, you can be proud that SRU continues to deliver on its promise to provide a Rock Solid education. Our challenge is to continue to find the resources that will keep Slippery Rock University competitive with our peers and provide scholarship and program enhancement dollars to attract and retain outstanding students and faculty.

In this issue you’ll read the stories of several leadership givers whose support has had a significant impact on our students. And, you’ll see the list of your classmates and friends who have stepped forward and are part of our Lifetime Giving Societies. We invite you to join them and to help the University continue to set new benchmarks.

I feel incredibly blessed to be serving this outstanding University. It truly is “A great time to be at Slippery Rock University.”

Best wishes,

President
To our readers

In this issue of The ROCK we take a look at Slippery Rock University’s mounting regional and national success.

The proof is in the accomplishments of graduates such as “little lady” Sarah Patterson, ’78, winner of four national championships as the head coach of women’s gymnastics at the University of Alabama. Heidi Tyline King, who writes for numerous national magazines, covers this dynamo’s vault to success.

The sport management program is highlighted at its 30-year anniversary. Graduates work for some of the biggest names in sports, including the Pittsburgh Steelers.

You will also read about an alumna who helps seniors transition into new homes. And, you will learn about the impact of important University philanthropists.

We hope you enjoy the Winter ’08 edition.

Gordon Ovenshine, ’88
Editor, “The ROCK”

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

Slippery Rock University is a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

About the cover

Brian Slais, a 1995 sport management graduate, is group sales manager for the National Hockey League’s Carolina Hurricanes. Hundreds of sport management graduates work in the billion-dollar sports industry. (page 17)
University sets another enrollment record

SRU completed the fall semester with a record number of students enrolled – 8,325. That’s 1.2 percent more than a year ago and the eighth consecutive year of growth.

“Our growth is testimony to the continued efforts we have undertaken to increase the value of a Slippery Rock University education and to the dedicated work of faculty and staff in ensuring our programs meet the rigorous demands of accrediting bodies that set national academic standards,” said President Robert Smith.

Undergraduate enrollment stands at 7,585, with graduate enrollment at 740. Figures show 4,749 women enrolled for 2007-2008, up from 4,682 a year ago, and 3,576 men, up from 3,548 a year ago.

Princeton Review names SRU to ‘Best Northeastern Colleges’ list

The Princeton Review’s survey of students attending SRU found them bragging about "small classes," a "great library" and "great athletic facilities" among other factors – all of which helped the University earn a spot in the 2008 edition of The Review’s book “Best Northeastern Colleges.”

In a letter to SRU President Robert Smith, Robert Franek, vice president of publishing at The Princeton Review, wrote, “Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania is one of 654 institutions we feature on the ‘Best College Region by Region’ section of Princeton Review. com, and one of 222 receiving our ‘Best of the Northeast’ designation. We salute each of these schools for their excellent academics and other strong offerings and are pleased to recommend them to college applicants and their parents.”

Accountability ’08 Web site shows leadership

SRU has launched a comprehensive institutional profile and accountability Web site to provide potential students, parents, the public and policymakers with easy-to-find information about the health of the University.

The site simplifies the search process for those seeking data on academics, costs, transferring to SRU, campus living, educational outcomes and more.

“The impetus for this site came from Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings’ Commission on the Future of Higher Education’s final report – A Test of Leadership: Charting the Future of Higher Education,” said Robert Smith, president.

“Among a number of recommendations in the report, the Commission was very clear that colleges and universities must become more transparent about cost, price and student success outcomes, and that they willingly share this information with students and families in a user friendly format,” Smith said.

The SRU Institutional Profile: Accountability 2008 site is at: www.sru.edu.

SRU math students bring pyramid power to campus

It stands 10 feet tall, is made from paper and toothpicks, and has become quite a conversation piece. It also helps students learn about fractal geometric shapes, lessons future math teachers will pass on to their students.

Students in mathematics faculty member David Marchand’s “Elementary Geometry” class recently crafted a “Sierpinski Arrowhead” in Bailey Library, based on the Sierpinski Pyramid.

Fractal geometry is a new language, related to chaos science, that is used to describe and analyze complex forms found in nature. The pyramid illustrates those varied shapes. Those looking at the pyramid from different angles see a variety of shapes, not just triangles.

Student, soldier, father, graduate beats the odds

Talk about overcoming obstacles. After enrolling at The Rock in 2003, Adam T. Wilcox was deployed as a soldier to Iraq, got married, witnessed the birth of his first child and bought a house.

He never gave up on his education, though, and graduated in December with a degree in business.

“I am now graduating as a proud alumnus of SRU and a veteran of the U.S. Army,” Wilcox said in an e-mail to President Robert Smith, who was so moved he read part of Wilcox’s message to the University trustees. Five hundred graduated in December.
Dance majors experience, share India

SRU’s innovative Dance in India Initiative enables dance majors to learn Classical Indian dance with a master teacher in Chennai, India. Those who can’t go get the next best thing: a performance by the students who studied in India.

Lindsay Armstrong of Corry, Amie Davis of Carrolltown and Patricia Robinson of East Aurora, N.Y. recently worked with Revathi Ramachandran for a month. When they returned from India, they donned Indian attire and performed for the campus community.

Srinivasa Mani, SRU professor of professional studies, and Nola Nolen-Holland, assistant professor of dance, coordinated the international opportunity.

Those interested in contributing to the Dance in India Initiative may send contributions to the SRU dance department (724.738.2036). Tax deductible contributions should be payable to the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc.

SRU builds bridges between Americans, Japanese

More Japanese exchange students will be enrolled at SRU beginning fall 2008, following approval of SRU’s first partnership with a Japanese high school, Jissen Joshi Gakuen. The all-girls school in Tokyo sent principal Yukiko Matsuda to campus recently to sign the historic agreement.

The school, originally founded to provide an education for Japan’s princess, expanded its international experience program. SRU is its exclusive Pennsylvania partner.

“International students foster mutual understanding and respect for diversity,” said Pam Frigot, SRU director of international services. “Instead of saying there are 3,000 schools in the U.S., for them to consider, Slippery Rock University will be recommended most highly!”

Geology duo collects fossil treasures in Ural Mountains

Fossils from the Ural Mountains will provide students learning opportunities for years to come thanks to Tamra Schiappa, geology faculty, and geology major Nanje Eastman, a junior from Havre de Grace, Md. The duo collected several boxes of fossils during their participation in an international field conference in Russia.

“I am a changed person because of this experience, it was incredible,” Eastman said. “I got to work with brilliant people in their fields. Dr. Schiappa taught me how to correctly excavate fossils. It was like a treasure hunt.”

The purpose of the fieldwork was to investigate the evolution of life during the Permian period 295 million years ago. The geologists collected ammonoids, an externally shelled cephalopod, as well as pollen and other fossils.

Web site marks North Hall fire anniversary

Bailey Library has launched a Web site chronicling a significant event in University history – the fire that destroyed the original North Hall 70 years ago.

The site (http://academics.sru.edu/library/learnmore/depts/archives/north-hallfire.htm) features original photographs, footage and newspaper articles.

Judy Silva and Melba Tomeo, assistant professors of library, created the Web site to mark the anniversary and because “students do research on the history of the University and this is a really big event in our history,” Silva said.

The all-girls residence hall burned to the ground, although everyone escaped unharmed. Authorities blamed the tragedy on a bonfire.

For more SRU history, open http://www.sru.edu/archives.
Freshman’s slavery Web site wins national awards

Freshman Justin Brown has received several awards for “The Real Enslavement,” a Web site he co-created that examines the legacy and enduring problem of human slavery.

“People don’t have the right mindset of what slavery was and is,” said Brown, of Coatesville. “It’s about economics, greed and cruelty. Slavery still exists. It’s just called by other names such as human trafficking.”

The Web site earned Brown a 2007 Best of Trio and Honorable Mention Trio Special Recognition awards from TRIO ThinkQuest International, a Web site building competition. Those awards followed three earlier gold medals and a $1,000 scholarship he earned in regional ThinkQuest events.

“The Real Enslavement” covers the trans-Atlantic slave trade with photographs, text, old posters and timelines. Links take browsers to pages on a slave’s life, punishments of slavery and famous blacks and abolitionists.

Brown, a Board of Governors Scholarship recipient, has joined several leadership programs since enrolling at SRU, including Freshman Leadership, Jump Start, Building Bridges and the Chosen Generation Gospel Choir.

“The Real Enslavement” is at http://library.thinkquest.org/06aug/01071/homeframe.htm.

Rebecca (Federici) Raybuck, ’73

Age: 55
Profession: I work in three family owned businesses: Giuseppe’s Finer Foods, Predator Performance and Gortech Global Fabrication, all in DuBois. I am a retired kindergarten teacher from DuBois Area Schools.

Hobbies: Spending time with family, traveling, attending local school functions and visiting my granddaughter.

Great accomplishment: My family, enjoying memories from a wonderful teaching career and still working with our businesses.

Why I give: Slippery Rock University has always held a very special place in my heart. The friendships I made there have been lasting friendships, and the preparation for my teaching career was second to none. My husband and I decided to establish a scholarship ($1,000 a year) for students in the DuBois area who attend SRU. It is called the “Kid’s First Scholarship.” There are quite a few students from the DuBois Area attending SRU. I am proud that they are enjoying their college career and have all the opportunities of so many fine degree programs.

Alumna shows wit in writing about doctor-patient relationships

Ellen Foster, ’92, a graduate of SRU’s master of arts in English program, hopes her writing on the sensitive topic of terminal cancer leads to a better understanding of patients’ processes of meaning-making, their intellectual lives and their relationships with physicians, family members and friends.

Most recently, her article about the cancer-patient play and movie “Wit” was published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. The Annals, one of the most prestigious medical journals in the world, is read by physicians worldwide.

“A Rigorous Mind Meets Her Yielding Body: Intellectual Life and Meaning Making in Wit,” examines the intellectual, professional and personal decisions doctors and patients make as they come to terms with a terminal illness.

“My own experiences as an English professor and a cancer survivor, as well as someone who has family and friends who have had cancer, do inform my reading and appreciation of ‘Wit,’” she said.
**Students learn to ‘listen’ to sign language**

Did you know you can sign “The Star-Spangled Banner?” SRU’s American Sign Language Club recently hosted Deaf Awareness Day, exposing SRU students to the richness of deaf culture.

The culminating activity was a performance by the group Sign Shine, comprised of students from Pittsburgh’s Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. The group signed “The Star-Spangled Banner” as part of its presentation.

Mary Ann Stefko, a sign language coordinator at the school, lectured on “Opportunities Are Knocking! Are You Listening!”

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**Rock Solid Numbers**

3,966,281
Performance dollars earned by SRU for meeting or exceeding PASSHE goals.

90
Percentage of full-time, tenure and tenure track faculty with a terminal degree.

1,700
Prospective students and families that attended SRU Showcase events in October and November.

1,100,000
Dollars awarded through academic-based institutional scholarships to 730 students.

99.5
Percentage of students in the fall 2007 entering class who attended a transitional programming event.

28,457
Cost savings through Oct. 2007 as a result of the new Travel Policy.

27,578,236
Gifts and pledges received as of Sept. 30, 2007, for the Campaign for Slippery Rock – 83.57 percent of the $33 million goal.

20,699,757

1,029,771

41,000
Dollars raised through the inaugural Sunset Serenade for the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center.

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**Alumna’s book sheds light on Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh**

Sometimes you can go home again – that is, if home includes the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. Mary Ann Knochel, ’73, has released “Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.” The book covers more than 150 years of diocese history.

“Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh” connects diocesan and regional history through hundreds of vintage photographs accompanied by commentary by Knochel. The 128-page paperback is part of Arcadia Publishing’s Images of America series and available at area bookstores, Amazon.com and www.archadiapublishing.com.

