SRU leaders shape the world
Dear friends;

Recently, while visiting with an alumnus at an outreach event, our conversation turned to a discussion of the people attending and their recent successes. That conversation really reinforced for me the continuing impact Slippery Rock University has had in developing leaders within education, business, industry, the armed forces, and in our communities across the nation.

In this issue of The ROCK, you will meet a few of those leaders whose lives demonstrate how leadership development is part of the University’s DNA. I’m sure you will be as proud as I am of the four SRU alumni profiled, three of whom have achieved the rank of brigadier general and the fourth who is the Navy’s highest ranking female Hispanic line officer on active duty. Each is doing extraordinary things in service to our country. For an institution the size of Slippery Rock University, we have an impressive number of graduates serving in command positions. Equally impressive is learning how each attributes their success, in part, to the education and opportunities they received at SRU.

You will also meet a friend and contributor who as an artist, entrepreneur and environmentalist found a way to marry those three passions and along the way sculpt award-winning art, establish a business, and lead an effort to clean up Slippery Rock Creek by reclaiming sedimentary by-product.

Closer to home, you will read about the University’s efforts to develop leaders through service-learning and the Compass Leadership Program. And, meet one of our newest graduates whose leadership as the student representative to the Council of Trustees helped make the dream for a new student union a reality.

These stories are representative of the hundreds of stories of our graduates – your stories – that are played out each and every day in all professions, across the country and throughout the world. These are stories that prove we’re living our promise to prepare students to be productive, engaged members in their chosen professions and active citizens in their communities.

This is important work: work that requires having the resources to attract and retain outstanding faculty, staff and students, and to provide the learning environment and opportunities necessary for success. We need you to partner with us in this work. As state and federal support for higher education continues to decline, your financial support is more critical now than ever.

As a contributor you’ll help to ensure we can always say, it’s “A great time to be at Slippery Rock University.”

Best wishes,

Robert M. Smith
President
To our readers

With this spring issue of The ROCK, we complete our first publishing cycle since redesigning the magazine last summer. I’d like to thank our many readers who took the time to drop an e-mail or called to let us know how much you appreciate the new features, editorial focus and professional design.

One of SRU’s greatest strengths is its commitment to provide hands-on learning opportunities for students to put what they’ve learned in the classroom into action. To that end, I’m proud to draw your attention to two articles in this edition of the magazine that were written by current SRU students.

Nathan Geisler, a communication major from Prospect, used all his classroom skills to develop a profile of Teresa Conn, a 1986 graduate who left a successful teaching career to become the owner of the Pittsburgh Passion women’s football team.

Jaime Wright, a sport management major from Rocky Ridge, Md., shadowed May graduate Scott McCaskey, the former student representative to the Council of Trustees, who is arguably the poster child for how to build a leadership resume by taking advantage of campus opportunities.

And you will read about donors who consider giving a privilege, including a profile of Jeane Powell Furrie, ’45, a pioneer advocate for women’s athletics. We hope you feel moved by these stories and step forward to help support your alma mater financially. There is much work to be done, together.

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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

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About the cover
Ceramist Robert Isenberg, who received his art training at SRU, shapes a clay vessel at the Pottery Dome in Mercer, Pa. The gallery and studio fires and sells stoneware pottery, leading the way by donating proceeds to support local environmental work.
National association recognizes SRU for ‘promising practices’

Slippery Rock University is one of only 22 institutions in the nation to be cited for “Promising Practices in Student Affairs and Academic Affairs Collaboration” by the National Association for Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

The list of schools appears in the association’s new book “Student and Academic Affairs Collaboration THE DIVINE COMITY.” The book provides pointers for building better relationships between faculty and student affairs personnel.

Paula Olivero, assistant vice president for student development, submitted materials to the association documenting SRU’s approach to student development. She showed how SRU offers a number of programs, including the Compass Leadership Program and Residential Interest Groups, which require collaboration between the two areas.

NASPA is the leading voice for student affairs administration, policy and practice. With more than 11,000 members at 1,400 campuses, and representing 29 countries, NASPA is the world’s largest professional association for student affairs administrators, faculty and graduate students.

System approves new student union

Plans for building a new student Union at the former site of Dodds Hall have been approved. The 118,000-square-foot facility will function as a town center and include a ballroom, theatre, three times as much space for student activities, wireless study lounges and food service. SRU intends to complete the new Union at the site of the former Dodds Hall by Aug. 2011, said Ed Hess, SRU assistant vice president of finance.

Students voted overwhelmingly in favor of replacing the 40-year-old University Union. Of the 2,242 student votes cast, 2,086 were in favor of building a new Union, 78 were to renovate the current Union and 78 to do nothing.

“I’m not surprised by the turnout or the vote,” said Larry Brink, Student Government Association president. “The current one is always crowded, doesn’t have the type of space students and student organizations need, and is really showing its age.”

Computer science professor joins new WWW group as expert

David Dailey, associate professor of computer science, has been invited by the World Wide Web Consortium to serve as an expert for its newly chartered Scalable Vector Graphics Interest Group. The World Wide Web Consortium is the standards group directed by Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the Web.

Dailey, who joined the SRU computer science faculty in 1999, said he was pleased to have been asked to join the prestigious group. His interest in Web-based vector graphics began several years ago when he wished to be able to represent some of his mathematical research in graph theory in formats visible on the Web.

University launches adapted physical activity graduate program, first in state

SRU is launching Pennsylvania’s first graduate program in adapted physical activity. The launch comes on the heels of its minor being named the Outstanding Adapted Physical Activity Program of the Year for 2008. Adapted activities teach students how to devise and manage exercise programs for people with disabilities.

The 30-credit master’s degree program, approved by the SRU Council of Trustees and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education board of governors, will begin fall 2008.

“We have more than 125 students in the minor and expect several of them to enroll, as well as students from around the country who are interested in becoming advocates and leaders in the adapted education movement,” said Robert Arnhold, SRU professor of exercise and rehabilitative sciences and program coordinator.

For more information about the program contact: Arnhold at 724.287.2847.

Professor earns accolades for 50 years of service

Wilma Cavill, a health professor since 1958, now has one of the most sought after University commodities – her very own parking space.

President Robert Smith saluted Cavill for her years of service at the most recent Faculty Assembly by giving her a parking pass and a bronze serving tray.

Cavill, with a wide grin, thanked President Smith and the University and joked that the milestone doesn’t mean she plans to retire anytime soon.

“I am telling them I plan to retire two years after they stop digging on the Slippery Rock University campus,” she said, noting that construction on the new student Union is set for completion by Aug. 2011. “So it may be some time before I have to make a decision.”

SRU professor of exercise and rehabilitative sciences and program coordinator.

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Students ‘bash’ Boozel Dining Hall for good cause

Students bowled, spray painted and broke plates inside Boozel Dining Hall at the end of the semester but no one was punished for their actions. The organized chaos was for a good cause, paving the way for a Boozel renovation.

The 38-year-old dining hall will be enlarged in time for the spring ’09 semester, with food stations and more culinary options available to serve the growing residential populations.

Students join national JFK assassination group work team

Five history majors are among the latest chroniclers of the most notorious crime of the 20th century – the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. They have been invited by the JFK Lancer research group in Texas to become official journalistic associates and work with assassination sleuths nationwide.

Students will write articles for the group’s monthly online newsletter, sent to 3,000 people, and contribute to a news blog on the Lancer group’s homepage.

“The quality of education and the level of commitment of the students of Slippery Rock University is readily apparent, and JFK Lancer is proud to have these students as associates to provide a fresh perspective on the Kennedy administration and assassination,” said Debra Conway, Lancer group president. “We’ve been discussing amongst ourselves what happened for 45 years. We really want some new blood.”

Lancer, named after the Secret Service’s code name for the late president, is a group devoted to studying the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination.

The students are Danielle Wimer of Volant, Holly Evanoski of Wilkes Barre, Leslie Mead of Guys Mill, Dean O’Brokta of Pittsburgh and Neil Schaffer of Pittsburgh.

Local Audubon honors SRU for wildlife sanctuaries

SRU has received a Conservation Award from the Bartramian Audubon Society for establishing four Audubon wildlife sanctuaries since 2005. The sanctuaries complement greening initiatives and the many campus shrubs and trees that provide seasonal splendor.

The Sanctuaries encompass 83 acres at the Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research, 73 acres behind the Old Stone House, 42 acres of Miller forest on Wolf Creek and 16 acres of forest off South Main Street.

Chelsea Clinton campaigns for mother at SRU

Chelsea Clinton brought the presidential campaign trail to SRU recently, drawing more than 400 students to the University Union for a town meeting on the economy and other national issues.

“I was thrilled with the event as a whole and proud of my fellow SRU students for their interest and participation,” said Jessica Cosme, a sophomore from Butler who introduced Clinton.

“The buzz of students was inspiring and reminded me that if people make an effort, politics can reach young voters.”

The former first daughter used “Our Economy, Our Future” as themes for the campaign stop on behalf of her mother, presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Clinton. Chelsea answered questions from students and faculty members on the high price of gas, the economy, gay rights and animal testing. She also talked about the difficulty many families have paying for college and the need for universal health care.

Dressed in dark-wash jeans, purple shoes and a gray jacket, Chelsea accepted an SRU sweatshirt and stayed on campus for 15 minutes after the town meeting to pose for photographs with students.

The SRU College Democrats sponsored Chelsea’s visit.
Kimberly Smith, assistant professor of exercise and rehabilitative sciences, will provide international leadership by helping to enhance research opportunities for exercise science and sports medicine students as a newly elected student trustee for the American College of Sports Medicine. Members elected Smith to a two-year term in an online vote.

“I am the voice for students in these programs worldwide. I’ll be gauging the research and professional development needs of students and reporting back to the American College of Sports Medicine’s executive board,” Smith said.

ACSM has more than 20,000 international members.

“Music faculty member brings smiles to faces of children in war-torn Kosovo

“The turmoil of a prolonged national war shows in the faces of children, but can be lessened by the universal love of music,” said Stacey Steele, assistant professor of music at Slippery Rock University, who spent part of her academic sabbatical working with youngsters in what is now the newly independent country of Kosovo.

Steele, who, with her husband, Terry, a retired member of the SRU music faculty, and Ellen Gross, a music therapy major from Emmas, spent two weeks in Djakova, Kosovo, working with volunteers and the children they serve at the Shropshire Music Foundation, a program designed to help bring music to children affected by war.

“It’s ironic that Kosovo declared its independence right after our visit,” Steele said. “Terry and I were in the now former Soviet Union in 1991, as part of the SRU Jazz Ensemble tour, just weeks before the USSR dissolved.”