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**Alumna provides home sales advice**


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**Biology professor publishes genetics lab manual**

Mark Shotwell, associate professor of biology, has published his textbook, “Animal & Plant Genetics Laboratory Manual,” written with former colleague Dennis Ray of the University of Arizona. The manual is currently being used by SRU students and at Arizona.

“The major difference between this manual and other manuals on the market is its emphasis on plant genetics, in particular the use of maize (corn) as the experimental organism,” Shotwell said.

The manual is sold at campus bookstores, including SRU’s and the University of Arizona’s.
Springboard
In the summer of 1978, Sarah Patterson, the new gymnastics head coach at the University of Alabama and a member of the most recent graduating class at then Slippery Rock State College, was sitting in Paul “Bear” Bryant’s office, explaining why she needed to spend $5,000 on a floor exercise mat. “One of the associate athletic directors wanted me to use a wrestler’s mat which had been purchased only the year before,” she remembers.

“Coach Bryant sat there listening, and at the end of our conversation, he leaned forward and said, ‘Sam, get the little lady what she wants.’”

Indeed, the “little lady” has been getting what she wants for the past 30 years at Alabama, including four national championships, four National Coach of the Year awards, 21 individual NCAA championships, and an unprecedented 21 Final Four finishes at the NCAA Championships – an NCAA-best.

It could be said that luck has played into Patterson’s career. At the end of her senior year at Slippery Rock, she applied for an assistant coaching position at Bama but was offered the top job – by letter – when the current coach resigned.

It was also fortuitous that her coaching career began at the advent of Title IX.

The reality, however, is that this pint-sized dynamo, a native New Yorker, bounded down to Alabama with a spirit honed by hard work and perseverance. At Slippery Rock, she had competed under four coaches in four years, and by the time her last coach, Cheryl Levick, entered the scene, she was considering quitting the team altogether to focus on her studies. “I had just graduated myself and I needed Sarah to be a team leader,” says Levick, a former Slippery Rock coach and administrator and one of the first female athletic directors of Division I collegiate sports. “She stayed and competed in the floor exercise and on the vault. When we qualified for small college nationals, she put together a bar routine because we could only take so many athletes. Of course, Sarah scored – she was the ultimate team leader.”

Determined to excel in her new role as coach, Patterson managed not only to carve out a place for women’s sports in the shadow of Alabama’s legendary football dynasty, but to build a national powerhouse in the world of collegiate gymnastics at the same time. Taking over a beleaguered program coming off four losing seasons and just as many coaches, no one expected success, not even the Bear, who hired her. No one, that is – except Patterson. But win she did.

Focused, motivated, and logging in long, hard hours, Sarah’s first team went all the way to the NCAA championship meet. Their fourth place finish was the beginning of her astounding streak of finishing in the final four.

Looking back, Patterson counts her years at Slippery Rock as one of the keys to her current success. “It was there that I developed an appreciation for the camaraderie of hard work,” she says. “It was inspiring to work under Cheryl. She has all the great qualities of being a strong woman, and she was young, energetic, and not afraid to break the barriers.”

It was also at Slippery Rock that she learned the importance of nurturing each individual athlete. “I specifically remember one professor who came over and helped me through freshman orientation,” she says.

“It’s the personal touch and the feeling of community that I experienced at

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Sarah Patterson’s philosophy for winning – both on and off the mat

• “To whom much is given, much is expected. I hold my athletes to a higher standard. I tell them they have a God-given talent and the opportunity to get a great education, but much is also expected from them if they want to win a national championship.”

• “Be truthful and honest to yourself.”

• “Whenever I make a decision regarding a student athlete, I make it as if I am making it for my own child. It makes me view the human side of coaching, and helps me remember that not everything is black and white.”

• “There are no shortcuts. As Coach Bryant said, ‘the price of victory is high but so are the rewards.’ If you don’t put your heart and soul into it, you won’t achieve it.”
Fran Bires has traveled to all the famous natural wonders – Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Crater Lake – as an environmental educator. But his quest to create a more eco-friendly population keeps him firmly entrenched in the SRU-administrated facility that is synonymous with earth education: McKeever Environmental Learning Center.

“McKeever works with more than 5,000 elementary school students every year,” said Bires, facility director. “Our programs give students the opportunity to explore the natural world and then to begin making decisions to live more lightly on the planet.

“Each year, hundreds of teachers and educators also visit and observe our programs so they can duplicate them in their home settings,” he added. “We’ve had visitors from Japan, Australia, Italy, The Netherlands and Finland. The reach is global.”

The commonwealth created McKeever in 1974 as a public-service institute of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Slippery Rock University manages the staff, trails and 10 buildings, nestled on 205 acres 75 miles north of Pittsburgh.

McKeever’s mission, Bires said, is guiding people toward a greater awareness of greening issues and instilling the values of conservation.
McKeever Center continued from page 11

Sixty-five western Pennsylvania school districts send children to McKeever annually for its earth-centered programs, many of them overnight ventures.

Each of McKeever’s six programs has a different focus:

- Earthkeepers, for fourth graders, teaches stewardship through outdoor activities,
- Sunship Earth, for fifth and sixth graders, focuses on the operating principles of life,
- Sunship III, for seventh and eighth graders, explores human-kind’s dependence on natural systems of life,
- Earth Rangers, for fifth and sixth graders, lays the groundwork for a lifelong process of learning about the environment,
- Web of Life, for third and fourth graders, demonstrates how plants and animals form an interdependent web of life, and
- Day Programs, for students in K-12, teaches empathy for the natural world.

“The earth-education programs in particular are some of the most effective outdoor learning programs,” Bires said. “They teach basic concepts such as the flow of energy and the cycling of air, water and soil, and then relate these concepts to our daily lives.”

Paul Estock, a sixth-grade teacher at Delahunty Middle School in Hermitage, has been taking children to McKeever for more than 30 years.

“It captivates children because it’s a ‘live-in’ experience,” he said. “For a lot of them, it’s the first time they’ve ever had a camp out. They understand the environment and how it all comes together, the whole picture of environmental stewardship.”

Estock said many high school commencement speakers mention McKeever years after their experience. “They’ve probably forgotten how to add fractions, but they haven’t forgotten this. It’s become a part of them,” he said.

McKeever demonstrates sustainability leadership

McKeever has placed a great deal of emphasis lately on sustainability, setting the example for what people can do in their own homes and companies.

- Retreat houses include geothermal heating and cooling systems and energy-efficient lighting. Carpeting comes from 100 percent recycled materials. Linoleum in the bathrooms and kitchenettes were made from wood flour, and decks consist of composite lumber.
- A new wind turbine generates emission-free electricity for buildings and draws lots of attention. “People are literally coming off the streets asking how it works,” said Fran Bires, McKeever director. SRU operates a similar wind turbine.
- Other recent projects include a pathway made from recycled tires, raised beds for growing vegetables and a butterfly garden with native perennials.

Elementary students from 65 school districts in western Pennsylvania visit McKeever annually.
Clinton Forsha hits opposing linemen and rocks with equal ferocity. “I don’t see any contradiction in my interest in football and geology,” said Forsha, a December graduate who made his mark on the football field and in the classroom as a geology major. “Football and geology both require a lot of time and energy and are similar in the sense that in order to do well at anything, you must have a strong work ethic.”

Forsha graduated with a 3.7 grade-point average. ESPN The Magazine named him a first team Academic All America scholar, and he was an Academic All American nominee.

On the football field, the defensive lineman (6’4” 275 pounds) helped power The Rock to a 9-2 season. The co-captain started every game and ranked second on the team for number of tackles. He recorded eight sacks, forced one fumble and recovered one fumble.

“If given a legitimate opportunity to play a form of professional football, I would try it out,” Forsha said, “but I realize I won’t be able to play forever, and I must be prepared to go into another profession that I enjoy.”

His interest in geology dates to his youth in Blairsville, where he worked with his father, an environmental consultant, who specialized in mine reclamation.

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“When I came to Slippery Rock University, I got serious about geology when Dr. Michael Zieg [geology] invited me to work with him on a research project in Ontario,” he said. “That was during my freshman year. I’ve been working with him ever since.”

Forsha’s academic prowess impressed researchers when he and Zieg worked together on a geology project at Johns Hopkins University. The duo studied the texture and chemical composition of igneous rocks Zieg collected a year ago in Antarctica, exploring what happens to rocks when continents drift apart.

Forsha made a significant contribution to the understanding of rocks from Antarctica and continental break up, Zieg said. “Clint is a talented and bright guy, and his study will improve our understanding of crustal structure and processes during the Antarctic continent breakup that occurred 176 million years ago,” he said.

Forsha’s analysis of one particular intrusion, called the Peneplain sill, led to some surprising conclusions about how these rocks form. “His work demonstrates that the sill formed by an extended, nearly continuous filling process rather than the single, short-lived filling event previously hypothesized,” Zieg said.

“Clint is the ultimate student-athlete. He is passionate about academics and driven to success on the gridiron. He is the role model that all student-athletes should follow and the perfect example that you can succeed in both the classroom and on the field.”

–George Mihalik, SRU head football coach, professor of health and safety

Forsha plans to become a geotechnical engineer, which specializes in building foundations. He has been accepted into graduate school at Virginia Tech University.

While he begins the next phase of his life, Forsha said he will remember the mentorship and financial support he received at SRU, including an athletic scholarship for three years and a federal SMART Grant for science majors.

“I will always be grateful for the support and many opportunities,” he said. “Now it’s time to move forward.”

75 percent of students on SRU’s 19 athletic teams have a 3.0 grade-point average or higher. More than 150 student-athletes maintain a 3.25 or higher.

Source: Rock Athletic Department
Sharon Isacco sobbed after placing her 88-year-old mother in assisted-living. “It took me two years to clean out Mom’s house and get it ready to sell — there was 44 years of accumulation in there,” the manager of SRU’s printing services said.

“I really thought that when I signed on the dotted line and sold the house, I would be thrilled,” she said. “Instead, I felt like I was homeless. I guess it’s because you’re saying goodbye to your childhood memories. The whole downsizing process is gut-wrenching. You can’t even imagine how difficult it is to go through.”

Now that boomers are helping their parents downsize into assisted-living, many are hiring newcomers to the moving industry: professional moving managers. Slippery Rock University alumna Vickie Dellaquila, ’97, sociology, is a Certified Professional Organizer® who specializes in guiding clients through a journey that’s as much about sorting through a lifetime’s worth of memories as it is about possessions.

She helps clients decide what to take, what to leave behind and how to set up and organize their new homes.

Her latest project is a self-help book for everyone involved in downsizing a loved one. “Don’t Toss My Memories in the Trash: A Step-by-Step Guide to Helping Seniors Downsize, Organize and Move” (Mountain Publishing) provides the blueprint for getting organized, reducing stress and inventorying a lifetime of heirlooms.

“It’s creating buzz because there aren’t many books like that out there,” said Dellaquila, who lives and operates Organization Rules, Inc., from her suburban Pittsburgh home.

Dellaquila advises clients to start early. Even the most independent seniors find relocation demanding, so the family should not wait until illness or the death of a spouse forces the issue.

“It’s an emotionally overwhelming process, because every person is different,” she said. “A coffee cup may not be very...”
Tips for downsizing and preserving memorabilia

• Instead of keeping the entire set of china, keep just one place setting.
• Instead of keeping the entire high school football jacket, cut off a piece of it like the letters on the jacket. Preserve in a shadow box with other high school memorabilia or in a photo album.
• Have your slides and photos scanned and put on a DVD.
• If you have too many photos and want to let go of some of them, give them to your family and friends or take them to a family reunion for others to enjoy.
• Let go of your everyday dishes and use the “good china” instead for everyday instead of “saving it” for special occasions.
• Donate collections to museums and historical societies.

**Source:** Vickie Dellaquila, CPO® (OrganizationRules.com)

**Other sites:** National Association of Professional Organizers (www.napo.net); National Association of Senior Move Managers (www.asmm.com).
sport management is celebrating its 30-year anniversary. SRU’s program prepares graduates for getting off the bench and into the game – the business of sports.

“We groom and send blue-chip prospects into one of the largest and most competitive industries in the world,” said Robin Ammon, department chair. “I currently stay in touch with more than 229 alums and the majority of them are in the sport industry.”

If moviegoers remember anything about the movie “Jerry Maguire,” it might be the line – now embedded in the culture – “Show me the money.” Sport management is a $221 billion industry, according to the Sports Business Journal, up from 182 billion in 1999. Camden County College estimates there are 5 million sport management jobs in the U.S.

SRU, one of the first universities in the country to launch an undergraduate major in 1977, introduced a graduate program in 1984. Both remain big draws.

“We currently have students enrolled from more than 10 states and nine foreign countries, including China, India and Zimbabwe,” Ammon said.

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Sport Management continued from page 17

Students study a variety of subjects such as sport marketing, sport communication, global sport management, sport law, diversity issues in sport and sport facility and event management. The undergraduate and graduate programs both include placed internships.

“The internships are mandated as a culminating activity and have proven to be mutually beneficial to students as well as the host organizations,” Ammon said. “In many cases, the internship leads to a job offer.”

The curriculum prepares students for careers in sport event management, intercollegiate athletic departments, minor league sports, sport facility management, sport marketing, sport promotions and expanding areas of sport entertainment.

“Slippery Rock provides a number of exciting opportunities,” Ammon said. “A number of students have served behind the scenes at the Olympics, the World Games, IFA’s World Cup, dozens of intercollegiate athletic departments and conferences as well as a plethora of professional and minor league teams.”

Game day leaders

Hundreds of sport management graduates work in the professional and collegiate ranks across the country. The ROCK caught up with several to learn about their jobs and the influence of the Sport Management Program on their success.

Slippery Rock University helped me to develop and realize my potential in my current role as the director of operations for women’s basketball at the University of Pittsburgh. My primary duties include travel, summer camp and community service coordination, budgeting and acting as a liaison between the basketball program and other entities within the athletic department. The Sport Management Program at The Rock was the most important factor in my ascension within the sport industry.

Mark Rhodehamel, ’06
graduate program
University of Pittsburgh,
director of operations for women’s basketball

I am currently employed by PSSI Stadium Corp. at Heinz Field as an event operations assistant. I assist in special event planning and coordination, and staff and supervise the ticket takers and ticket sellers at Pittsburgh Steelers and Pitt Panther games. The rigorous curriculum in SRU’s Sport Management Program helped to develop my critical thinking and problem solving skills, which are used on a daily basis in the business world.

Greg Hoyer, ’07
PSSI Stadium Corp.,
event operations assistant at Heinz Field

My position as the assistant director of athletics communication requires that I serve as the primary media contact for our women’s basketball program as well as several Olympic sports. It is a writing-intensive field that also requires extensive interpersonal and organizational skills. Sport management is an apt title for SRU’s program. Every class seemed like a competition, and if you weren’t willing to put in the extra time or effort to make a project or paper top-notch, you weren’t going to get noticed. The same is true in the professional world.

Ben Mitchell, ’06
Saint Francis University, assistant director of athletic communications

The area of athletic compliance has become an integral part of intercollegiate athletics in recent years. As the assistant director of compliance for Hofstra University, my primary responsibility involves the implementation of departmental strategies to successfully monitor NCAA legislation that governs recruiting, eligibility, financial aid and amateurism. The sport management faculty and rigorous curriculum thoroughly prepared me for succeeding in the competitive and fast-paced “world of sport.”

Lauren Ashman, ’04
Hofstra University, assistant director of compliance
I schedule all facilities for our varsity sports, club sports, intramurals and outside entities. I also coordinate and run all home athletic events. I work closely with our student-athletes to ensure equity and to help resolve any problems. I firmly believe the SRU Sport Management Program has everything to do with my success. Our professors are amazing. Their knowledge and professional experience is like no other program.

Megann Powell, ’06
Western State College (Colo.), assistant athletic director for facilities and events/senior woman administrator

I assist in the daily operation of the Reading Phillies’ merchandise department. I order merchandise, manage the online store and manage the merchandise staff on game days. Another portion of my job includes sponsorship sales. I also entertain fans as a “game character” known as Hillbilly Hoff. Hillbilly Hoff is a loud, crazy man known for holding huge sales on merchandise. Slippery Rock’s Sport Management Program made me understand the importance of standing out and above other students.

Matt Hoffmaster, ’07
Reading Phillies, client relationship manager/merchandise

I spent two and a half years with the Pittsburgh Penguins before moving to Raleigh about 10 years ago where I took a position with the NHL Carolina Hurricanes. I serve as group sales manager for both the hockey team and the RBC Center. My responsibilities include marketing and promoting Carolina Hurricanes hockey season tickets and group ticket packages. SRU’s Sport Management Program provided me with the tools, experiences and contacts necessary to succeed in professional sports and in life.

Brian Slais, ’95
Carolina Hurricanes, group sales manager

I manage all building aspects for the NHL’s Columbus BlueJackets’ hockey games as well as the AFL’s Columbus Destroyers’ arena football games. Once I open doors to an event, I am behind the scenes managing any issues that arise for maintenance, engineering, change-over crews, etc. With my degree in sport management from Slippery Rock University, I feel I am very much ahead of other young professionals in the field.

Leah Sanft, ’06
Columbus BlueJackets, Columbus Destroyers, event coordinator

I am the manager of Phoenix Municipal Stadium, a year-round facility that hosts hundreds of baseball games and special events. My duties include working with professional baseball leagues, administering contracts, booking events and grounds maintenance. SRU’s Sport Management Program afforded me opportunities that are not available at other institutions.

James Vujs, ’93
Phoenix Municipal Stadium, stadium manager

This is my first season with the Arena Football League. I handle player benefits among many other things pertaining to player personnel issues. Networking and professionalism, which were preached every day in the SRU Sport Management Program, along with hard work, are some of the biggest reasons I am at where I am today.

Carl Thompson, ’07
Arena Football League, coordinator of player benefits and administration

As the assistant director of compliance at Robert Morris University, my days are filled with rules regulation, financial-aid issues and the eligibility for over 500 student-athletes. One of the best aspects of the Slippery Rock University Sport Management Program is that students are required to spend many valuable hours doing field experiences. If I hadn’t received the preparation and knowledge base that I got from the program, my internship at Robert Morris wouldn’t have turned into the full-time position that I hold today.

Carol Bonner, ’06
Robert Morris University, assistant director of compliance

Currently, I’m back in the ‘real world’ with the Dallas Cowboys. I was recently selected to be a service coordinator with the team’s sales and marketing department. The Sport Management Program at SRU granted me the opportunity to sharpen my overall management and interpersonal skills, as well as establish a networking presence within the professional sport industry.

Royce Mitchell, ’05
Dallas Cowboys, service coordinator for sales and marketing development

Sport management graduates hold a variety of positions:
- Kris Moerschel, ’04, sales coordinator, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Peter Shoop, ’00, assistant director of intramurals, University of Notre Dame
- Jill Sokoladi, ’99, director of operations, Arena Football League
- Kevin Olivett, ’99, assistant athletic director, Georgia State University
- Jason Hannold, ’06 director of event operations, Fresno (Calif.) Grizzlies
- Derek Martin, ’02 assistant general manager ticket sales, Myrtle Beach Pelicans
- Bobbie Jo Belus, ’06, development coordinator, Florida Atlantic University
- Don Colton, ’00, assistant director of operations, Heinz Field
- Peggy Ross, ’00, facilities manager/sport/manager instructor, Geneva College
- Dominica Miller, ’00, water rescue beach captain, Fernandina Beach (Fl.) Fire Department
- Jason Oberholtzer, ’00, Doha Asian Games Organizer, Qatar
- Tim Post, ’00, senior sales manager, Tampa Bay Lightning
- Jeremy George, ’01, assistant football coach, Seton Hill University
- Greg Wagner, ’01, athletic director, Avonworth Area School District
- Nathaniel Wills, ’03, director of athletic events, Fresno State University
- Beth Folic, ’04, inside sales, Pittsburgh Penguins
- Shane Meiling, ’03, sports information director, LaTourneau University
- Brian Wacup, ’03, director of eligibility services, Rutgers University
- Ben Fairclough, ’05, director of Marketing and Web Development, Big East Conference
- James Sterling, ’05, assistant golf professional, Mistwood (II.) Golf Club

Visit www.SRU.edu
A new major at Slippery Rock University is providing new opportunities for students to map their own academic program in a degree completion program that is flexible enough to allow students to design their own 30-hour major selecting courses from across the academic curriculum.

As part of the program, the student’s adviser must approve the study plan.

The new professional studies major is gaining substantial attention across campus and is particularly drawing those students who elect late in their academic career to change majors—which could add to their years on campus and their student loan costs. It is also drawing interest from transfer students and those who may have taken classes several years ago but were forced to withdraw due to family and work issues.

“For me it was a perfect solution,” said Lukas Toth from Slippery Rock, who is nearing the four-year mark with the necessary number of credit hours, but lacking sufficient credit hours in a specific major. “I wanted to meet my four-year graduation goal. I was preparing to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army ROTC program. I had the necessary preparation in leadership studies classes, but I didn’t have the necessary hours in an approved major. By signing up under the professional studies major, I will have an emphasis area in leadership studies and will graduate on time.”

Toth, who transferred to SRU with a Triangle Tech welding degree, says he initially enrolled in SRU’s applied science major, but was immediately attracted to the Army ROTC program.

“This new major is a perfect prescription for a number of our students,” said Joseph Lisciandro, chair of the department brought online in July. “We have flexibility and our program is eclectic enough to help students meet their individual goals in reaching for a college education.”

The first bachelor’s of science degrees in professional studies were granted at December’s commencement.

“I am always amazed at how fast word travels,” Lisciandro said. “Within weeks of the program’s approval, we had 75 students enrolled.”

The new department was carved from a number of departments within the College of Business, Information and Social Sciences, including the former anthropology, sociology and social work department and the School of Business. The redesign also allowed creation of the new department of social work, criminology and criminal justice.

“We work with students who have sometimes run into roadblocks within their major. Maybe a student is unable to make a major’s grade requirement, for example,” Lisciandro said.

“This new program is an alternative. It is a high-quality program with substantive faculty advisement and collaboration built in,” said Bruce Russell, dean of the College of Business, Information and Social Sciences. “Those majoring in professional studies will find unique opportunities to expand and adapt their education to their specific interests and requirements.”

Joseph Lisciandro, professional studies department chair, makes a point about the program to Kim Lam, a junior from Girard.

From the Dean:

I am very proud of the faculty in the new professional studies department who have met weekly for the past year to create new courses in support of the Liberal Studies Program and to design the professional studies major. This major provides a significant opportunity for residents in the region that was not previously available at Slippery Rock University.”

— Bruce Russell
It was clearly a bonus year for SRU’s College of Education, which scored the revered “hat trick” by taking top awards for Pennsylvania Teacher Educator for 2007, Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year and Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

The teacher-educator award went to Jay Hertzog, dean of the College of Education; the teacher of the year honor went to David Woten, a 1991 SRU music education graduate teaching in the North Allegheny School District; and the PE honor went to Randall Nichols, SRU assistant professor of physical education.

“It is gratifying to see so many awards come to those in our programs,” Hertzog said. “The caliber of our programs, of our graduates and of our students is being recognized across the state. We have worked hard to ensure our programs are accredited and that they meet the standards necessary to ensure our graduates working in classrooms statewide can deliver the highest quality education possible.”