Record-breaking class shows academic excellence

The largest class in University history and one of the most academically accomplished graduated during a standing-room only spring commencement.

SRU awarded more than 1,200 diplomas, including 48 doctor of physical therapy degrees. Thirty undergraduates achieved Honors Program designation. More than 105 received the SRU Medallion as summa cum laude graduates.

Helen C. Sobehart, a 1972 SRU graduate and recently named president at Cardinal Stritch University, served as commencement speaker.
Athletes remember ‘forgotten angels’

Rock athletes raised more than $20,000 recently to help orphans in Haiti. Working together they formed, the SRU Forgotten Angels. The group, composed of around 20 athletes and coaches, is committed to helping underprivileged children.

Men’s and women’s soccer led the fund-raising drives, which included car washes, auctions and an all-night sports tournament.

Rock role model shares inspiring life story

C. Vivian Stringer, ’70, ’73, the head coach of Rutgers women’s basketball, shares her life story in “Standing Tall.”

Stringer, the daughter of a coal miner, tells the story of overcoming punishing odds yet managing burdens to lead her team twice to the national championships. Obstacles included the death of her husband and her daughter’s spiral meningitis.

She is a member of the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame and has been named National Coach of the Year. Her 304-page hardback, published by Crown Publishing, is available at Amazon.com.

Alumna’s book reshapes business-networking approach

Michelle R. Donovan, ’86, and networking entrepreneur Ivan Misner have written “The 29% Solution: 52 Weekly Networking Success Strategies.”

Donovan, who majored in environmental education at SRU, owns Referral Institute of Western Pennsylvania and Pinnacle Training Services in Sewickley.

“My business is centered on referral marketing and networking as a way to grow your business. I have been working with one of the biggest names in the industry, Ivan Misner, who is the founder of one of the largest international networking firms in the nation, BNI,” Donovan said. BNI is based in Los Angeles.

The “29% Solution” offers a strategic plan for restructuring the traditional mindset of business networking. The book offers 52 quick, focused networking strategies, with one specific application for each week of the year. To order the book, visit Donovan’s Web site at www.referralinstitutepittsburgh.com

Nelson updates book on computers in health care

Ramona Nelson, retired nursing professor, has updated her textbook “Introduction to Computers for Health Care Professionals” for a fifth edition.

The workbook provides a foundation for understanding the computer world and changes nurses need to be aware of for computer literacy. She also wrote “Health Care Informatics.”

Books help teachers deal with difficult parents


Jaksec helps teachers recognize the potential for a volatile encounter, deal with a situation and defuse aggression when it surfaces. He said angry parents present unique challenges for teachers that have been long overlooked.

Jaksec has served as a school social worker in Florida’s Hillsborough County School District for 21 years. He is a member of the crisis intervention team as well and speaks nationally on parental aggression and school crisis intervention.
Following the Leaders

Rock graduates shape modern military as high-ranking officers

By Heidi Tyline King

When Meadville native Michael Callan was eight years old, he looked up to watch a plane fly through the clear blue sky. “I didn’t know what it took to do that, but it looked cool,” he remembers thinking. Fast forward ten years to his freshman year at Slippery Rock University, a time when he was intent on realizing his dream of becoming a pilot. “I knew what I wanted to do and I spent my time as an undergraduate trying to figure out the best way to go about it,” he said. “When it became clear that the civilian route would take time and money, joining the Air Force ROTC program was the best – and most cost-affordable – option.”

As a math major and physics minor, Callan had lofty expectations about college, “but semester after semester, my confidence grew and I realized it was really a degree of time management. Because I was a math major at a time when physical education programs were the focus, I got a lot of one-on-one interaction with my professors.”

Individual attention and the leadership training he received in the ROTC program helped Callan, ’81, not only become an Air Force pilot with more than 4,300 flying hours in 16 different aircraft, but a career military officer. Today, Callan is a brigadier general commanding the Air Force Special Operations Forces at Hurlburt Field in Florida. He directs global missions such as the application of firepower, infiltration, and re-supply of special operations forces, and refueling of special operations aircraft. His service has earned him the Defense Superior Service, Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star medals.
Callan is not the only military officer to graduate from Slippery Rock University. Far from it. Over the past few decades, the University has turned out hundreds of graduates who have gone on to serve in the military – many of whom have stayed to carve out impressive careers – thanks to their time at SRU. Indeed, more than 30 graduates are active career soldiers who have reached the rank of major, colonel or brigadier general.

Much of the University’s success in shaping leaders for the military stems from the University’s strong ROTC program. “We believe we need to have a program of excellence that develops exceptional leaders,” said Lt. Col. William Bialozer, former chair of the department of military science. “Our customers are not the students on campus but America’s sons and daughters who are expecting and deserving of good, strong leadership. Right now the military is a pretty tough job. We have to make sure our program mirrors that rigor so that our students can step into hard situations right off the bat.”

Recognizing that resources are also necessary for effective leadership training, the University has invested in state-of-the-art facilities that allow students to undergo participatory leadership drills. “You can’t teach leadership in a classroom,” said Tony Caldarelli, former director of executive leadership at the University. “Our innovative leadership reaction course offers a series of experiential challenges to improve problem-solving and thinking on your feet. Our program is so good that corporations

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College is about expanding one's horizons – in and out of the classroom. One of the most fulfilling ways to experience campus life is to participate in leadership programs. SRU urges all students to get involved and offers numerous programs teaching academic, military and community leadership.

“We give students a multi-dimensional, pluralistic perspective on leadership,” said Brad Kovaleski, director of SRU’s Center for Student Involvement and Leadership. “Our leadership programming is dynamic and invigorating. Students become leaders on campus and in their communities.”

Robert Smith, University President, stepped up the emphasis on leadership education in the fall when he asked the center to develop a University-wide leadership program. This led to the creation of the Compass Leadership Program, which offers workshops on a range of interests.

“We have 600 students enrolled in the Compass Leadership Program and that does not include those that are organization leaders,” Kovaleski said. Some of the other key leadership programs at SRU include:

- **The Freshman Leader Scholar Program.** This program, for first-year students, offers highly intensive leadership training.
- **Pathfinders Certificate Series and Lessons in Leadership.** These programs, for sophomores, unlock leadership potential and give students information they can utilize in their daily lives while contemplating their professional aspirations.
- **SRU’s Army ROTC Program** and minor in leadership. SRU is one of only three universities in the eastern U.S. to confer a minor in leadership for completion of ROTC. ROTC cadets have received many honors. SRU Cadet Zachary Foster, was recently named the top student from among 131 students competing at the Sabalaki Air Assault School.
- **Student Government Association.** Students run for and hold senate and executive board seats. SGA governs clubs and campus activities and provides funding for events.
- **Green and White Society.** Students serve as a public relations team for the University, with an emphasis on responsible, ethical and professional behavior.
- **The I CARE House.** This student-led program provides services to 200 children and more than 50 adults a month in New Castle, a disadvantaged community.
- **The Connector Corps/AmeriCorps Program.** Students mobilize volunteers to enhance the quality of life of children, youth, families and mature adults.
- **Diversity Awareness Programs.** These include the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Harambee Summit and Leadership Symposium.
- **LGBT Resource Center.** Provides peer mentoring and employment opportunities.
- **The Executive Leadership Program.** The program combines outdoor leadership training with classroom workshops for cadets and working professionals.

...and other universities come to Slippery Rock University to use our facilities. They are amazed at the changes that can take place in a group in one afternoon.”

Another reason for the exemplary leadership programs at SRU is the emphasis placed on the programs trickling down from higher powers. “This isn’t a fad,” said Diane Galbraith, an instructor in SRU’s School of Business. “Organizations desperately need employees with leadership skills and our president recognizes that. I spent 20 years in business and whenever I was hiring someone, the person with a 3.5 GPA who had experience in leadership roles and internships would usually win out over someone with a 3.9 GPA and no leadership experience. Working in teams and bottom-line orientations are what companies are all about – you don’t get that by yourself working in a corner.”

Programs such as Galbraith’s leadership class, which will debut in the fall, instill students with lifelong leadership skills that affirm the University’s reputation as a training ground for future leaders. “I’ve commanded a military infantry and advised a sorority,” said Caldarelli. “The point is that the leadership skills you learn here are transferable – whether to the military or to corporate America.”
SRU provides ‘ideal setting for practicing leadership’

Two officers in particular are currently putting the leadership skills learned at Slippery Rock University into practice: Brig. Gen. James Williams, a ’76 graduate who is serving as deputy commanding general in current Iraq operations; and Brig. Gen. Martin Post, a ’76 graduate serving as deputy commanding general with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) in Iraq.

“Slippery Rock University gave me a great environment to study and the opportunity to do things that I might not have had the chance to do elsewhere,” Williams said. “It was an ideal setting for practicing leadership and to make lifelong relationships. We tell our Marines that it doesn’t matter whether you are a private, sergeant, major, or general, you have to be prepared to come to the table as a leader in your school, your community, state, business, or country. If you want to make a difference in the world, you can do it regardless of the school you go to, but Slippery Rock University was a great place to practice leadership.”

“Another current military officer also credits SRU for her success. Capt. Kathlene Contres, the Navy’s highest ranking female Hispanic line officer on active duty, graduated from Slippery Rock in 1977 with no intentions of military service. “I was an athletic trainer in school, and then taught school and coached after I graduated,” the Spangler native recalled. “When I realized that I didn’t have a life – that I spent all my time at school, I decided that I’d join the Navy and spend four years seeing the world, just like the commercial said. Something about the water held the lure of adventure to me. Little did I expect to be here 28 years later.”

Having lived in New York, Hawaii, Guam, Washington, D.C., San Diego, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and now Florida, Contres realized her dream of “seeing the world” while climbing through the ranks of the Navy. Much of her career has been spent in training and recruitment, areas that benefited from

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“No leader sets out to become a leader. People set out to live their lives, expressing themselves fully. When that expression is of value, they become leaders.”