Hertzog’s award was presented by the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators, in which he serves as convener of the Deans of Education Forum. Woten’s honor came from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and was announced by Gov. Edward Rendell. Nichols’ honor was presented by the Pennsylvania State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Hertzog, a respected expert on middle school education and an informed and concerned advocate for students and teachers, joined the SRU administration in 1999. He was nominated by John Hicks, an SRU trustee and College of Education professor emeritus. “Jay has worked tirelessly to make a difference in the way the children of Pennsylvania, if not the nation, are educated,” Hicks said.

Woten, who teaches general music and oversees the sixth- and seventh-grade chorus at Carson Middle School outside Pittsburgh, will next vie for the 2008 National Teacher of the Year honor in Washington, D.C.

Nichols, a 1990 and 1991 SRU graduate who joined the faculty in 1996, was cited for “scholarly accomplishments in the field, including four national presentations, two publications and service as a consultant for the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.”

AWARD WINNERS: (Top) SRU graduate David Woten, recently named Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year, rehearses his Carson Middle School students for an upcoming concert. (Below, left) John Hicks, professor emeritus and a current SRU trustee, congratulates College of Education Dean Jay Hertzog on being named Pennsylvania Teacher Educator for 2007, and (below, right), Jeff Kline from Butler details his latest project for Randall Nichols, SRU assistant professor of physical education who was recently named Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

From the Dean:

SRU was founded and has built its reputation as the preparer of quality teachers. College of Education graduates continue to have a positive impact on the learning of their students and, with our summer student teaching venues in Wake County, N.C., and Clark County, Nev., SRU is increasing its presence and reputation throughout the country as a leading provider of our country’s finest teachers.

— Jay Hertzog
Planting trees is a great way to help the environment, beautify campus and leave a living legacy.

“There is an old saying that there are two kinds of people, flower planters and tree planters. Flower planters plant for today, tree planters plant for the future,” said Jerry Chmielewski, SRU biology department chair.

More than 100 trees will be planted on campus this year thanks to student and faculty initiatives and the receipt of grants and private contributions.

In addition, Chmielewski and biology majors have tagged more than 100 trees with their English and Latin names to support environmental literacy and the University’s mission of utilizing every available resource for learning.

“We have a wonderful collection of trees, including American elms and horsechestnuts that likely date to the early days of the campus,” he said. “Everyone who comes to campus will walk by these trees and see the signs, and students will see them many times during their college careers. Hopefully, they will learn the species names and learn to recognize them when they see similar trees off campus. As such, our trees serve as an outdoor classroom.”

The developed part of campus harbors more than 50 species, including American elms, Douglas firs, blue spruces, sycamores, river birches, magnolias, weeping cherries, bur oaks, red maples, honeylocusts, American smoketrees and flowering pears.

Meanwhile, the Student Government Association recently purchased 15 trees from local nurseries, 100 saplings from the Arbor Day Foundation and added $1,000 to the project to buy another 40 trees for a spring planting. University President Robert Smith contributed $1,000 to buy 20 trees. Campus and community groups can sponsor a tree for $30.

“In recent years, there has been a lot of construction on campus. We felt we needed to give back,” said Larry Brink, SGA president. “We’re buying flowering and aesthetic trees such as tulips, baby-lons, aristocrats, weeping willows and flowering pears.”

From the Dean:

Regarding the Clinton Forsha story (page 13), people not familiar with the demands on our student athletes (physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually) may not realize how multi-skilled, focused, and disciplined these young people must be in order to achieve excellence in both the classroom and sport arenas. Clinton is a great example of meeting and mastering this challenge.

– Susan Hannam
The department of theatre has renovated Sheehy Auditorium, restoring the 100-seat theatre in the lower level of Maltby Center to its original size. The restoration gives theatre students twice as much performance space while the University charts a long-term solution to program growth – construction of a new Performing Arts Center.

Contributions will help make the state-of-the-art facility a reality.

“It’s wonderful that they were able to renovate Sheehy for our use, but the greater need is for a new performing arts venue,” said Laura Smiley, assistant professor of theatre. “A new Performing Arts Center would provide state-of-the-art performance and learning spaces that will enhance the possibilities of what we can achieve with our students and share with the community.”

“It makes a difference for Sheehy to be restored because it allows for students to practice their craft in acting, stage designing and directing,” said Marquita Hefflin, a theatre and secondary education/Spanish major from Pittsburgh. “I like to think of the theatre department as SRU’s special little secret. This department is amazing.”

The Sheehy renovation was made possible when the robotics program relocated from the back of Sheehy to the University’s new Advanced Technology and Science Hall. Theatre knocked out a wall and ripped up old carpet to recapture the original stage space. Workers painted everything black and added taller risers.

Sheehy, now equipped with multi-stage levels and better stage echo, is suitable for audience-participation shows, experimental theatre, as well as performance and director classes.

“It’s much better for student productions, and it wouldn’t surprise me if theatre faculty start doing shows there,” said David Skeele, theatre professor.

The theatre inside Maltby opened in 1938 and served as the primary space for campus productions until Miller Auditorium opened in 1958.
Education alumna receives national honor for leadership

Sandra Scurle Kalin, a 1964 education graduate, has received the 2007 National Distinguished Principal Award from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Kalin was recognized for her management and leadership role at Bethel Lutheran School in St. Louis. The multicultural elementary school provides high quality instruction that ensures students’ success in preschool through eighth grade. More than half its students qualify for free or reduced lunch and financial aid.

“We’re a small private Christian school. Public schools have as many as 600 students. For us to receive this award is incredible,” she said.

Kalin received the award in Washington, D.C. The 2007 Distinguished Principal program honors 61 elementary school principals nationwide who are exceptional principals.

The Evangelical Church of America named Kalin the 2007 Elementary Principal of the Year.

She joined Bethel Lutheran School in 1994. “When I took over, the school was closing,” she said. She rebuilt the school over many years through innovative programming and successfully lobbying for support from the community.

Kalin said her school was the first in the country to achieve national accreditation through the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association under a new process emphasizing outcome-based education. She began the self-study process that focuses on learning results instead of teaching input.

She spearheaded a movement to have her building outfitted for wireless computers and to obtain laser printers, DSL projectors, digital camcorders and laptops at minimal cost.

Since leaving Slippery Rock, Kalin has taught all subjects but particularly science. She held various teaching and administrative positions in elementary and middle schools in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Missouri. Still, she credits her alma mater with providing a solid foundation.

“There is so much that I have used from what I gained in classes at Slippery Rock,” she said. “I really learned to love books and literature, as well as science, from classes I took. I’ve tried to take the very best of what I learned at Slippery Rock and put it in place here.”

Russian publications profile SRU graduate thriving in Moscow

Lori Daytner, a 1989 communication graduate who worked her way to the top in the Russian restaurant business, was profiled in the St. Petersburg (Russia) Times for her remarkable career progression from “Burger King Waitress to Top CEO.”

She also appeared on the cover of a Russian food magazine.

Daytner was recently named president and CEO of Rosinter Restaurants in Moscow. The company operates several restaurant chains in Russia, including TGI Friday’s, Planet Sushi, Moka Loka and The American Bar and Grill.

“Eager to learn Russian, Daytner came to Moscow in 1990 for a three-month language program after receiving a degree in public relations from Slippery Rock University, Pennsylvania,” the paper reported.

Currently, Daytner focuses on gathering ideas for future restaurant launches. She visits her establishments regularly to learn more about their food, service and presentation.

“I am really interested in how people have put together elements, whether it’s the lighting or the design of the furniture…and of course I am interested in what people in the restaurant are ordering,” Daytner said.

One thing they’re not ordering from her company is Whoppers. “Daytner, 40, began her restaurant career while still a student at age 17, as a waitress for Burger King,” the article noted.
Margie Byrd Walker was born in the segregated South in 1933 and grew up in Aliquippa, a mill town light years removed from Pittsburgh’s economic empire of the Mellons and Kaufmanns. What she lacked in resources, she more than made up with her driving ambition.

“In those days, you just knew to accept your ‘position’ and you tried to improve it,” said Walker, 74, of Coraopolis, the widow of the late Curtis Walker, long-time administrator for Pittsburgh Public Schools. “Not many African-Americans went to college,” she added. “I made up my mind that I wanted to go to college to become a teacher.”

Walker enrolled in what was then Slippery Rock State Teacher’s College in 1951 and became the first African-American to graduate from the Butler County university in 1954 – an achievement she cherishes to this day. “We’re setting a precedent,” she recalls the president of the college saying during graduation.

“Students were friendly’

Walker moved into North Hall in fall 1951. SRU consisted of a half dozen buildings, including Maltby Library, Old Main, East Gym and South Hall for men. “When I first went there, we only had about 500 students and 800 when I graduated,” she said. “The students were friendly, and they just took me in as one of them. I still encourage other African-American students to go to Slippery Rock because you can get a good education there. It was a good university then and it still is.”

She doesn’t recall any racism on campus, but the social order of the day required Walker to stick with white students when going to restaurants and stores off campus. This was before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 desegregated the nation’s restaurants and hotels. “The students and teachers were great. I never had any problems with the teachers,” Walker said. “I got to know everybody, and I was in quite a few campus activities. I was on the women’s council, in the choir and involved with the music honorary and geography club.”

English was one of her favorite subjects. “If I hadn’t gone to Slippery Rock, I wouldn’t be able to read and understand poetry,” she said.

Students in the 1950s stuck to more traditional forms of entertainment. “There were all kinds of things we did on campus. Maltby Library at one point had a bowling alley in the basement,” she said. “We would go bowling. We would go skating. They would flood the Kiester Road pond and we would go ice skating, me and my friends.”

It was a more formal era, “Nothing like today,” she said. “You did not wear jeans on Sunday and you did not go on the front of campus in jeans. You had to be dressed for dinner every evening. You wore stockings and dresses. Young men wore coats. Dinner was served family style.”

After graduating with an education degree, Walker taught for many years in the Aliquippa School District. She later directed the community’s Head Start program for 16 years. She and her husband had three children.

She does not consider herself a hero. “I’m just the type of person who would be willing to be the first one to graduate from a university,” she said. “I was just a well-rounded person who wanted to become a teacher.”

“She was the first African-American graduate here at Slippery Rock University and the only black student on campus when she enrolled.”

Walker enrolled in what was then Slippery Rock State Teacher’s College in 1951 and became the first African-American to graduate from the Butler County university in 1954 – an achievement she cherishes to this day. “We’re setting a precedent,” she recalls the president of the college saying during graduation. Walker was recently back on campus to help honor Francene Haymon, a professor in the University’s Counseling Center, who launched Slippery Rock University’s Capstone Lecture Series. The series provides an opportunity for retiring professors to address the University community. Haymon, who retired in January following a 33-year career at SRU, delivered
‘ROCKopoly’ offers boardwalk of fun

The 2007 edition of Slippery Rock University’s annual homecoming was called “ROCKopoly” and featured a game theme throughout the celebration.

The weekend began with the Fall Classic Golf Scramble at Olde Stonewall Golf Course in Ellwood City, which raised $8,000 for student scholarships.

The annual on-campus pep rally followed, culminating with the crowning of the homecoming king and queen and a concert in Morrow Field House.

Saturday began with a record number of parade participants and spectators lining the streets of Slippery Rock. Floats, cyclists community groups, student organizations, marching bands, fire trucks, dancers and mascots took part in the parade.

The SRU Alumni Association held its open meeting for the general public, provided an update for all those in attendance on the Russell Wright Alumni House Expansion Project and swore in its newest member of the board of directors, Bruno Raso.

The pre-game festivities included the Alumni Association tent with food, live music, give-aways and lots of fun. The tent was surrounded by tailgaters, face painters, departmental tents and other groups. The football game saw The Rock beat Clarion University to cap off a great weekend. Mark your calendar now for next year’s homecoming Oct. 4, 2008.