- Warren Bennis, author

Rock graduates who have reached the rank of major or higher include:

- Paul Alessio, ’94, major, Army
- Stephen Allen, ’84, F-16 fighter pilot, South Dakota Air National Guard
- Andrew Burch, ’84, lt. colonel, Army
- Hans Bush, ’85, major, Army
- Michael Callan, ’81, brigadier general, Air Force
- Thomas Clayton, ’83, C-17 pilot, Air Force
- Jonathan Cox, ’92, major, Army
- Gregory Cushanick, ’98, major, Army
- Samuel Ford, ’81, Brigadier General, Air Force
- John Hepner, ’83, lt. colonel, Army
- Larry Hollerman, ’83, major, Pennsylvania Air National Guard
- Walter Kilmer, ’84, major, Army
- James Leise, ’97, major, Army
- William McKinley, ’78, colonel, Air Force
- Randall Nocera, ’79, colonel, Air Force
- Patrick Otten, ’91, major, Marine Corps
- Steven Piccirilli, ’74, colonel, Marine Corps
- Martin Post, ’76, brigadier general, Marine Corps
- Candace Quinlan, ’74, Lt. colonel, (Ret) Marine Corps
- Anthony Rainone, ’78, lt. colonel, Army
- Stephen Simpson, ’89, major, Marine Corps
- James Skrabacz, ’90, major, Army
- Louis Stevens, ’75, major, Army
- Steven Stevens, ’90, major, Air Force
- Catherine Stump, ’79, Lt. Colonel, Marine Corps
- Jason Towne, ’84, major, Air Force
- James Vaglia, ’84, major, Army
- Charles Velesaris, ’92, major, Army
- Susan Wagner, ’76, lt. colonel, Army
- Barry Waite, ’87, major, Air Force
- Scott Weber, ’87, major, Air Force
- Kenneth Weiland, ’92, major, Army
- Jeffrey Weinhofer, ’76, major, Army
- James Williams, ’76, major general, Marine Corps
- Francis Zaborowski, ’81, colonel, Marine Corps

Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Martin Post, ’76, consults with local leaders in Iraq.
A 1976 graduate of SRU, James Williams reported to the Marine’s Officer Candidate School straight out of college and has stayed with the military his entire career. He led reconnaissance efforts for both the 1st and 2nd Divisions in their attacks on Iraq in 1990 and 1991, served as deputy director conducting combat operations in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2000, served as deputy commanding general, I MEF (Forward) at Camp Fallujah, Iraq, from 2003-05, as assistant division commander for the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Blue Diamond in Ar-Ramadi, Iraq, and is now serving as deputy commanding general in current Iraq operations.

In 2003, Williams was promoted to brigadier general, with personal military decorations that include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal and the Outstanding Volunteer Medal.

Williams has continued his education by completing master’s degrees from Yale, Georgetown, and the U.S. Army War College, and is currently in the process of working on a master’s degree in computer engineering and computer science. In the civilian sector, he has worked in numerous leadership capacities for business, technology, and software companies, and acts as a consultant in technology.

Did you plan to have a military career?
Yes. I always knew I probably was going to be a military guy. Several people in my family had been in the military, but I was the first Marine.

What makes a good general?
Generals are selected on experience and their overall history of decision-making. A general of the day has to have a global view of the world situation and be able to look at things other than just the military. We have to know what’s going on in globalization, population explosion, and politics because these give you an indication of where the next conflicts will be. And we have to be able to think ahead and figure out how to prepare for those conflicts when they arise.

You already have several advance degrees, and are currently working on your master’s in computer science and computer engineering. What fuels your drive for continuing your education?
I have a philosophy. There are 6.5 billion people on the earth and my plan is to meet them all. To do that, I have to know a little about a lot of cultures, and a lot about history. If you stagnate, you limit yourself. I guess it’s also partly curiosity. Learning keeps your

“The Navy has given me a wonderful career,” said Contres. “I like the camaraderie, discipline, mutual respect. I like the opportunities available for women, and I like the fact that you are promoted based on merit and your jobs. Plus, it has given me an extended family. I rarely go someplace that I don’t know someone already there.”

Her proudest accomplishment to date is being promoted to Navy captain in 2006. “I love being a role model for so many young women,” she said. “I tell them they can do anything they set their minds to. I talk about taking the right classes and getting the right upbringing and discipline and study habits so they don’t have to struggle to figure it out like we did at their age.”

Getting students and recruits off on the right start is something Contres learned firsthand at her alma mater. “I am certain that the foundation I got at Slippery Rock University helped me get where I am today,” she said. “My professors and advisers were tough but understanding, and they not only advised me, but they taught me how to be a good adviser as well. I have a very warm place in my heart for Slippery Rock University.”

Capt. Kathlene Contres, ’77, is the Navy’s highest ranking Latina line officer.

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“The Navy has given me a wonderful career,” said Contres. “I like the camaraderie, discipline, mutual respect. I like the opportunities available for women, and I like the fact that you are promoted based on merit and your jobs. Plus, it has given me an extended family. I rarely go someplace that I don’t know someone already there.”

Her proudest accomplishment to date is being promoted to Navy captain in 2006. “I love being a role model for so many young women,” she said. “I tell them they can do anything they set their minds to. I talk about taking the right classes and getting the right upbringing and discipline and study habits so they don’t have to struggle to figure it out like we did at their age.”

Getting students and recruits off on the right start is something Contres learned firsthand at her alma mater. “I am certain that the foundation I got at Slippery Rock University helped me get where I am today,” she said. “My professors and advisers were tough but understanding, and they not only advised me, but they taught me how to be a good adviser as well. I have a very warm place in my heart for Slippery Rock University.”

Capt. Kathlene Contres, ’77, is the Navy’s highest ranking Latina line officer.
mind sharp and helps you have a greater understanding about what goes on in the world. It’s a never-ending process.

**What is your greatest accomplishment?**

Two things: staying married for 27 years to my wife, and my tour in Iraq. It was about getting the Sunni leadership, insurgents, and terrorists to communicate and change. Where I was there it was the worst part of the country to be in—now it’s one of the calmest.

**How did your time at Slippery Rock influence your career?**

I ran track and was a member of the judo club, and I had a double major in biology and health science. At that time, there wasn’t a formalized ROTC program, but I did have several professors who were influential. Slippery Rock gave me a great environment to study and the opportunity to do things that I might not have had the chance to do elsewhere. It was an ideal setting for practicing leadership and to make lifelong relationships.

We tell our Marines that it doesn’t matter whether you are a private, sergeant, major, or general, you have to be prepared to come to the table as a leader in your school, your community, state, business, or country. If you want to make a difference in the world, you can do it regardless of the school you go to, but Slippery Rock University was a great place to practice leadership.

**Six Army ROTC cadets take commission oath**

It’s one of the most poignant moments of leadership in action at graduation: The commissioning of Army officers. Six SRU Army ROTC cadets took the oath of allegiance and were commissioned as second lieutenants this spring.

Lt. Col. William Bialozor, head of SRU’s award-winning Army-ROTC program, swore them in. Cadets, in the Army’s new dress blue uniforms, also received their first assignments:

- Kenneth Brubaker of Lewistown, professional studies, joins the medical service corps and will serve on a forward surgical team based in Erie
- Amanda Herman of New Columbia, safety and environmental management, reports to Fort Bliss, Texas for air defense artillery training
- Ty Kegarise of New Castle, criminology/criminal justice with a minor in leadership, joins the military police at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
- Micah Linderman of Winchester, Va., business management with a minor in leadership, will be deployed to Grafenwoehr, Germany
- Patrick Passewitz of Austintown, Ohio, history and political science, begins active duty in the ordnance corps at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.
- Mark Rudolph of Punxsutawney, professional studies, begins field artillery training at Fort Sill, Okla.

Since its inception in 1982, SRU’s ROTC program has commissioned 274 officers. The curriculum offers leadership and management training and outdoor opportunities such as rappelling, land navigation and marksmanship.

The program has won the Governor’s Trophy for best ROTC unit in the state three times. In 2002, the program received the MacArthur Award for the best ROTC program in the region. In 2006, the program was designated as the best program in 2nd Brigade for the Cadets’ performance during the Leader Development Assessment Course.

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Passion. Leadership. These words define May graduate Scott McCaskey, an elementary and special education graduate who reached the pinnacle of campus involvement by serving as a Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees member representing students.

“As a role in leadership, it is the highest feat you can achieve as an undergraduate,” he said. “I have grown as a leader more than ever while attending SRU.” McCaskey, who has been accepted into graduate school for education administration, took full advantage of The Rock’s leadership opportunities. He recently became the first SRU student to go through the Level 3 training in the Advanced Leadership Certification Program. He also served as an officer with the Student Government Association and the Compass Leadership Program.

“Leadership is making the right decision when no one’s watching, it’s not always about winning,” McCaskey said. “Slippery Rock University taught me to evaluate issues from the perspective of what is right for me but also for the community. I will always be grateful for four terrific years here.”

McCaskey served two years on the Council of Trustees. The board, with 12 members, serves as the University’s governing body. Trustees approve various items throughout the year, such as the University’s operating budget, academic programs and fees. The student representative has the same authority and voting power of other trustees.

“I was blown away by the capacity and the function of the job,” McCaskey said. “Among other council members, I was never indicated as ‘student.’ Board members were all very welcoming and allowed me to share ideas with the rest of the council members. Your voice has to be active.”

Four expansion initiatives passed across McCaskey’s desk during his tenure as a trustee – big developments that will affect SRU students for years to come: construction of the new, suite-style residence halls and the Advanced Technology and Science Building, renovations to Boozel Dining Hall and plans for a new student union.

“Being a part of those decisions was great, and there are many wonderful things that students will see take place in the years to come,” he said.

Campus leaders must possess certain qualities – “having the passion for Slippery Rock University in my mind counts,” McCaskey said. “I have loved every minute of being on SRU’s campus. I represent everyone – the administration and the student body. To be completely passionate, I’d say, is one quality of leadership that stands out in my mind.”

The second quality: honesty. “You have to be completely honest,” McCaskey said, “and have multiple perspectives on everything. The need to listen to opinions and making decisions is important, as well. Take criticism and have sound judgment.”

McCaskey, of New Castle, offers sound advice for students aspiring to leadership roles: Get involved.

“I wish that every student could get it (the position of trustee for students),” he said. “It changes the prospective you see on the University. Students will ask the question, ‘I wonder why the University did this?’ and in my position, I saw the full function and approval process.”

Leaving a legacy

Scott McCaskey grows as leader through campus involvement

By Jaime Wright, ’09
A smile on a little boy’s face reveals his joy in conquering a reading assignment. A little girl giggles as she learns to draw with confidence. These are the everyday victories at Slippery Rock University’s I CARE House in nearby New Castle. The community center – just one of the University’s many service programs through which more than 1,100 students volunteer – provides services for more than 100 disadvantaged children a month.

“One of the things I really like about Slippery Rock University is as an institution we understand the importance of developing civic-minded, socially responsible people. That’s at the heart of what we do here,” said Alice Kaiser-Drobney, director for the Institute for Community, Service-Learning and Nonprofit Leadership. The institute oversees SRU service projects.

Community service is much more than a food drive or recycling project. A commitment to learning, social justice and equality are core, interdisciplinary values. Students show leadership by volunteering for numerous programs, on and off campus. They tutor children, provide relief in cities nationwide over spring break, work with the homeless and lead environmental cleanups.