The king and queen are Jamar Scales of Olmsted Falls, Ohio, and Kimberly Smith of Girard.
Homecoming Parade, Main Street, Slippery Rock
Alumni Association Board Meeting, Advanced Technology and Science Hall (public welcome) Annual Alumni and Family ROCKOPOLY Tent, Thompson Stadium, "Boardwalk" style food and games of chance, Kid's games and activities – face painting, balloons, caricaturist, more...
Live music by "Making Trax" Free to Alumni Association Members (show your membership card at the registration table); Parade participants show their style.

Carl Laughner, '49, and wife Norma Watson Laughner, '48, served as parade marshals.

Rock pride reigns during the football game against Clarion.

Parade revelers cheer the SRU marching band.

The king and queen are Jamar Scales of Olmsted Falls, Ohio, and Kimberly Smith of Girard.
from the University of Southern Florida in 2000. Judith Stewart, ’77, lives and works on her farm, Stewart’s Farm and Greenhouse, growing vegetables and flowers for two local farmers’ markets. Diane Horn, ’78, was selected by the National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families to participate in the Leaders for the 21st Century Fellowship program. Horn earned a master of science degree in psychology in 1981 and a doctorate of philosophy degree in family and child development from Virginia Tech in 1985. She earned an educational specialist degree in school psychology from Radford University in 1983. She is the George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Professor in Early Childhood Education and director of the Early Childhood Education Institute at the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa. Carol L. Stein, ’78, won several track and field awards racing competitively in the master’s division at events across the country. She dedicated this year to Tom Haines, “a dear friend I lost this year.”

1980s

Chuck Jaksec, ’80/’82 (M), wrote two books on parental aggression toward school personnel and school crisis intervention. For more information, go to http://www.amazon.com then, Books and type Jaksec. Keith Kohlhepp, ’80 (M), is a partner in the law firm of Kelly, Hart and Hallman, LLP, in their Corporate and Securities practice group and focuses principally on representation of individual and institutional clients in the securities, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate governance areas. Kohlhepp enjoys restoring vintage automobiles, a process he takes pains to note is never complete. Among his projects are a 1982 Oldsmobile and a 1969 Lincoln. He also is very well traveled, having visited Europe numerous times, as well as Morocco and Cambodia, among many other locales. Len R. Kritchko, ’80, has been president and chief executive officer of Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan since 1997. During his tenure, the organization has doubled in size and now has 13 locations in four counties, serving more than 26,000 youth annually. He is a graduate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s The Thomas G. Garth Executive Leadership Program held at Duke University and the Management Training Program at Case Western Reserve University. He has a master’s degree from Southern Connecticut State University, a bachelor’s degree from Slippery Rock University and an associate degree from the Community College of Allegheny County. In 2007, he was inducted into the Mercer County Hall of Fame Athletic Association in western Pennsylvania.

Michael A. Brown, ’82, is a professional consultant and trainer/facilitator for his own company Experiential Solutions (www.experientialsolutions.com). The company provides team, conflict resolution and leadership training for individuals, corporations and groups. E-mail: mbrown@experiential-solutions.com. Kimberly Stern, ’87, is director of the Maryland Cancer Registry for the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in Bethesda, Md.

1990s

Michael Farrell, ’90, is a full-time firefighter in Scottsdale, Ariz. Raymond Mizzorski, ’91, is a career consultant for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University. Marne Griffin, ’92, professor of English, at Hilbert College, received the 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award. Kelly Covone Henning, ’92, is director of volunteer services at UPMC Senior Communities. Her husband, Leon Henning, ’93, owns and operates Henning Home Inspections, Inc. Richard McElhaney, ’92, is a corporate safety manager for Chester Engineers in Moon Township.

Ronald Shidemantle, ’92/’94 (M), is director of fraternity and sorority life at Virginia Tech University.

Dr. Peter Vilasi, ’92, received United States Association of Track and Field level 2 certification specializing in endurance training. Vilasi is the head cross country coach and first assistant track coach at Sharpsville (Pa.) School District.

Bill Bott, ’93, received the information technology executive award at the American Business Awards in 2007. Bott is deputy of operations for the Information Technology Services Division, Office of Administration, State of Missouri.

Daniel Bickel, ’95, is manager of Prince Gallitzin State Park, one of the largest state parks in the commonwealth.

Ryan Gillespie, ’95, is the manager of the Jefferson-Independence Blue Cross Wellness Center at Thomas Jefferson University.

Anthony Hladek, ’95, is chief operations officer/investment advisor representative with Trustmont Financial Group in Greensburg. He, his wife and two children reside in North Huntingdon.

Barbara Alizer, ’96, is manager of sales at Thomson Tax and Accounting in Michigan.

David Malone, ’97, is a middle school principal with the Springfield Local School District in New Middletown, Ohio.

Natalie M. Dorfeld, ’98/’02 (M), received her doctor of philosophy degree in composition and teaching English as a second language from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Dorfeld is assistant professor of English at Thiel College.

Robert Felix, ’98, was assigned to the 492nd Fighter Squadron in Ladenheath, United Kingdom as the squadron flight surgeon.

Philip Mackey, ’98, is senior-level project manager at TRC Environmental in Las Vegas, Nev.

Erin Palmieri Moses, ’98, received a master of education degree from the University of North Florida in 2007. Moses is a first-grade teacher and the 2007 recipient of the Teacher-of-the-Year Award at Woodland Acres Elementary School. She and her husband, Tim Moses, ’96, reside in Jacksonville, Fla.

2000s

Joachim “Joe” Weaver, ’00, works at the Dallas, Texas, firm of New England Financial.

Ken Sines, ’02, is activities director at Pittsburgh City Charter High School.

Dana C. Aiello, ’03, received his master of science degree in hyperbaric medicine from Saba University School of Medicine in Saba, Netherlands-Antilles, in 2006. Aiello is pursuing his medical doctorate degree from Saba University School of Medicine and is expecting to graduate in June 2009.

Victoria M. Grunthaner, ’04, received her juris doctor degree from the University of Akron School of Law in 2007.

Emily Watson, ’07, teaches fifth-grade at Patrick Henry Elementary School in Arlington Public Schools, Va.
Weddings

1980s
Debbie Walting-Yigit, ’88, was married Nov. 6, 2006. She is sales and marketing director for a hospital based assisted living community in Freehold, N.J. E-mail: debdog120@comcast.net.

1990s
Katie Berkes, ’95, and Kevin Weiss were married Aug. 18, 2007, in Pflugerville, Texas. In the bridal party were Erica Bradley, ’95, and Deann Voland, ’96.

2000s

Births and Adoptions

1980s
Karen Smithyan Holz, ’86, and husband, Fred, announce the birth of their twins, daughter, Katrina Lee, and son, Michael Andrew, July 18, 2006. Holz is a healthcare management consultant for Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte, N.C.

1990s

2000s
Martha Richards Brown, ’00, and husband, Randy, welcomed their first child, Keith, July 2004.

In Memory

Charlotte Weber Aiken, ’28
Ethel Grine Matthews, ’28
Agnes Senda Byrom, ’30
Mary Russell Vogt, ’30
Viola Ford Weaver, ’30
Gladys Frishkorn Gardiner, ’31
Elizabeth Masters, ’31
Kathryn Considine Betz, ’32
Isabel Stevenson Roman, ’32
Grace Macee Cashdollar, ’33
Mary Hartell Gifford, ’34
Helene Briggs Shick, ’34
Mildred Elliott, ’35
Charles Shearer, ’36
Thelma Rommes, ’40
Edna Griffiths Woodring, ’41
Margaret Goddard Mead, ’42
Jean Adams Hoffenbacher, ’43
Twylda Holben Adams, ’44
Bernice Clever Alexander, ’45
Leroy Groves, ’48
August Kielp, ’48
Francis DiPasquale, ’49
John Schantz, ’49
Edith Moore Troutman, ’49
Harry Brownfield, ’50
Francis Long, ’50
Mary Morrison Zimmerman, ’50
Chester Ambrose, ’51
Rita Gabrik Bruce, ’51
Harold Pears, ’51
John Sokol, ’51
Joseph Fuller, ’52
Esther Johnson Phillips, ’52
Margaret Palyocsik Slanoc, ’52
Joan McKissick Freitag, ’54
Paul McMichael, ’54
Alma Basile, ’55
Colleen Peckham Wallace, ’55
George Gilmore, ’56
Albert Volz, ’56
Marian Carlisle Wallace, ’56
James Clay, ’57
Lucille Gaspay, ’59
Robert Menz, ’59
Pauline Mullen Walker, ’59
Charles Franklin, ’60
Mary Perrell, ’60
Karlianne Ciocco, ’04, and Shawn M. Bulisco, ’04, were married September 9, 2006. Karlianne is a nanny for two children. Shawn works as a senior accountant at Leonard G. Birnbaum and Co., where he received his certified public accountant certificate.


Cynthia Hopf, ’04, and Kevin Colonna were married June 3, 2006.

Jessica Lynn Baker, ’06, and SGT Craig M. Pienkoski, ’08, were married Aug. 5, 2006 in Grove City.

Adrienne Grundy, ’06, and Mark Hackett were married June 24, 2006, in Mercer. She is a retail development associate at National City Bank.


Tricia Lipp Flock, ’95, and husband, Joseph, welcomed their daughter, Ruth Antoinette, June 18, 2007.

Kjatra Scalon Knopp, ’95, and husband, Patrick, welcomed their third child, Claire Elyse Yel-Min Knopp.


Sheila Muller, ’99, and husband, Brian Rushe, welcome the birth of their son, Nathan Thomas, May 22, 2007.


Melanie Beals Goan, ’94, and husband, Brad, announce the birth of their third child, Grayson Quinn, June 1, 2007, in Lexington, Ky.


Sheila Muller, ’99, and husband, Brian Rushe, welcome the birth of their son, Nathan Thomas, May 22, 2007.
Jeff Messer named American Baseball Coaches Association Division II chairman

Rock head coach Jeff Messer added another jewel to his collection of honors in early January when he was selected by his peers to serve as the American Baseball Coaches Association Division II chairman.

Messer was named to the honor during the ABCA convention in Philadelphia and immediately assumed the reins. He will serve a three-year term as the Division II representative on the 10-man ABCA board of directors and the primary liaison to the NCAA and its Division II Baseball Committee.

The Rock’s head coach since 1986, Messer has collected 700 wins in his first 22 seasons at SRU and is the winningest active coach in the state, regardless of classification. He ranks second in all-time wins by a Pennsylvania head coach behind only former Temple boss James Wilson (1,034 wins in 43 seasons).

Messer-coached Rock teams have won four NCAA regional championships, two Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference titles and 15 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference-Western Division crowns.

His squads have also collected two regional and two PSAC runner-up trophies and appeared in eight of the last 11 NCAA regional competitions and 17 of the last 22 PSAC tournaments.

The highwater mark of Messer’s career came in 1989 when SRU finished third in the Division II World Series in Montgomery, Ala. The Rock placed fifth in the 2000 national tournament and also competed in the 1997 and 2003 final-eight event.

The 2007 Rock squad claimed third-place finishes in both the regional and conference tournaments and finished with a 35-17 record.

Six everyday players and two of last year’s top four starting pitchers return for the 2008 campaign, which is scheduled to open Feb. 22 with a single game vs. Tiffin University in Chillicothe, Ohio. The Rock is ranked 30th in the ABCA preseason national poll.

Messer recently became the first Rock head baseball coach to achieve full-time coaching status when, after serving in the dual role of faculty member and coach for 23 years, he relinquished the faculty position to focus his attention on his coaching duties.

A graduate of Springfield (Mass.) College, Messer had been a member of the health and physical education and/or sport management faculty.

SRU athletes earn Academic All-America, All-District honors

Rock senior football players Mike Butterworth (Northern Cambria) and Clint Forsha (Blairsville) each earned first-team ESPN The Magazine College Division Academic All-America honors this fall.

Butterworth, who attained first-team Academic All-America status for the second straight season, currently carries a 3.62 grade point average as a health and physical education major at SRU. Forsha owns a 3.69 GPA as a geology major.

The Rock was the only Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference school to have a first-team Academic All-America football student-athlete this fall.

Butterworth and Forsha are the first same-sport duo in Rock history to earn Academic All-America first-team honors in the same season and are the only Rock football student-athletes to attain first-team status.

Since 1971, six Rock football student-athletes have earned Academic All-America status. Forsha becomes the 17th Rock student-athlete since 1991 to earn first-team Academic All-America status.

The Rock has now had at least one student-athlete attain Academic All-America status in eight straight academic years and 14 of the last 15 years.

Butterworth and Forsha were two of three Rock sports student-athletes who attained Academic All-District first-team honors this fall. Junior Jen Blasko (Summit Hill) was honored for the second straight season as part of the volleyball competition.

In addition, senior men’s soccer student-athlete Nick Christy (Pittsburgh) was named to second-team Academic All-District honors for the second successive season.

The Academic All-America competition is a project of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). The College Division competition included student-athletes from all non-NCAA Division I institutions.

In related news:

Butterworth was named to Daktronics Inc. second-team All-America honors and was a national finalist for the fourth annual Gene Upshaw Division II Lineman of the Year Award. Both of those honors also came in voting by the nation’s Division II sports information directors.

Butterworth accepted an invitation to play in the Cactus Bowl for Division II Universities all-star game, which was played Jan. 11, 2008, in Kingsville, Texas. He is the 14th Rock student-athlete to play in the game since its inception in 1994.

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McGrath garners first-team NSCAA, third-team Daktronics All-America honors

Rock women's soccer senior midfielder Meghan McGrath capped off an illustrious collegiate career by receiving first-team All-America honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

The first-team honor is the second received by McGrath in her four-year collegiate career and makes her the first player in Rock women's soccer history to earn two first-team All-America honors. McGrath joined teammate Sarah Arsenault on the first-team All-America list in 2003. They were the first—and are the only—Rock players to have attained the ultimate national honor.

Maureen Ennis earned second-team NSCAA All-America honors in 2001, while Sonya Maher was a third-team All-America selection in 1999.

McGrath, an exercise science major from Vernon, N.J., scored a team-high 11 goals and handed out three assists in 2007 to lead SRU to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference-Western Division championship, a runner-up finish in the PSAC playoffs and a second successive trip to the NCAA Division II postseason playoffs.

She finished her collegiate career as SRU's No. 3 all-time scorer with 101 points. She set the school record for career assists with 25 and ranks third in career goals with 38.

In addition to her NSCAA All-America honor, McGrath was the first Rock player to earn Daktronics Inc. All-America status in voting by the nation's Division II sports information directors. She was a third-team selection this fall.

McGrath has also collected four first-team NSCAA All-Northeast Region honors, two Daktronics first-team all-region honors and four first-team All-PSAC-West citations. She was the PSAC "Rookie of the Year" in 2003, the PSAC-West "Athlete of the Year" in 2007 and the PSAC championship-game MVP in both 2003 and 2005.

McGrath was a member of Rock teams that compiled a 67-20-7 cumulative record, won two PSAC playoff titles, played in three PSAC finals and four PSAC semifinals, won three PSAC regular-season titles and earned berths in three NCAA postseason competitions.

In related news:

Rock junior forward Danielle Cooper earned a third-team NSCAA Scholar All-America honor this fall.

Cooper, who hails from Lancashire, England, was the only PSAC student-athlete—female or male—to be honored by the coaches organization.

Cooper currently carries a 3.5 grade point average as a business administration/sport management major at SRU.

On the field, Cooper earned first-team All-PSAC-West Division honors for the second successive season after being a second-team selection as a freshman in 2005.

Cooper scored eight goals and had one assist this fall. She currently ranks eighth on SRU's career scoring chart with 22 goals, 16 assists and 60 points in three collegiate campaigns. She is tied for sixth in career goals and ranks seventh in career assists.
Women’s soccer, volleyball teams receive NCAA regional tournament berths


The ROCK women’s soccer and volleyball teams both received berths in NCAA Division II regional competition.

The women’s soccer team compiled a school-record 17-5-1 win-loss mark, won the PSAC-Western Division championship and garnered PSAC runner-up honors this fall en route to a berth in the East Regional semifinals. SRU beat Adelphi (N.Y.) by a 1-0 score in first-round action before dropping a 1-0 decision to West Chester in semifinal action.

The volleyball team, meanwhile, surpassed the 20-win mark for the third successive season en route to a third straight appearance in the Atlantic Regional tournament. The spikers lost an opening-round match to PSAC-West rival Edinboro and finished the season with a 22-15 win-loss mark.


Rock assistant coach participates in NCAA Women’s Coaches Academy

Rock assistant volleyball coach Lyndsi Hughes was among the participants in the NCAA Women’s Coaches Academy’s “Coaching for Success and Significance” seminar in mid-December.

Hughes, who recently completed her second season as the top aide to veteran Rock head coach Laurie Lokash, was one of 42 coaches assembled Dec. 13-17 at the Inverness Hotel and Conference Center in Denver, Colo.

The NCAA Women Coaches Academy was created in 2002 by the NCAA Committee on Women’s Athletics. It provides skills training for coaches at all levels to assist them in being more efficient, productive, resourceful and successful. The academy is designed for women coaches who are ready and willing to increase their individual effectiveness by learning advanced skills and strategies that directly affect their personal and team success. The participants learn skills that are not sport specific, yet ones that are relevant and necessary for coaching responsibilities, beyond the X’s and O’s.

Hughes was part of the 11th group of coaches to attend the Academy and is the second Rock coach to participate in the prestigious event. Lokash participated in the summer 2006 academy.

Blasko, Urbanik garner AVCA all-region honors

Rock juniors Jen Blasko (Summit Hill, Pa.) and Anastasia Urbanik (Otsego, Mich.) received All-Atlantic Region honors this fall from the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Blasko was named to first-team all-region honors, while Urbanik garnered second-team all-region honors.

Prior to receiving the AVCA honors, Blasko and Urbanik joined senior Louise Schultz (Bethel Park, Pa.) as second-team All-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference-Western Division selections.

In other fall sports:

- The football team was denied a berth in the NCAA playoffs despite having a 9-2 win-loss record, the most wins by a Rock squad since 1999. The Rock finished third in the PSAC-West standings with a 4-2 mark.
- The men’s soccer team came up one win shy of a berth in the PSAC playoffs and finished the season with a 9-8-2 overall record, 8-5-2 in conference competition.
- The women’s tennis team recorded a perfect 5-0 record in its fall matches.
- The women’s field hockey team finished the season with a 1-18 overall record, 1-15 in PSAC competition.

For the latest news on Rock sports, go to www.rockathletics.com or call The Rock Sports Hotline at 724.738.2962.
Mihalik named as finalist for Coach of the Year Award

Rock head football coach George Mihalik was one of five Division II finalists for the Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Award.

The award was presented with the support of the National Football Foundation and the College Football Hall of Fame and celebrates responsible coaching and a commitment to excellence both on and off the field. The winning coach in each of four divisions (Division I-A, Division I-AA, Division II and Division III) received $50,000 for his favorite charities, $20,000 for his school’s alumni association scholarship program, a personal trophy and recognition in a permanent Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year exhibit at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Indiana.

Mihalik owns a 136-79-4 record in 20 seasons as The Rock’s head coach and is SRU’s all-time leader in career wins. Away from football, he serves as a professor in and active member of SRU’s health science department.
Enterprising equestrian, professor emeriti, dedicated philanthropist—all of these descriptions fit Carolyn Carruth Rizza and husband Paul Rizza.

The Rizzas’ generosity made SRU’s Storm Harbor Equestrian Center possible and continues to provide learning opportunities for deserving students. They serve on a number of boards, support animal welfare causes and were major catalysts for the recent Sunset Serenade Celebration benefit at the equestrian center.

The event raised more than $41,000 to build an endowment, expand services and provide scholarship assistance to SRU students and riders.

“Paul and Carolyn are the epitome of good citizens of the SRU community,” said Courtney Gramlich, ’05, Storm Harbor manager. “They truly enjoy helping others with the gifts they have been given. Without private support from individuals like the Rizzas, our equine-assisted activity program for children and adults with disabilities would not be able to exist. Scholarship assistance is provided for riders who are in financial need.”

The Rizzas, both retired SRU professors emeriti, donated $100,000 to complete the 20-acre equestrian center in 2005. They contributed $10,000 to name the feed room and $10,000 in support of the Sunset event.

The center supports SRU’s Adapted Physical Activity Program, which teaches students how to run athletic programs for those with disabilities. Students lead riding lessons at the facility, which includes an indoor and outdoor riding arena, 12 stalls, a tack room, classrooms and outdoor trails. Eleven horses live there.

“Activities not only help riders participate in the physical activity of riding the horse, which in itself is very beneficial, but it gives them confidence in their abilities,” Gramlich said. “The riders with disabilities, and the SRU students who work with them, are what make the program so special.”

Since its inception, Storm Harbor has been about giving. A public call for horses found six respondents who donated horses considered gentle enough for riders with disabilities. A prominent veterinarian, Robert Kissick, Silver Spring Equine, also donates his time, as do SRU students.

In fact, the Rizza family philanthropic support for SRU predates Storm Harbor. Carolyn’s late mother, Ethel Carruth, donated $250,000 toward the equestrian center and gave $2.5 million to restore what is now Paul and Carolyn Carruth Rizza Hall (formerly West Hall). It houses the department of modern languages and cultures and the Office of International Services.

As a tribute, SRU named Storm Harbor after Carolyn’s horse of the same name. The Percheron/thoroughbred cross was born on a stormy night.

Rizza, who has been involved with horses all her life, hopes to see the facility expanded.

“We need more stalls, so we can have more horses and therefore more riders,” she said. “We would like to become an even more visible center for adapted riding. We’d like to hold clinics, educational events, train instructors and do research.”

The Rizzas have always believed the adage that the value of people is in what they give, not what they receive. And they start with the perspective that philanthropy is “love of people,” when explaining why they contribute and why others should step up.

“People should invest their time and finances because SRU can make a difference – look at Storm Harbor,” Carolyn Rizza said. “It is very rewarding to see all of the activity at the facility and hear from the parents and grandparents of the riders what the activity has meant for them. Riding has a huge impact on the people who participate, both psychologically and physically.”

Rizzas’ philanthropy enriches learning opportunities
Celebrating a ‘barn good time’

Sunset Serenade benefit raises more than spirits

Quick, how do you bring cured salmon, duck with Roquefort pate and raspberry mousse under the same roof with cowboys and a bluegrass band? The answer, have a benefit party in a barn to raise money for Slippery Rock University program support and scholarships.

“I went out and bought a vest with sequins and beads. I wore my best boots and went western. It was fabulous,” said Joette Miller of Shaler, a ’73 Rock graduate who attended the recent Sunset Serenade Celebration at SRU’s Storm Harbor Equestrian Center.

The upscale hoedown raised more than $41,000 for student and riding scholarships.

The program included a silent auction for 60 items, tours of the equestrian center and culinary stations of seafood, barbecue and west coast cuisine.

“I’ve always loved horses,” Miller said. “I went from one stall to the next and saw the horses and the lift they use to raise children and put them on horses.”

Attendees contributed $60 to attend the event, sponsored by the Storm Harbor Advisory Board, SRU’s Office of Advancement, Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and the College of Health, Environment and Science. AVI Foodsystems, Inc., the University’s food contractor, provided the food, which Miller described as “out of this world.”

Miller said she was happy to contribute financially because the event benefited students. “Slippery Rock University makes you feel wanted, needed, but most of all appreciated,” she said.

During the live auction, participants bid on a flat-screen TV, a vacation to Disney World, a handmade porch swing, Pittsburgh Steelers tickets, specialty gift baskets and a catered dinner for four from AVI at the winner’s house.