“We’re training people who will make contributions in their academic field, but we’re also training people who are going to make contributions in the everyday lives of communities, their families and in schools,” she said. “We do that by developing this ethic of service. When people are no longer engaged, democracy is in jeopardy.”

Each of the University’s more than 8,300 students is challenged to look for ways they can leave the campus and community a better place than when they arrived. Important groups have taken notice. Beyond the Books, which spotlights the nation’s strongest service universities, recently profiled SRU in its national publication.

“SRU is different. What we do is so comprehensive,” Kaiser-Drobney said.

The I CARE House, a flagship service program, opened in 2003. The center offers 15 programs for children and youth and 12 programs for adults. Free children’s programs include tutoring in all subjects as well as art, environment, music, newspaper, dance and youth clubs. Programs for adults include lunches, gardening and healthy living workshops.

Charity Bradley, an SRU community counseling graduate student who grew up in New Castle, works with children at the I CARE House.

“I like giving back to the community,” she said. “A lot of these kids are from low-income families. When they come into the house, I assist with homework and read to them. It’s a nice feeling to see them having a good time.”

SRU sponsors more than 30 service-learning programs that put academic theory into action. More than 15 academic programs offer service-learning opportunities as well. Many programs require community service to graduate. Education majors complete 100 hours, sport management 200 hours.
If it’s spring, it must be Italy, England, or Costa Rica for students in SRU’s College of Business, Information and Social Sciences. Nearly 70 students in the college had the chance to see first-hand some of the international principles and theories presented in the classroom.

Donald Kerchis’ students in his “Politics of Developing Areas” class spent 10 days in Costa Rica examining “a developing country in action. We looked at the economics and the environmental and political development of the nation,” he said.

Kerchis, an assistant professor of political science and former head of SRU’s international program, said, “In addition to visiting the rain forest, volcano and beaches, students saw the cultural aspects of the country. They visited the national congress and received a behind-the-scenes tour from longtime University friend Costa Rican Ambassador Julio Chavez.”

“This year our contingent included students studying in diverse majors — dance, education, geology, environmental science and hydrology as well as political science. This brought an interesting dynamic to our class discussions,” Kerchis said.

Twenty-three students in Bruce Orvis’ “Marketing Seminar” class spent their break in Italy. Rome, Milan, Como, Florence and Pisa became the classroom. “As part of the international portion of the course, students met with business leaders and toured the looms at Lanificio Lamberto, a textile company, in Prato. We heard about marketing programs at La Mantero, a silk factory in Como, and spent time with officials at Castel Romanoa, a designer outlets operation, in Rome,” Orvis said.

“While we all understand the importance of classroom learning, spending time with those who actually make it happen is a very important component of learning and understanding marketing,” Orvis said. There was also time for cultural excursions.

“Understanding that even though we speak the same language, we can have very different opinions on subjects, including privacy, information delivery and press freedom, was an important part my ‘Communication Age’ honors course, in London,” said Amy Walters, assistant professor of communication. Her 22-member group visited the BBC, The Guardian newspaper and the offices of Bloomberg, the worldwide information-services news and media company.

“At Bloomberg they explained their use of fascinating technology, including the fact the FBI was interested in some of their proprietary software — which they refuse to share. Students had the chance to see how the Brits and Americans differ in their view of privacy and their view of news coverage,” Walters said. The group also visited with officials of London’s Office of Press Complaints.

“Our program of linking classwork and hands-on learning at an international location is certainly an important part of our educational plans,” said Bruce Russell, dean of the college. “We are grateful for alumni support for such programs, and with rising costs, we will have to rely on alumni even more in the coming year.” Those interested in supporting such programs may contact the dean at 724.738.2607.

In total, more than 200 SRU students spent spring break studying at international locations.

From the Dean:

The comments from the students returning from their international experience this spring have been overwhelmingly positive. The international opportunity is often a life-changing experience for many of our students. I am grateful to our faculty who have designed courses to provide our students with an enriching cultural and educational experience and to our alumni whose contributions made it possible to offset some of the costs of international travel.

— Bruce Russell
From the Dean:

We really appreciate the working relationships we have established with both Clark County in Nevada and Wake County in North Carolina. We are always trying to find avenues for our students to succeed. By utilizing these two fast growing areas, those students who participate in these experiences have the opportunity to find employment. In addition, the field experience course in elementary education that will be held in Wake County will also provide those students with the option to student teach in fall rather than spring, which becomes advantageous to their securing employment.

-- Jay Hertzog

Twenty-two Slippery Rock University teachers-in-residence are packing their bags and moving to North Carolina for summer school. The education majors are looking to complete their required student-teacher coursework; and are looking over the Wake County School District as a potential employer. At least five education graduates already work for the district.

“It is really a chance for the district to get to know our students and see their abilities up close. It is also a chance for the students to consider whether they would like to teach in North Carolina if offered a position,” said Herbert Hunt, assistant professor of elementary education and early childhood and assistant to the dean of SRU’s College of Education.

The 12-week summer excursion, the second undertaken in conjunction with the Wake County schools, is a perfect fit for SRU because the district offers year-round schooling at both the elementary and secondary level.

“By completing their student teaching in the summer, our students become available for fall employment. We offer a similar program with the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nev., which also has a summer school program for its students,” Hunt said.

“I thought it would be a great experience and a diverse opportunity,” said Stefanie Zoldak, a secondary education major from Homer City. “I will teach history at a middle school. I might consider teaching in North Carolina, if not immediately after graduation, then after I get a few years experience.” Fellow student Joel Rehm, a physical education major from Butler, found the program perfect. “I will finish my academic work with the completion of my summer student teaching. I heard about last year’s program and decided to apply, so it is working well for me.” Rehm said he would teach health and physical education at a Wake County middle school for six week, then move to an elementary school for the final six weeks. “I’m excited and can’t wait to start,” he said.

“Wake County is a huge school district,” said Hunt. “It enrolls more than 135,000 students in 50 to 60 buildings in the Raleigh area.” The district grows by up to 9,000 students each year. “That is the equivalent of adding the entire Seneca Valley School District each year,” he said. The Seneca Valley district is just outside Pittsburgh.

“Wake County has more than 1,000 teacher openings each year. Last year, our first with Wake County, saw five of the nine SRU student teachers accept positions,” Hunt said. In addition to attending SRU’s Office of Career Services Teacher Job Fair, the North Carolina district has visited SRU on special recruitment missions specifically seeking special education teachers.

While in North Carolina, the SRU students will be housed in the University of North Carolina’s new, suite-style residence halls, similar to those recently opened at SRU. They will spend their free time getting to know the community, Hunt said. “The students are still close to home, it’s only a nine-hour drive, but last year, we found they used their weekends to enjoy the beach and the community,” he said.
Yale, other top schools recruit Rock physics graduates into Ph.D. programs

Getting into a premier graduate school is the litmus test of excellence for many in the hallowed halls of higher education. Only the brightest and most accomplished applicants receive scholarships covering all costs. Yale, North Carolina State, Purdue and other plum schools have discovered where to find such students – SRU.

Three May graduates have been accepted into doctoral programs on full rides, testifying to the education and opportunities they received as undergraduates.

- Duayne Rieger accepted a fellowship and assistantship worth $60,000 a year to enter Yale’s doctoral program in geophysics. He fielded similar offers from the University of Memphis and the University of California-Riverside.
- Eric Hardin enrolled in North Carolina State’s doctoral program in physics on a fellowship equaling $30,000 a year.
- Dustin Hemphill enrolled in Purdue’s doctoral program in physics. He passed on an offer from Vanderbilt.

“The credit for our success primarily belongs to the SRU physics professors who strived to offer and advised us to participate in research opportunities that are not as available at other universities,” Hardin said.

“The professors took such a personal interest in me and helped me along,” Rieger said. “I participated in the Research Experience for Undergraduates program offered by the National Science Foundation and computational physics research with physics faculty member Athula Herat. During my sophomore year, I took a physical geology class with Dr. Michael Zieg. That’s when my interest in geophysics was sparked.”

The physics department at SRU, which includes a liquid crystals laboratory, strives to develop students’ professional and technical skills. Coursework emphasizes content mastery, observation of phenomena, problem solving skills and laboratory experiences.

From the Dean:
The selection of three of our majors into top Ph.D. programs is a testament of not only the academic rigor of our undergraduate programs and faculty, but also what can happen when serious students take the initiative to be involved in out-of-class opportunities such as student-faculty research. Duayne, Eric and Dustin were involved with research projects that impressed Division I research institutions enough to warrant these outstanding offers.

- Susan Hannam
Dancer Lisa O’Brien has heard all the stereotypes about dance. “It is not all about making up a cute little dance and showing it off for an easy A,” she said. “In fact, there are multiple research papers that need to be written. I have researched and produced choreography about science-based subjects such as the human brain, atomic energy and celiac disease.”

The dance department has grown to include 110 majors. And like the rest of the student body at Slippery Rock University, more and more academically accomplished students are enrolling. More than half of the dance majors – 65 – made the Dean’s List for the most recent grading period, which means they posted a grade-point average of 3.5 or better.

O’Brien, who plans to become a physician, graduated with a 4.0, as a double major in dance and exercise and rehabilitative sciences. She was chosen to speak at the University’s Academic Honors Convocation and received the “Outstanding Student in Exercise Science Award.”

“Many dance classes require dance majors to research, create and present oral presentations on various subjects,” she said. “Other classes involve communicating information through the use of technology.”

Sarah Joy Stallsmith, another May graduate with a 4.0, won third place at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s philosophy conference for her research paper examining similarities between contemporary dance and Zen Buddhism.

“Developing scholarship and knowledge is a crucial part of my growth as an artist,” Stallsmith said.

“Our dance majors do traditional research, but they also are involved in choreographed research – researching, reading, writing, going to the library, interviewing people and using the data to create a dance,” said Nora Ambrosio, dance department chair.

May graduate Lisa O’Brien excels in the classroom and on the dance floor. O’Brien receives an outstanding student award from Bill Ryan, exercise and rehabilitative sciences faculty member (right).
Ah, college life...

Sooty boots, shattered sleep, constant company of a pager.

Ah, college life...
t is just before dawn on a seemingly routine morning. The shriek of fire alarms and the smell of smoke suddenly fill the air. The Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire and Rescue Co. pages its volunteer firefighters. “Every time that pager goes off, my heart races and my adrenaline is pumping,” said Steven Kostok, a SRU criminology major and volunteer firefighter from Punxsutawney. “The faster you get to the fire hall, the faster you can get to the scene to put out the fire.”