“I remember that one going for more than $800,” emcee John Synder, SRU associate director of career services, said of the dinner for four. If you missed the fun this year, make plans now to attend the next Sunset Serenade, Oct. 4, 2008.

“The best part for me was a mother who came up to tell me about her son, who rides at the Equestrian Center. He has cerebral palsy and was unable to sit upright on the horse. We have a special saddle that supports the rider, which he was able to use. Now, he is riding bareback on his own horse and loving his time with the horses. This is what the center is all about.”

– Carolyn Carruth Rizza, chair of the Storm Harbor Advisory Board

Carolyn and Paul Rizza don’t anticipate riding into the sunset – they’re too busy helping others. They are Sapphire Club ($100,000 plus) givers to Slippery Rock University through the Lifetime Giving Campaign and are involved in a number of leadership activities.

Carolyn Carruth Rizza
SRU professor emeritus of sociology, anthropology and social work
• Storm Harbor Advisory board chair
• Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging board of director
• Visiting Nurses Association of Western Pennsylvania board member
• Association for Gerontology in Higher Education committee member
• Bach Society of Grove City board of directors and treasurer

Paul Rizza
SRU professor emeritus of geography and environmental studies
• Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. board member
• Slippery Rock Rotary International board member, Paul Harris Society member
• Rotary International Peace Centers Committee member

Sunset Serenade Celebration
Countless coats of color

Mary Phillips exposes students, community to beautiful Asian art

If Mary Phillips hasn’t been out and about town as much as other arts advocates lately, it’s because she’s been in. Her house, that is.

Phillip’s “house” – The Maridon Museum in Butler – is western Pennsylvania’s only museum with a specific focus on Chinese and Japanese art and culture. Phillips opened the 800-piece museum in 2004 and has her fingers in plenty of other causes, including support for the fine and performing arts at Slippery Rock University.

“We have had many students already visit us from SRU who tell us they are doing a report for a class,” she said of her museum, a cultural icon filled with luminous colors and delicate moldings.

Phillips shows how a busy life can intertwine with arts advocacy and provide educational opportunities for students through giving. Her $25,000 donation underwrote the SRU Jazz Ensemble’s performing tour of Europe in the summer of 2006, and she has financially supported the University’s Performing Arts Series and Storm Harbor Equestrian Center, which supports a number of student programs.

“I contributed to the European trip because it was good for the kids,” she said. “I like to see them busy, and they were on a mission to play good music. I feel lucky that I can help.”

Phillips also donated a sculpture made by James Myford, SRU professor emeritus of art, that is exhibited at the Slippery Rock town gazebo.

Phillips has a long history of philanthropy, which began after her marriage to the late Donald Phillips in 1944. He was the grandson of T.W. Phillips, the founder of T.W. Phillips Gas and Oil. She has
The Maridon Museum is Mary Phillips’ gift to western Pennsylvania. It houses more than 800 artifacts in four galleries:

- The First Gallery features jade and ivory sculptures, Chinese paintings, a landscape painting on silk and six large scrolls completed in 2002 by contemporary Chinese artist Wan Qingli.
- The Second Gallery presents objects depicting people. The exhibition includes scenes of daily life as well as emperors and legendary figures.
- The Third Gallery features objects relating to the world of the Chinese scholar, or mandarin. The display includes scrolls fronted by a scholar’s table covered with all the implements that the scholar used for his artistic pursuits – ancient ink blocks, ink stones, scroll boxes, brush pots, flywhisk and a contemplative rock.
- The Fourth Gallery houses Phillips’ extensive collection of Meissen porcelain. Started in 1713, the Meissen factory began producing objects that have enticed collectors ever since.


“Mrs. Phillips is not only one of western Pennsylvania’s most generous arts supporters, but she is also a great friend of Slippery Rock University.”

— William McKinney
Dean, College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts
Mine Safety Appliances’ land donation pays dividends

“Our vision, when MSA purchased the Cranberry Woods land more than 20 years ago, was to create a premier business park that would attract businesses and residents to the region. Securing Westinghouse as a neighbor and, more importantly, keeping them in our region, certainly reaffirms the value of that investment,” says Dennis Zeitler, treasurer and chief financial officer of O’Hara-based Mine Safety Appliances Co., the global leader in sophisticated safety equipment.

MSA is the company that got the ball rolling on the SRU-administered Regional Learning Alliance facility 25 miles north of Pittsburgh. The company donated 20 acres to the SRU Foundation in 2002 for development of the RLA, which merges the resources of more than a dozen universities, college and technical schools to host conferences, provide corporate training and offer higher education programs for traditional and non-traditional students.

MSA’s land transfer continues to deliver dividends for a region needing economic growth. Westinghouse Electric Co. recently announced plans for building a nuclear-energy campus and relocating 3,000 employees to the Cranberry Woods Office Park, which is owned by MSA and includes the RLA.

Westinghouse officials say the company could add up to 2,000 new jobs over the next five years as it fills a worldwide demand for power. The infusion of high-tech workers will provide a boost to the local economy and the RLA.

“We’re one of the reasons Westinghouse chose this location, and it’s going to create a lot of partnership opportunities. It will be a huge impact for the RLA,” said SRU’s Justin Griffith, RLA general manager.

“I see nothing but good coming from this endeavor,” Zeitler said. “The RLA is dedicated to improving our region through professional and economical development. And in doing so, we are providing many with educational opportunities that before might have been out of reach. In the long-run, I envision the RLA generating additional educational and hands-on opportunities for even more students, thus bringing, and keeping, people in our communities.”

MSA, which develops and sells items that improve workplace safety, donated the land to SRU as an investment in the regional economy.

“Continuing education is important to MSA for many reasons, chief among them being a need to keep our associates educated on the latest business trends and technology,” Zeitler said. “In addition, we saw the RLA as an opportunity for MSA to be at the forefront of something unique and beneficial to the entire region. I think having a resource like the RLA in our backyard, so to speak, makes our region more marketable and effective in terms of attracting high-quality employees. And that not only benefits MSA, it benefits all companies that operate here.”

Zeitler hopes to see more corporate involvement in education.

“The one thing that is constant in business is change,” he said. “And if companies are going to have employees that are understanding and accepting of change, they need to have programs in place that provide access to continuing education to educate associates on the latest business trends and technology allowing them to adapt more efficiently and effectively. At MSA, providing our associates with an opportunity to seek outside educational resources has definitely been a key in retaining some of our brightest talent.”
Philanthropic support provides the margin of excellence at Slippery Rock University. Each year, alumni, businesses, corporations, foundations and friends of the University make gifts through the SRU Foundation to support the progress of the University.

We are proud to recognize the generosity and commitment of our many friends and donors whose lifetime giving qualifies them for membership in one of our giving clubs. Because of this support, the educational experience of our students is enriched. Private gifts enhance academic programs and classroom facilities, as well as provide scholarship support and enrich the many extracurricular activities available to students.

All gifts to Slippery Rock University are appreciated, and every gift makes a difference! All alumni and friends of SRU are invited to be a part of the University’s continued success. For more information about how you can contribute to SRU, please contact University Advancement at 724.738.2004.
The Lifetime Giving Report

Totals are calculated on gifts received as of Nov. 29, 2007

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Champ R. and Marjorie L. Storch
James M. ’80 and Ronda (Romesburg) ’81 Stracka
Henry B. and Beverly L. (Lauffer) ’52 Suhr
Cynthia Rae Taylor ’78
Rhoda E. Taylor
Friedrich and Ursula Teroerde
Barry K. Thompson ’87
Triangle Tech Group
Vulcan Materials Company
John** ’40 and Irene Watson

Anonymous (7)
Mary R. Adair
Benjamin L. Addison ’87
Aetna Life & Casualty Company
Mary Margaret (Elder) Allbaugh ’39

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Armoloy Corporation
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Garry W. Benford ’77
Robert A. and Janine L. (John) ’82 Berner
Nicholas Billy ’56
Earl J. ’51 and Shirley A. (Dean) ’51 Birdy
William O. Boggs
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Delores S. Boyer**
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M. Kate Brennan
Loyal K. Briggs** ’38
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Buco Transportation, Inc.
Burger King Corporation
Burgess/McCormac Foundation
John D. ’72 and Beverly R. (Swallow) ’70 Butch
Butler County Bar Association
Antonio and Carolyn Capone
Leonard M. Carroll
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Wilton J. Cavill ’52
Susan J. (Hetherington) Changnon ’85
Timothy Chase and Joan C. Condravy
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Edwin B. ’43 and Mildred (Weed) ’67 Cotrell
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Diana Y. Dreyer
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ELG Hanil Metals Corporation
Murry E. Everson
Exxon Education Foundation
James and Wealtha (Adamosky) ’57 Flick
George T. Force and Cynthia Ann
Dillon ’96
Carol Forrester-Staz
Lionel Galway and Susan H. Tritt ’72
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Charles A. ’90 and Donna Gottschalk
Anne M. Griffiths
Arveta (Daugherty) Haag** ’35
Terry L. ’71 and Janis Hall
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David K. Harper
Howard M. Harper ’52
James S. ’71 and Andrea Hawkins ’71
Francene E. Haymon
Raymond E. Haynes ’37
Headway Corporate Resources, Inc
C. Jay and Pamela Hertzog
John A. ’62 and Judith (Keith) ’62 Hicks
Frank M. and Ruth A. ’79 Hoffman
Tom and Carol L. (Grolemund) ’86 Holland
James C. and Judith Hughes
Ralph C. Humphrey** ’35
Richard F. and Billie F. Hunkler
Ronald J. ’73 and Karen Hunt
Inmetco Company
International Custom Products, Inc.
 Interstate Chemical Co. Inc.
Larry F. ’67 and Shelia E. (Toohey) ’67 Jarres
Jerry Taylor Ford Sales, Inc.
Dale E.** and Rose S. ’69 Kaufman
Kathleen Kellinger
Stanley and Phyllis A. Kendziorski
Mary L. (Perry) Kennedy** ’40
Samuel M. ’79 and Karen Kiefer
Helen A. Knierim
Knot’s Interiors
Kevin R. and Alicia (Stackhouse) ’86 Kopp
Koppers Industries, Inc.
Russell L. Laubach
Carl L. ’49 and Norma (Watson) ’48 Laughner
William C. ’59 and Sally (Jackson) ’59 Lennox
N. Lee and Linda Ligo
Dale E.** ’38 and Adaline (Riddle) Liken
James W. and Sue Liken
William F. Lindgren
John H. Loudon**
William J. ’72 and Jana Love
Paul A. and AnnLucken
Ronald L. ’53 and June Manchester
Dineshnandini Manocha
Frank V. and Carol Mastrianna
Allen W. and Melissa McClymonds
Mark A. ’78 and Darleen McCommon
McDonald’s of Slippery Rock
George F. McDowell ’82
James P.** and Janie M. McFarland
Carl T. McGary ’83 and Maureen Lowe
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Grant and Aimee McKnight
McKesson Community Service
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Douglas and Linda McMullen
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Wayne L. ’71 and Catherine Miller
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Patricia A. Montesón ‘67
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Motorola, Incorporated
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Ranbar Technology, Inc.
Dennis V. and Rebecca F. ’73 Raybuck
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Gary and Marjorie Rose
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Run for Roch
Pamela J. (Minoski) Runac ’69
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Blase S.** and Mary Scarnati
Regis I. Schiebel ’57
Michael Schmittlein
Schumann Center for Media & Democracy, Inc.
Steven and Cheryl (Roppa) ’79 Schwarzwaelder
John P. Scullin
Arthur M. ’82 and Debbie Scully III
Clara C. Settlemire
Michael H. Sharp ’83
Charles H. ’74 and Gail Sheetz
J. William and Gayle Shiner
Mark A. Shotwell
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Sung Won Sohn
William C. ’70 and Jean A. Sonntag
Harry D. ’51 and Patricia Spataro
Special Olympics International
Gary E. ’76 and Janet (Robertson) ’78 Sphar
Sprint
Stackpole-Hall Foundation
Mack J. and Bonnie Steel
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K. James and Kathleen M. Strickland
Constantine N. and Maria Stroumbakis
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Surftec Enterprises, Inc.
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Norman B. and Jane Teague
Bill E. ’41 and Scotti Temple
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Timothy ’73 and Hallie Trautman
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Unilever United States, Inc.
Verizon
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Roger Vincent
Vira I. Heinz Endowment
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Jeffrey W. Wangler ’81
WaterStone
Trinda N. Weaver ’73
Virginia Wellman
Mildred E. Whisner** ’27
Marvin and Nancy L. (McCracken) ’65 Wilenzik
William F. and A. Lee (Hauer) ’91 Williams
James E. and Donna Winner Jr.
Wise Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine
Scott A. ’90 and Janet Wise
Arthur C. Wodiska
Carl G. Woodling**
Judith L. Zarenko ’71
Patricia A. Zimmerman
Charles A. and Charlotte Zuzak