Volunteer firefighters are becoming a rare commodity around the country. But when the Slippery Rock company responds to local incidents, SRU students encounter an unexpected sight – their own classmates. Eight students work alongside 19 other firefighters, ignited by an ethic of service. They risk life and limb with little acknowledgement, unselfishly rescuing people from harm’s way at a moment’s notice – on top of carrying a full load of classes.

“At any time, we may be responsible for taking command of a situation that literally may be life or death,” said firefighter Greg Hester, a parks and recreation/environmental education major from Pittsburgh. “The ethic of leadership is instilled in firefighters. It is one thing to plan and schedule time to go pick up trash or plant a flower, but to be on call all day, every day, and always be willing to drop what you’re doing and run into a situation that you may not come back from is a different level of volunteerism.”

Students respond to structure, brush and dumpster fires, car accidents and other emergencies. Their service is not part of classes or graduation requirements at the University. If they have no firefighting experience when they join, the department requires firefighting, motor vehicle accident and emergency medical technician training. They train at the station and Butler County Community College.

“They sure do provide a valuable assist,” said Ronald Steele, the Slippery Rock assistant fire chief who has been involved with the company 50 years. “They’re especially good with grass fires. They tromp through the woods and put out brush fires – that’s a young man’s fire. We put water cans on their backs and let them go.”

Students clean the trucks and equipment at the station but cannot drive the vehicles. “You could serve a meal off our trucks, as clean as they are,” Steele said.

The company’s coverage territory encompasses 125 square miles, including the University campus. SRU has financially supported the fire department since 1976 and contributed $20,000 for 2007-08. The University also contributed $100,000 toward a ladder truck enabling rescues in residence halls.

“This year we have had a number of guys arrive with no experience, or very little, and they have obtained and set high goals, meeting the requirements to become firefighters and emergency medical technicians,” said David Taggart, fire chief. “I admire their leadership. The college students are teased quite often about their need to go home and crash, but our community and our fire company appreciate their time given for training, fund-raising and running calls. Most of all, we are pleased they are part of our brotherhood at the station.”

Kostok, who plans to become a state trooper or paid firefighter, said community service is part of his family’s ethic. “We are the ones who step up and not only respond to calls, but we also train hard so that when we do get on a scene, we know how to perform our job and be professional about it,” he said.

The most exciting part of being a firefighter is having the pager go off and knowing that you’re setting out to help someone, he said. The hardest aspect is the stress and potential for tragedy. “There’s always a chance that you’ll see things that you would never want to see,” he said.

Eight SRU students volunteer for the Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire and Rescue Co. They are James Peters of Wexford, Jarred Mitrea of New Castle, Greg Hester of Pittsburgh, David Machesney of Pittsburgh, Mitchell Fetterman of Ford City, Michael Grinder of Hagerstown, Md., Andrew Loncaric of Valencia and Steven Kostok of Punxsutawney.
They are the health care pioneers of western Pennsylvania, but their contributions were in danger of being forgotten until John Bavaro, a Slippery Rock University health services administration faculty member, took up their banner. They are the Roman Catholic sisters from 16 orders who staffed the hospitals, nursing homes and orphanages of western Pennsylvania from 1847-1969. They were women of extraordinary compassion, spirited vision and faith – religious leaders and innovators who frequently introduced new services and technologies.

“Our current health care system in western Pennsylvania and across the nation owes a great deal to the foundation created by these sisters,” Bavaro said. “The sisters founded Pittsburgh’s first hospital (Mercy Hospital) in 1847 and were involved in advancements in the use of anesthesiology, the polio vaccine, the first in-patient drug rehabilitation center, generic drugs and even developed a prototype for managed care in the 1930s which was later adopted by BlueCross Highmark.”

Slippery Rock University pays tribute to the sisters, most of who were unrecognized – known only to their families and their orders – through The Sisters in Healthcare History Project. The project, coordinated by Bavaro, consists of 16 historical display panels, one for each order, and one representing an overview of all of the orders.

The project promotes awareness of the sisters’ struggles and successes in establishing a formal health care system at a time when few others were meeting needs. They cared for hundreds of thousands of patients, gaining ground in educational, health care and social institutions. The sisters and the work they accomplished represent a valuable source of women’s history – but their history was threatened to be lost forever.

“Through our project, it is our intention to make sure this does not happen,” Bavaro said. The project relies solely on contributions supporting research, design, preservation and exhibition expenses. Slippery Rock University Foundation Inc. owns the collection, largely amassed by Bavaro with help from the sisters and individual benefactors.
Bavaro said the collection is the largest of its kind in the nation. It encompasses more than 100 artifacts, including historical clothing, medical equipment and hundreds of photographs. “To our knowledge, our project is the only one in the country that is completely dedicated to the contributions made by the Roman Catholic sisters,” he said.

Sisters’ leadership shines

The first display opened recently at the Regional Learning Alliance educational facility that SRU administers near Pittsburgh. The display showcases clothing worn by nurses. Medical artifacts include a wooden crutch used by a soldier during the Civil War, a blood pressure device from the 1920s and a sick call set from the early 1900s used to administer last rites.

The exhibition is a fitting tribute of the sisters who lived their understanding of the Christian gospel by caring for people regardless of race, creed or ability to pay. “John Bavaro has done a wonderful job of getting the display together,” said Sister Louise Grundish of the Sisters of Charity in Seton Hill. “The sisters of the past did a lot of innovative things. Sister Anna Regina Luckett, a sister of St. Joseph of Baden, fashioned one of the area’s first oxygen tents made out of wicker basket, ham wrapper and a thermometer…and it worked. Sisters would often give up their own beds in order to take care of the patients.”

Patients seek personal touch

Bavaro said many people in those early years felt safer going to the hospital knowing they would be cared for by sisters. At their peak, the sisters operated more than 30 of the region’s hospitals and nursing homes and opened numerous schools of nursing and allied health.

“The original health care work done by the sisters was done in response to the need of the time,” Bavaro said. “Our exhibit captures some of those times. Society’s needs have now changed and so has the current work of sisters. However, our project will ensure that the significant work they did will not be forgotten.”

Students describe experience as invaluable

History graduate students Carla Parish, Marisa Rowe and Rock graduate Sue Mraz are consolidating the exhibit to display the artifacts of the individual Catholic orders. They have also made reproductions of clothing and learned about the sisters’ history.

“I joined the Sisters in History Project because I thought it would be a great opportunity to gain hands-on experience with museum quality artifacts and to learn computer software used by museums for cataloguing,” Parish said. “It was not long before I realized the work was far more than just experience for a future job. It was really about gaining recognition for 16 orders of caring, courageous Roman Catholic nuns.”

Students have constructed mannequins – hands, arms and heads – that are necessary for displaying the religious and nursing uniforms worn by the sisters.

“My area of interest is American women’s history. This project is helping to preserve that history,” said Mraz, ’06, master’s in history. “During my internship, I took digital pictures and wrote descriptions of the artifacts we have in the collection. After graduation, working part time, I developed the technique for sewing the material around the Styrofoam mannequin heads to give them a professional look and helped make the pattern for the hands and sewed them together.”

History graduate students Marisa Rowe of Saxonburg and Carla Parish of Slippery Rock prepare a mannequin for exhibition.

The Sisters in Healthcare History Project was born out of the realization that no serious recognition had ever been given to the hundreds of Roman Catholic sisters who worked as nurses in western Pennsylvania from 1847-1969. The project relies solely on private funds. Contributions cover research and exhibition expenses. To help support the project, contact John Bavaro, professor of health services administration: 724.738.2265, http://www.sistersinhealthcare.org

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History graduate students Marisa Rowe of Saxonburg and Carla Parish of Slippery Rock prepare a mannequin for exhibition.
Alumni dues and donations resulted in a $600,000 major expansion to The Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center. All graduates are invited home for the Sept. 13 dedication.

“The project was funded entirely with alumni donations and Alumni Association funds – talk about Rock Pride,” said Mike Saraka, director of Alumni Relations. “This is a showcase facility with far more room for reunions and state-of-the art technology. Alumni will be thrilled when they see it.”

The remodeled facility includes almost 3,000 square feet of new space for receptions, conferences, meetings and reunions. One feature that allows the facility to accommodate more people is the grand reception room, which can be divided into two smaller rooms with the new retractable soundproof wall, Saraka said.

Each room features state-of-the-art technology for presentations, musical recitals and conferences. Another new feature in the rooms is the seal of the Slippery Rock University Alumni Association in the carpet.

Also completed with the project were two new bathrooms, additional storage space and closets, an expanded lobby area and catering kitchen and a smaller meeting room. The Alumni Association is making the building available to campus groups and organizations for University business and for rent to community groups and alumni for conferences, wedding receptions, showers, meetings and reunions. For more information regarding the alumni house, please contact the alumni office at 1-800-GET-ROCK or alumni@sru.edu.

“I must pay tribute to some of the major donors,” said Saraka. “Major contributors included Jeanne Powell Furrie, ’45, Scott Wise, ’90, Robert and Karen Watson, ’70, ’73, and Darrell and Betty Hess, ’54. I’d also like to thank all of our alumni who donated to this project over the past few years. Without their help, this project would not have happened.”
The official rededication of
The Russell Wright Alumni
House and Conference
Center will take place
Saturday, Sept 13, 2008.
Look for details in the mail
or on the alumni Web site at

Purchase a brick for the outdoor patio and preserve your place in SRU history

I would like to order ______ 4" x 8" brick(s) @ $100 each. (If you are purchasing more than one brick, please copy this form.) Use one form for each brick ordered.

Please engrave my brick as follows (limited to 20 characters/spaces per line): Please print.

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Alumni Association honors outstanding young alumni

The SRU Alumni Association is proud to announce the recipients of the 2008 Young Alumni Award. The association created the award in 2005 to recognize alumni from each of the four colleges – Education; Humanities; Fine and Performing Arts; Health, Environment and Science; and Business, Information and Social Sciences.

The criteria for the awards are that alumni must have graduated within the past 20 years from SRU and demonstrated a commitment to success in their personal and professional life and excellence in their career since graduation.

Alumni are nominated by alumni, faculty and staff of each of the four colleges and submitted to the Office of Alumni Relations.

The 2008 awardees are:

Christopher Manning, ’96
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Occupation: director, bureau of intergovernmental affairs, The City of New York

Manning graduated with a degree in health science and minor in biology with an emphasis in community health. He went on to earn a master’s degree in public administration degree in health policy and management from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Health at New York University in 2003. He is also a Certified Health Education Specialist. Manning began working for the American Heart Association’s Pennsylvania/Delaware Affiliate where he helped to raise more than $100,000 for cardiovascular disease. While pursuing his graduate degree at NYU, he worked as a research assistant at the Center for Health and Public Service Research. Upon graduation from NYU, Manning accepted a position with the Mayor’s Office of City Legislative Affairs in New York City.

David Woten, ’91
Baden, Pa.

David Woten graduated with a degree in music education. He went on to earn a master’s degree in music at Duquesne University in 1997. Since graduation, he has served the educational community as a teacher, mentor, cooperating teacher, guest conductor, advocate and more. In 2008, Woten was selected by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. It has always been Woten’s goal to promote the value and importance of education, share his successes and foster the change necessary to prepare students for jobs in the future within a global economy. He currently teaches at the North Allegheny School District where his duties include sixth and seventh grade chorus and eighth grade general music. He also directs a select vocal ensemble, the Carson Chamber Singers that rehearses prior to the school day.

David Lorenzi, ’93
Latrobe, Pa.
Occupation: assistant professor, department of health and physical education, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

David Lorenzi graduated with a degree in health and physical education in 1998 from the University of Georgia. He is currently pursuing a Ed.D. in physical education teacher education from West Virginia University with an anticipated completion date of May 2008. Since 2003, Lorenzi has served as assistant professor in the department of health and physical education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Prior to working at IUP, he was an instructor at West Liberty State College in West Virginia and spent seven years as a public school teacher in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Georgia.

Rebecca Henderson Pendergast, ’88
Washington, D.C.
Occupation: assistant managing editor, Chronicle of Higher Education

Rebecca Henderson Pendergast graduated with a degree in communication, with concentrations in design, journalism and public relations. She also earned a minor in French. Since graduation, Pendergast has held several jobs in graphic design, public relations and marketing. Since 2003, she has worked at the Chronicle of Higher Education in Washington, D.C., as assistant art director and most recently as the assistant managing editor. Her duties include contributing to strategic editorial planning with seven other editors; designing newspaper sections and graphics; managing a team of five designers and two photo editors; working with editors, artists and other staff to manage a smooth production cycle each week.
Alumni Association names Distinguished International Alumna

Seeme Baqua Moreira, a 1985 accounting graduate, is the Slippery Rock University Alumni Association’s 2008 Distinguished International Alumni Award recipient.

Moreira was born and reared in Pakistan. She attended school in Islamabad and college in Lahore at the prestigious Kinnaird College for Women. She graduated summa cum laude from SRU. Moreira received her award at the President’s Scholarship Gala at the Marriott in Cranberry Woods.

“In the 23 years since graduating from SRU, I have pursued diverse paths, including higher education, various careers, volunteer positions, community service and the role of an involved parent,” Moreira said. “It is an immense honor to be recognized by SRU, where it all began, with this prestigious award.”

Moreira was selected to be the student speaker at her SRU commencement. She earned her masters of business administration at Bowling Green State University and subsequently returned to Pakistan where she worked for the World Bank’s Resident Mission in Pakistan. She came to the U.S. after getting married and has been here ever since.

Moreira has worked in various financial positions and currently works for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Winchester, Mass. Before this, she headed an econometrics research study on behalf of Boston Gas Co. to test the effectiveness of various energy conservation improvements.

“She has demonstrated success in her career and personal life and her commitment to Slippery Rock University includes two scholarships supporting students,” said Michael Saraka, director of alumni relations.

She and her husband, Mario Moreira, a 1984 SRU graduate, sponsor two academic scholarships at SRU. The Mario and Seeme Moreira Accounting Scholarship and the Mario and Seeme Moreira Communications Scholarship are for accounting and communication majors.

“These scholarships are our attempt to give back a little to the school which gave us our head start in life,” she said.

Moreira said she enrolled at SRU expecting to become an architect. “During my first semester, I took ‘Accounting 101’ with professor Ursula Albers and was so inspired by her that I switched my major to accounting,” she said. “Although my career has not consisted of purely accounting positions, my strong financial foundation – originating at SRU – has allowed me to branch into other fields and excel in each of my pursuits.”

Moreira lives with her husband and two daughters, Allyan and Iman, in Winchester, Mass., and is involved with the town and with the Pakistani community in and around Boston. Moreira serves on the business advisory board of “Kahani,” a quarterly magazine for elementary-age children of South Asian origin who are growing up in North America.

The Distinguished International Alumni Award is presented to a former international student who best represents the values and beliefs Slippery Rock University tries to instill in its graduates. The criterion is based on career success, community service, University service and philanthropy.

Join us October 18, 2008, when Viva ROCK Vegas comes to Slippery Rock!

- SRU Alumni Association Board Meeting (public invited), 8 a.m., Alumni House
- Parade: 10 a.m., downtown
- Annual Alumni Tailgate Tent, 11 a.m., stadium
- Football game: 2 p.m., SRU vs. Edinboro
- Post game activities, downtown, 6:30 p.m.

For more information and updates, go to http://rockalumnicafe.com
1960s
Pat “Luke” Campbell, ’61, was inducted into the WPIAL Inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 2007. Campbell was a swimming coach at Bethel Park High School and recorded 11 WPIAL titles, six PIAA championships and compiled a dual meet record of 335-59.

Elmer M. organ, ’63, was inducted into the Armstrong County Sports Hall of Fame in 2004 and the Indiana County Sports Hall of Fame in 2007. Morgan was head track and field coach at Apollo High School and Apollo-Ridge High School for 31 years.

John Lawler, ’68, and wife, Grete, are semi-retired and living near Pensacola, Fla. since 2001.

David Monsour, ’68, retired as a Pennsylvania school superintendent and relocated to Florida in 2004. Monsour works as a realtor for One World Realty (www.oneworldrealty.com) in Jupiter and Singer Island.

1970s
Kathleen Flynn, ’76, retired after 31 years as a medical editor with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. She said, “it was a long and very rewarding career. Just looking forward to the next chapter of my life - traveling, volunteering, maybe working at a part-time job to keep busy.”

Diana Webster Fraser, ’76, and her husband are living in Scottsdale, Ariz. Fraser said she would love to hear from other Rock alumni living out west by e-mailing her at diana.fraser@villagevoice.com.

Karen Balchunas, ’76, successfully completed a three-year, $317 million seismic retrofit and restoration of historic Pennsylvania City Hall, under budget and 2.5 months ahead of schedule. Balchunas secured $4 million in federal and state grants for the project.

In Jan. 2008, she accepted a promotion as a capital projects manager with the City of Pennsylvania’s Public Works Department.

Sam Hammond, ’79, is general manager of the Dollar Tree Distribution Center in Savannah, Ga.

Linda Wineland, ’79, works as a nurse at Woodhaven Care Center in Morningside.

1980s
Mark Goldstein, ’80, is retired and living in Boca Raton, Fla.

Scott Cope, ’81, of W hite hall, is the chief program officer for the W hitleands Conservancy in Harrisburg. He and his wife, Karen, have two sons, Bryan and Randy.

Christopher J. Smith, ’81, is supervisor of special education at Sharpsville Area School District and adjunct professor for the graduate studies education program at Penn State University. Shenango Campus, in Sharon.

J ohn Frochio, ’85, published a novel, Roots of a Priest, co-authored with Ken Bowers. It is the story of a Roman Catholic Priest who finds out he was adopted and is actually Jewish. It was published by POD publishing house Booklocker.com and can be found at http://www.booklocker.com/books/3214.html. It is also for sale at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Target.com.

Kenneth Sordo, ’85, is CEO at OC Securities in Lake Forest, Calif., and shut a commercial this past year for the Trump Corporation. He is pictured with his wife, Bridget.

Gordon Ovenshine, ’88, recently traveled to Los Angeles with son Samuel, 18, to visit prospective colleges. Gordon, who was born in Santa Monica and works for SRU public relations, is married to Kristianne Kalberer Ovenshine, ’88. They live in suburban Pittsburgh and also have a daughter, Emily, 17.

Mike Hughes, ’89, is a management consulting director at MarketSphere in Pittsburgh.

Charles Withers, ’89, is a senior research analyst at the University of Central Florida.

1990s
Timothy Carter, ’90, is vice president of information technology for Gateway Rehabilitation Center in Moon Township. Carter resides in New Brighton with his wife, Kathy, and son, Colton.

Cyndi Gately, ’91, is employed by the Cecil County Public Schools in Maryland teaching elementary special education.

William Conrad, ’93, is vice president and manager of global trading infrastructure firewall team at Bank of America.

Mohammad Islam, ’93, is director of sustaining engineering and customer service at Avici Systems in the Boston area.

David P. Morrow, ’93, just completed a national book signing tour and was featured on the Fox television network for his new book, “Fat Into The Fire - The Simple Missing Links to Maximize Metabolism, Energy, and Yourself.”

Kedar Tupil, ’93, is a senior consultant for PSTG Consulting in Toronto, Canada.

Tracie Bray, ’95, is a portfolio manager at Sovereign Bank in Lancaster.

Karey Anne LaVacca Copping, ’96, was named Queen Anne’s County (Md.) Teacher-of-the-Year.

Lt. Andrea J. Cunningham, ’95/97, received an officer’s commission with the U.S. Public Health Service, and serves on active duty as Congressional Liaison for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Region III in Philadelphia. Cunningham also served eight years in the U.S. Navy Reserves.


Kirk Wright, ’96, lives in Indian Land, S.C., and works for Bank of America.

Kathy Cameron, ’97, presented a seminar on intermediate-level flute repertoire at the Ohio Music Educators Association’s annual conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Cameron is pursuing a doctor of musical arts degree at The Ohio State University, where she plays piccolo in the top concert band and teaches middle school general music for St. James the Less School in Columbus and St. Agatha School in Upper Arlington.

Todd Clapper, ’97, is the head water polo coach at Arizona State University and coaches with the USA Women’s National Water Polo Team in the summer months. Friends can contact him at clapperpola@hotmail.com.

Glenn G. Landis, ’97, received a masters of publishing degree from George Washington University in M. Ay. Landis is the associate managing editor for the Journal of Clinical Oncology. Landis and his wife, Amy, have two children, and reside in Alexandria, Va.

Kelly Austin, ’98, ’01, is associate vice president for student affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, J ohnstown.

He and his wife, Allison, have two sons, Aiden, 2, and Ethan, 3 months.

Chad Balon, ’98, works in risk management and insurance and resides in Charlotte, N.C.

Lee Bowers, ’98, was honored at half-time of a Philadelphia 76ers game for his military service (see photo, Bowers is on the right). Bowers is director of environmental and regulatory affairs for the StonCor Group, Inc. He received a honorable discharge from the USCG, after eight years of service in the Coast Guard Reserve force as a boarding officer and law enforcement instructor. Wife, Tracie, and three boys, M arco, Nico, and Brett, reside in Mullica Hill, N.J. . Bowers would love to hear from any swimming or safety major alumni at lbowers@stoncor.com.