Thomas L. ’54 and Dorothy Beck
Timothy ’76 and Darlene Beck
Bell of Pennsylvania
Elizabeth Ann Berkely ’70
Kenneth B. and Zarah Blair
John J. and Deborah Boczar
Bruce G. ’73 and Tracy (Massack) ’79 Boczar
Robert S. ’71 and Betty (Boyer) ’74 Borello
Richard James Bowman ’79
Bernice G. Brown
Robert A. and Patricia Brown
Edward R. and Christine (Bolton) ’93 Bucha
Herbert F. and Jane C. Burger
David L. ’76 and Veronica Burnette
Dennis S. Burnham
John L. and Susann Burrch
Alberta (Olzak) Buzash ’56
Vernice P. Cain
Kenneth J. and Daneen Calhoun
Joseph and Lisa Cali
Dean V. and Diane Camp ’80
Victor P. ’82 and Monica (Young) ’83 Campagna
Timothy D. Carney
Cashdollar and Associates
Oliver F. and Geraldine Cashdollar Jr.
Gary V. ’86 and Jennifer Charmel
Citi Global Impact Funding Trust, Inc.
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Rob J. ’97 and Kim (Vardaro) ’96 Coffaro’s Pizza, Inc.
Coca-Cola Company
Continental Food Service, Inc.
Cooper Brothers, Inc.
CoreStates Financial Corporation
Cornelius and Joan Cosgrove
Joseph A. ’68 and Cheryl Costello
Stephen C. ’80 and Susan V. Coulon
Dennis P. Cousins ’69
Louise A. (Shearer) Crawford ’54

Anonymous (5)
84 Lumber Company - Butler
Rita E. Abent
Allen & O’Hara Development Company
Ameriprise Financial
Henry J. Anna
Autism Opportunities Network of PA, Inc.
AXA Foundation
John L. and Rebecca (Gabrys) ’74 Badgett
Richard D. Barclay ’46
Barnett Banks, Inc
Paul J. ’81 and Mary Lynn Baroffio

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Raymond H. Ralston** ’27
Bruno A. ’61 and Agatha Raso
Donald L. and Janet R. Roberts
Fred B. ’53 and Mary Roby
Rodale Institute
Walter E. Rohwedder
F. Duane Rose
L. Michael ’77 and Donna J. (Barklymer) ’76 Ross
Bruce W. ’72 and Sue (Dickert) ’93 Russell
Gail Sabanosh ’76
Safari Club International
Diane Samuels
Daniel and Carolyn Santone
Michael P. ’89 and Maureen M. Saraka
Duncan M. and Bonnie Sargent
Richard and Mildred S. (Kratz) ’68 Sass
Marc E. and Denise Schmittlein
Seneca Printing & Label, Inc.
Don and Pearl A. ’91 Shaffer
Richard L. ’62 and Cathy Shearer
Charles H. Shultz
Sue A. Shuttleworth
Jeffery C. ’74 and Mary Ellen Siemianowski
Ruth A. (Braun) Sipes ’41
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Slippery Rock Giant Eagle
Slippery Rock Hardware
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John F. and Deborah Snyder
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Caryn S. Trapp
Ed Tursic ’62
U.S. Waterpolo, Inc.
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Winner Foundation
Amanda A. Yale
Robert Quentin Yeckley ’74
Duane and Diane Yothers
Mark T. ’80 and Rosie Young
Samuel ’78 and Patricia Zyroll Jr.

** = deceased
The generosity of University philanthropic leaders was recognized recently at the Celebration of Giving banquet, an annual appreciation event for donors who generously support the progress of Slippery Rock University.

More than 100 supporters attended the catered event in North Hall. The evening included a campus tour, special entertainment by students in the performing arts and a dessert reception. The president also recognized new members of Lifetime Giving Clubs. The celebration was hosted by the Slippery Rock University Foundation and University Advancement.

The impact of private support is evident campuswide and continues to provide the margin of excellence in the student experience at SRU. This past year a record $1.6 million was made available in the form of scholarship support.

“Private support makes the difference between a good education and a great one by making available unique opportunities and experiences that enable Slippery Rock University students to achieve their dreams and contribute meaningfully to their community and society,” said Robert Smith, University president.

Call 724.738.2004 for more information.
The Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc.

Board of Directors requests the honor of your presence at

The President’s Scholarship Gala

Saturday, May 17, 2008
Marriott North at Cranberry Woods

$100 per person

Dress is black or green tie optional.
(Green tie and cummerbund available from the Alumni Office for $22.)

Call 1-800-GET-ROCK for more information.
A Conversation with…

Robert Arnhold

Robert Arnhold, professor of exercise and rehabilitative sciences, joined SRU in 1986. He is coordinator of the Adapted Physical Activity Program, the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania. The program prepares graduates for jobs that help children and adults with disabilities lead active and healthier lives. Arnhold played an integral role in re-launching the international Camp Shriver program, which SRU piloted in 2007. His master’s and doctoral degrees are from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Texas Woman’s University, respectively. His undergraduate degree is from Temple University. He is married to Pam Arnhold, also an SRU exercise science professor. They have four children.

Q: Why do you have such a passion for improving the lives of people with disabilities and preparing SRU students for careers in this field?
A: Just take a look at the faces of our students during their practica experiences, or the children and adults who come to our programs. For every student who pursues this line of work, we are multiplying the number of children and adults with disabilities served with health promotion. We improve lives by championing lifelong exercise and recreation opportunities for all people.

Q: Are there still misconceptions about those with disabilities?
Individuals with disabilities sometimes look and act differently than what we are used to. Once you realize that people with disabilities are more like us than unlike us, all is OK. Students in our Adapted Physical Activity Program are attracted to people with disabilities because they see the person, not the wheelchair, the behavior or the appearance.

Q: What makes SRU’s Adapted Physical Activity Program special?
A: The children and adults who have cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, multiple sclerosis or other disabilities teach us far more than we provide support and programs for them. They are truly our textbooks. Where else will you have several hundred college-aged students commit their free time – week in and week out – volunteering to provide recreation and physical activity to children, adults and seniors with disabilities!

Q: What qualities do you look for in students considering careers in adapted education?
A: We look for students who are compassionate, caring and committed to providing the support and services necessary to make physical activity, recreation, aquatic, and horseback riding successful for people with disabilities.

Q: What is the University’s next curricular step?
A: We are in the process of developing a new master of science degree in adapted physical activity as requested by our administration and supported by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. We hope to offer this graduate degree either in fall 2008 or 2009. This program will be unique across Pennsylvania and the United States.

Q: What makes you proudest as an educator?
A: I am most proud of our students who leave SRU and become professionals, advocates and leaders in their professional field that improves the lives of persons with disabilities.

Q: Many of your programs, camps and activities rely on contributions. Who can help and what are the fundraising priorities for 2008?
A: We have several programs that we run for community residents with disabilities that truly need financial support. Our summer program, VIP Sports for children who are blind, is a five-day overnight camp for these children. Camp Shriver, a two-week day camp for children with mental retardation and for children without disabilities, needs the most support. Of course all of our programs at the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center are very expensive to operate but we do not turn anyone away for services. Contributions are always appreciated and can be made to the SRU Foundation, c/o Adapted Physical Activity Program.

Q: Who is your hero?
A: Story Musgrave. He was an early astronaut who held five degrees, including a medical degree, engineering degrees, and is an expert on the design of space suits, a high performance jet pilot, parent and a marathon runner.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?
A: I enjoy bicycling, especially with my wife on our tandem bicycle. We plan to take the rails-to-trails trip from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C., next summer.

Q: What would people be surprised to learn about you?
A: In high school I didn’t apply myself so I could not get into college. I had to work at a stoneyard cutting stones with a hammer and chisel then realized I needed to get to college and ended up with a Ph.D.
What does a North Carolina pop band, an Erie Hospital and the U.S. Army have in common? They all came to campus recently to videotape commercials or music videos, taking advantage of SRU’s reputation as a great site for shoots.

Indeed, the campus is so appealing one company taped an Internet “stiffs” spoof on the pedestrian corridor in front of Weisenfluh Dining Hall and posted it nationwide.

The takes:

• More than 15 SRU students appeared in “First One On The Blog,” a music video by the pop band Farewell that was taped in Strain Behavioral Science Building. “First One On The Blog” pokes fun at “establishment” high school culture and includes a scene in which students attend a class called “Blogging 101.”

• The U.S. Army taped a “We Want You” recruitment video featuring former Rock student and Army Reservist Scott Peterson and his mother Lisa (Peterson) Hicks.

• An Erie hospital brought its chief executive officer to Advanced Technology and Science Hall to tape a TV commercial telling the story of the hospital’s influence on its patients.
• Five Guys Named Moe  
*Saturday, March 29, 2008, 7:30 p.m.*  
An international sensation, this tribute to composer Louis Jordan will keep your toes tapping to songs like “Let the Good Times Roll,” “Caldonia,” “Choo Choo Ch’Boogie” and many more.

--- SPECIAL EVENT FOR FAMILIES ---

• Charlotte’s Web  
*Friday, May 23, 2008, 7 p.m.*  
TheatreworksUSA’s production is based on E.B. White’s loving story of the friendship between a pig and a little gray spider. This treasured tale explores bravery, selfless love, and the true meaning of friendship. (Approx. one-hour in length)

All performances are in Miller Auditorium on the SRU campus.  
Tickets sell quickly.

For details regarding these events call  
Slippery Rock University’s Office of Public Relations, 724.738.2091 or visit our Web site at www.SRU.edu and click on Fine and Performing Arts Calendars.
I am the ROCK

C. Vivian Stringer, ’70, ’73
physical education

Head coach of the Rutgers University women’s basketball team, member of the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame, National Coach of the Year, assistant coach 2004 U.S. women’s Olympic team (Gold Medal), “101 most influential minorities in sports” as named by Sports Illustrated

DAY JOB: Working with a great group of young people as the head coach of the Rutgers University women’s basketball team.

FAVORITE SRU MEMORIES: Playing basketball. My friends and I used to sneak into the old West Gym to play basketball after hours. We’d get a hold of one of the janitors who would let us play as long as we wanted. We’d also play in the music room after hours. Those are great memories. I also met the love of my life at Slippery Rock, my husband, William D. Stringer, ’68.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: Appreciate the time you have in college and take advantage of the opportunities given to you with an education.

SRU INFLUENCE: It was the most exciting time of my life; I look back on my time at Slippery Rock University with great pride. That closeness exists to this day as I still keep in touch with the circle of friends I met as a student. Dr. James Roberts, professor emeritus, believed in me when I was having difficulties academically as a student. He helped nurture me and made me work harder as a student and as a person. Of course, Dr. Anne Griffiths was such a tremendous leader and mentor to me as a student, athlete, coach and person. The faculty in physical education all taught me so much. Dr. Albert Watrel, who was president when I was a student, showed me what it meant to be committed to students.