Richard Dunn, ’98, is manager of global talent acquisition operations with Campbell Soup Company, at the world headquarters in Camden, N.J. Previously, Dunn was a principal and program director with Kenexa in Wayne.

Todd Garzearelli, ’98, is the associate athletic director at Northern Illinois University.

Greg Leech, ’98, is the complex operations and facilities supervisor at the Richmond International Speedway in Virginia.

Andrew M. Seder, ’98, is a staff writer at The Times Leader newspaper in Wilkes-Barre. He previously worked at newspapers in Grove City, Stroudsburg, Scranton and Honesdale. Seder was recognized with a Keystone Press Awards for education beat reporting and investigative journalism by the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association.

2000s
Erik Barkely, ’00, is head athletic trainer at Fredonia State University.

Leigh Pacelli Michalchojko, ’00, and her husband are teachers and living in Sarasota, Fla.

Timothy Delucia, ’02, works at Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers, Fla., as the aquatic program coordinator in the campus recreation department.

Daw n Anthony, ’04, resides in Spartanburg, S.C., and works as an athletic trainer at Spartanburg Methodist College.

Lance Lingenfelter, ’04, lives in Bernville and works full-time for Pennsylvania Army National Guard at Fort Indiantown Gap in Annville.
Noelle J. ones, ’05, works for an engineering company doing safety and industrial hygiene in Tampa, Fla.

Jennifer Valentini, ’05, is the therapeutic recreation coordinator at Leland House in Centreville, Va.

Bobbie J. o Belus, ’06 (M), is the development coordinator for the Owl Club at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Josh Lucas, ’06, is a marketing coordinator at Ad-Base Group, Inc.

Following graduation, Lucas worked as an account manager at Levy M G, an industrial marketing firm.

Amanda Stoops, ’07, completed an internship with Taylor Made Farm Sales in Lexington, Ky. Taylor Made is a 1,600 acre horse farm specializing in the breeding of yearlings, stallions and broodmares. Last year they were the leading consignor of thoroughbred racehorses.

Betty Weir Hamilton, ’27
Mildred Surrena McConnell, ’27
Ruth W. hite Thompson, ’27
Dorothy McClymonds Young, ’27
M. Iona Stealy Beatty, ’30
Rose Kaminsky Lutzeran, ’30
Edith Hanna M. McDonald, ’30
Gertrude Eppinger W. Linder, ’31
Sara Vanderwulp Wolfe, ’32
Margaret Thomas Miller, ’33
Helene Weller, ’33
Helen M. ayne, ’34
Muriel Taylor Thompson, ’34
M. Elizabeth Acker Soles, ’39
Ruth Nevin, ’40
Isabel Shearer W. inchester, ’40
Andrew Defassio, ’41
Carl Graham, ’43
Ethel M. urry ’42
Elizabeth Smith Harkins, ’43
Rose Forrellia M. eincke, ’43
Kathleen M. osoe Robinson, ’43
Esther Haltunen Hillia, ’44
Antoinette M. africa ’44
Gwendolyn Baker, ’45
Alma Gorse, ’45
J. ames Lindey ’46
Dorothy Campbell Raybould, ’46
William Rometo, ’46
J oe Bower, ’47
William Teaby, ’47
J. ames Harkins, ’48
August Kielp, ’48
Florence M. C. urry Fichter, ’49
Helen Horner Olson, ’49
W. Ida Fox Miller, ’50
Thomas Carmody, ’51
J erry Farmer, ’51

Ralph M. arshall, ’52
Ronald Becket, ’53
W. illiam Strausser, ’54
Edward Ledrick, ’55
Neil M. orea, ’55
Donald Hartswick, ’57
Edward Boyle, ’58
Norma Yoho Gatchell, ’58
M. orris Ovaitt, ’58
Robert Englishart, ’59
Donna Alexander, ’63
Donna Lee Pagano, ’63
M arion Eckenberg Hyle, ’66
J ames M. C. unee, ’66
Dennis Hyland, ’68
Kaye Napolitano ’71
Gary Parker, ’71
J ohn Simichak, ’72
Cathleen Haley Friedman, ’73
J ay Bernardini, ’74
Alice Heyl, ’75
Roberta Klug, ’75
Lori Horning M. olesi, ’82
J. oseph Campbell, ’87
Dawn Tomko, ’88
Gina Surmacz Berryman, ’89
Richard J. azwinski, ’89
Richard Rider, ’89
Rosemary Fuller ’93
J eney Nase ’02

Abbas Alkhafaji (F), School of Business Faculty
Dineshndi M. ancho (F), School of Business Faculty
Timothy Walters (F), Communication Department Faculty

In Memory

Boston. She was welcomed home by her big brother, M. atheson.

Carey Anne LaVacca Coppage, ’96
Mildred Surrena McConnell, ’27
Ruth Whited Thompson, ’27
Dorothy McClymonds Young, ’27
M. Iona Stealy Beatty, ’30
Rose Kaminsky Lutzeran, ’30
Edith Hanna M. MacDonald, ’30
Gertrude Eppinger W. Linder, ’31
Sara Vanderwulp Wolfe, ’32
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J. ames Harkins, ’48
August Kielp, ’48
Florence M. C. urry Fichter, ’49
Helen Horner Olson, ’49
W. Ida Fox Miller, ’50
Thomas Carmody, ’51
J erry Farmer, ’51


Tina De Leon Grog chow ski, ’00, and husband, Frank, welcomed their second son, Nathan Scott, Sept. 29, 2007.

Kristy Skof Elliott, ’00, and Chris Elliott, ’00, announce the birth of their daughter, Ali Lynn, Feb. 17, 7.2 lbs., 18.5 inches. HealthCare System in Charlotte, N.C.


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

Brandi Doerr Moffatt, ’00, and husband, Dan, welcome a baby girl, Paige Elizabeth, Oct. 18, 2006.


Noelie J. ones, ’05, works for an engineering company doing safety and industrial hygiene in Tampa, Fla.

Jennifer Valentini, ’05, is the therapeutic recreation coordinator at Leland House in Centreville, Va.

Bobbie J. o Belus, ’06 (M), is the development coordinator for the Owl Club at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Josh Lucas, ’06, is a marketing coordinator at Ad-Base Group, Inc.
Gala attendees swing into spring, raise dollars for SRU scholars

Rock Pride was in full swing as more than 225 guests joined President Robert and Ramona Smith for an exciting evening of dinner, live music and dancing at the 2008 President’s Scholarship Gala, presented by the Slippery Rock University Foundation Inc. Thanks to the generosity of the evening’s sponsors, auction participants and attendees, the gala raised more than $105,000 to support scholarship programs.

“Statistics show that 90 percent of Slippery Rock University students have a financial need and 75 percent work while attending school. At SRU, every scholarship dollar helps students stay focused on their educational goals. Tonight, you have made a difference,” President Smith said, while thanking the gala crowd at the Marriott Pittsburgh North at Cranberry Woods.

Scholarship support is the primary focus of the SRU Foundation. Through the foundation, more than $7.2 million has been awarded in student scholarships over the past five years.

During the course of the evening, guests enjoyed bidding on both silent and ticketed auction items donated by more than 60 individuals and businesses. Auction options included a vacation at the five-star Trapp Family Lodge in Vermont, several golf
packages, including one at Oakmont Country Club, and SRU memorabilia baskets.

The program included recognition of Janet L. Sargert, ’63, as the 2008 Distinguished Alumna of the Year for her dedication to her alma mater and community leadership. Seeme Baqua Moreira, ’85, was honored as the 2008 Distinguished International Alumna (see page 27). Originally from Pakistan, she works for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Boston.

Students were prominently involved with the gala. Green and White Society Ambassadors, representatives of Student Government Association and students from the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center served as hosts and hostesses. The SRU Jazz Combo I performed, and SRU theatre students designed and painted a dramatic backdrop to enhance the atmosphere.
Pottery art usually conjures up images of small, quiet storefronts or schoolroom-glazing projects. Lois Hamilton’s Pottery Dome is so much more. Hand-thrown ceramics and glass come in earth tones and wild colors of blue, orange and pink. Moreover, she operates the studio with an extraordinary commitment to the environment — playing a key role in the restoration of local streams that were damaged by past mining operations.

“Fish now thrive in miles of previously lifeless streams, and it wouldn’t have been possible without Lois Hamilton,” said Margaret Dunn, the geologist that co-founded the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. The group is reclaiming 40 miles of land, water and wildlife resources that were damaged by acid mine drainage in Butler, Mercer and Venango counties.

As part of the reclamation process, workers have been removing sediment called muck — runoff from abandoned mines — from streambeds. Hamilton was one of the first ceramists to see that concentrations of manganese and iron in the muck could be used in pottery.

“We’re recycling the muck to make new glazes,” said Hamilton, a long-time SRU supporter who sponsors four scholarships, two in honor of her late parents, father Rhesa Service Byers, ’13, and Lily Ray Byers. “The muck is dried up and pulverized. About 5 to 8 percent goes into the glaze, in powdered form.”

Hamilton donates a portion of sales from the Pottery Dome to the watershed coalition to support further cleanup. North Country Brewery in Slippery Rock also sells her clay mugs to finance restoration.

“Fish now thrive in miles of previously lifeless streams, and it wouldn’t have been possible without Lois Hamilton,” said Margaret Dunn, the geologist that co-founded the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. The group is reclaiming 40 miles of land, water and wildlife resources that were damaged by acid mine drainage in Butler, Mercer and Venango counties.

As part of the reclamation process, workers have been removing sediment called muck — runoff from abandoned mines — from streambeds. Hamilton was one of the first ceramists to see that con-...
The Pottery Dome makes and sells hand-thrown stoneware pottery. Its inventory includes dinnerware, bowls, platters, pots and Raku as well as decorative pieces, glass and sculptures. Lois Hamilton opened the studio and gallery in 1994, in a distinctive geodesic dome. One side houses the gallery. Artist Robert Isenberg, who received his art training at SRU, creates pottery in the second half, using lead-free glazes and an emission-free oven.

Fuller invented the geodesic dome as a cost-effective and aesthetic design.

Isenberg, Hamilton’s full-time potter, kneads in many different sizes and throws functional pieces such as vases and plates and artistic items. He fires pieces with lead-free glazes and uses an emission-free oven.

“A pottery class at Slippery Rock University in 1991 introduced me to the medium of clay,” he said. “The work at the Pottery Dome has been an incredibly unique and creatively enriching experience. It has shown me the discipline necessary to complete custom orders for functional work and maintain new works for the sales area.”

Hamilton supports arts education as beneficial to all students. “There have been studies for the last 10 years showing that if you have art in public school in grades kindergarten through third grade, students do better in math in fifth, sixth and seventh grade,” she said.

Lois Hamilton sponsors four scholarships at SRU and donated a horse, “Prince,” for therapeutic riding at SRU’s Storm Harbor Equestrian Center. Her scholarships include:

- Lily Ray Byers Scholarship (named for her late mother)
- Rhesa Service Byers Scholarship (named for her late father)
- Lorancie Byers Scholarship (named for her late aunt)
- Charles Hamilton Memorial Art Scholarship (named for her late son)

Legacy of Giving

Rock pioneer got women onto courts, shows lifelong leadership

Jeanne Powell Furrie, ’45, championed women’s athletic programs decades before equal access became a cause célèbre. The retired physical education teacher once sidestepped restrictions on women’s sports at the Penn Hills School District in suburban Pittsburgh and graciously convinced the superintendent to approve varsity teams.

“At our own expense, we would take girls from school to school to play their games,” Furrie recalled. “Then we would pay for the referees. It kept getting bigger and bigger until the superintendent called me in and said, ‘Jeanne, we’re not allowed to have varsity women’s sports, and the school board asked me to tell you that.’”

“I said, ‘Well, if that’s the case, you can tell the board that I resign. As long as I’m going to be here teaching, we’re going to have girls’ sports,’” she said. The superintendent agreed.

It was Mark Twain who said, “If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything else.” Furrie has been telling it like it is for more than 60 years, showing a tenacity that was forged at Slippery Rock University from 1941-1945. Furrie showed an awareness of gender inequities back then. Fifty-five women graduated in 1945, no men, yet the yearbook covered men’s basketball and showed women knitting.

“I’ve always been a person who’s been involved. They would say, ‘You can’t do it, you can’t do it.’ I would say, we can. I’m stubborn,” Furrie said, laughing.

She continues to show leadership at SRU, most recently contributing $64,000 toward the expansion of the Russell Wright Alumni House. In 1998, she created the Jeanne Powell Furrie Scholarship for Women Athletes and in 2001 became a member of the Rock Athletic Hall of Fame for field hockey, a club sport in her day. She also donated a timeshare at the Trapp Family Lodge in Vermont to the SRU Alumni Association.

“I think it’s a privilege to give. I am fortunate to have a Slippery Rock University education…”

The association auctioned a week at the lodge for the 2008 President’s Scholarship Gala. Furrie is not shy about giving and believes philanthropy starts in the home. Parents should teach their children to give back to those who helped them, she said.

“I think it’s a privilege to give. I am fortunate to have a Slippery Rock University education, to also have put some money aside,” she said. “I feel like I need to give it back to other students and other people will have the same opportunity I had.”

Furrie came to campus to tour the alumni house recently, describing it as “just wonderful, gorgeous” and beamed with pride when she saw the Alumni Association seal woven into the carpet.

“I’ve always had a lot of pride in Slippery Rock University,” she said. “When I was teaching, I was always talking about Slippery Rock. I had so many of my former students go to Slippery Rock. I am proud of how neat the school is and the good reputation it has.”

Furrie, who grew up New Kensington, considered only one institution for her undergraduate education. “My sister graduated from the normal school in 1928,” she said. “When I was a very small youngster, I remember coming to visit her. When she came time to go to school, it was a natural fit for me to go to Slippery Rock, and I’ve never regretted it.”

She majored in physical education and joined Delta Kappa Gamma. She lived in North Hall and—most of the time—accepted the social order of the day, which included 7 p.m. curfews for women and formal dinners nightly.

When asked what she and her friends did for fun, Furrie joked, “You don’t want to know.” Hitch hiking is one detail that slipped out. Jeanne Furrie, who was married for 49 years to the late Henry Furrie, taught for 22 years at Penn Hills Senior High School. Penn Hills recognized her as an instrumental figure in the advancement of women’s athletics by naming her to the Penn Hills Sports Hall of Fame. In 2001, Furrie received the Heritage Award from the Pennsylvania State Education Division of Girls and Women’s Sports.

Furrie has helped young people in so many ways, as a teacher, coach and advocate for women’s athletic skills. Her exceptional qualities of leadership, gentle-handed discipline and integrity were forged at SRU.

“As I look back, we had a lot of fun times. We were happy, but we were challenged,” Furrie said. “Too many of our young people today want to take the easy way, and too many of us as adults allow it.”

Physical therapist Scott Wise, ’90, ’93, ’05, continues family tradition

Start with three Slippery Rock University degrees and an abiding affection for your alma mater, add a force-of-nature uncle, fold in his life lessons and what do you get? A family recipe for giving passed down from one generation to the next.

Physical therapist and entrepreneur Scott Wise, nephew of the late Russell Wright, ’23, has continued the family tradition of giving to SRU. Wise, ’90, ’93, ’05, and his wife Janet recently contributed $25,000 toward the expansion of the Russell Wright
Alumni House and Conference Center. Wright provided a founding gift to build the facility.

“If you’re making some success in your career, you want to give back to the people that gave you the opportunity for getting the success,” said Wise, owner of Wise Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine in Grove City and New Castle. “Right in line with that, giving is something in the family that was put into our thought process at an early age. It has nothing to do with monetary gain. You pick your cause because you really believe that cause is something that will help others.”

Wise, who also owns the Wise Wellness Center in Grove City, said giving should be taught at home and modeled by family members. He learned the lesson from his parents and uncle and is passing it on to his two daughters and son.

“My parents were very hard workers in education,” Wise said. “They said to us, ‘If you do have anything extra, you need to remember where to give it.’”

The expanded alumni house includes the Wise Family Sunroom, named in honor of Scott and Janet’s parents Jerry Wise, ’65, Bonnie Wise, ’71, and Teresa McElrath and in memory of Ted McElrath.

The Wises toured the new center recently and were impressed with the state-of-art conference facilities inside. Wise said the center will provide a great venue for special events and a much-needed conference center for the surrounding community.

“This campus is just becoming more beautiful,” he said. “I’m very pleased with how things are going.”

Scott Wise initially enrolled in Grove City College, but his uncle Wright announced that the tuition had been paid and arrangements made for Scott to attend SRU. Scott never regretted this change in college plans. Wright, a physician, was a gracious man who espoused service and integrity as family values – values that Slippery Rock University shares.

Wright was the team physician for the Detroit Tigers baseball team and Detroit Pistons basketball team but always had time for his alma mater. He donated to create a fitness center in the Robert N. Aebersold Student Recreation Center and returned toward the end of his life to serve as homecoming parade marshal.

Scott Wise went on to earn three degrees at SRU: a bachelor’s in health science, a master’s in physical therapy and a doctorate of physical therapy. Wise, a 2007 Young Alumni Award recipient, is a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, a member of the Amethyst Lifetime Giving Club and Rock Society.
He gives of his time in the community as well, serving as a Pine Township supervisor in Mercer County and director of sport medicine services for the Slippery Rock Area School District.

Darrell Hess, ’54, with his wife Betty

**Darrell Hess**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Full name:</th>
<th>Darrell R. Hess, ’54</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home:</td>
<td>West Mifflin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age:</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profession:</td>
<td>Retired after 26 years in education and nearly 30 in business; five years as a high school teacher, 21 years as a guidance counselor. Owner of Hallmark Card and Gift Shop and D.J. Hess Advertising Co., a promotional products company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobbies:</td>
<td>Golf, writing and speaking. I might be the only non-athlete in the SRU Athletic Hall of Fame, inducted because of my working as a student sports information reporter for four years and continuing to promote The Rock until this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great accomplishment</td>
<td>Starting two businesses from scratch, a Hallmark Card and Gift Shop and an Advertising Specialty Distributorship, and both became successful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why I give:</td>
<td>Slippery Rock afforded me the opportunity to attend a college at the right price since I was the first in my family to attempt to further my education. My experiences at SRU allowed me to grow and prosper in an environment that was conducive to my upbringing, and the sports writing opened many further opportunities both in the Army and currently where I serve as a volunteer writer for a weekly newspaper, The Valley Mirror. I endowed a scholarship for students from the Steel Valley area with the hope that a small financial stipend would allow someone to have the same advantage I had.</td>
</tr>
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Alumna Teresa Conn grooms champions

The Passion, relying on Conn’s mantra of self-empowerment and the talent of six players from SRU, won the 2007 National Women’s Football League championship.

The team finished 12-0, with Conn playing defensive back – despite her 44-year-old body's protests. “I was injured and was not going to go out on an injury,” she said. “I worked all season and worked my way back to play in the championship game.”

No wonder her players see her as more than a coach. “Leadership with Teresa is natural for her,” said Talisa Beachom, a former SRU student who plays for the team. “She is a woman on a great mission for life lessons through sports. I’ve been without my mom for 20 years. Teresa has filled that void with great advice.”

The Passion plays its games at Pittsburgh’s George Cupples Stadium and competes between April and June. The team started the ’08 season 5-0. League officials say the team’s success exceeds its closest competitor, the Oklahoma City Lightning, by about 1,000 fans per game. The Passion averages 2,000 to 2,500 per game.

Still, Conn said leadership transcends no-huddle offenses. “It doesn’t matter whether you are trying to lead a major corporation, a sports team or a family team, the ingredients are the same: dedication, honesty, loyalty, sacrifice and integrity,” she said.

It was like a piling on: The turnovers for Teresa Conn, ’86, began as soon as she joined the Pittsburgh Passion women’s football franchise as owner, co-coach and player in 2004. “I lost two dogs and broke my leg, made it back for the regular season and then broke my shoulder,” she said. “Two surgeries and two huge losses in my life in a six-month period…

“But you look at what you can learn from adversity,” she said. “Teaching life lessons through sports is something I learned at Slippery Rock University. Teaching people to overcome the tough times, to become stronger through experience, is my philosophy of education, coaching and life.”
Quarterback Lisa Horton, a 2004 Rock graduate with a master’s degree in exercise and wellness promotion, said her coach demonstrates a giving attitude.

“Teresa is the true definition of a servant-leader,” she said. “Throughout the years, she has demonstrated her ability to lead by demonstrating the importance of sacrificing one’s own happiness for the greater cause. Many of our girls have learned and grown as people through Teresa’s dedication and commitment to the team. I try to model the same leadership characteristics.”

**SRU provides foundational opportunities**

Conn’s journey to the top of women’s football began at SRU, where she majored in health and physical education and sport management. She played judo and rugby, learning from her coaches that players respond to discipline and heart.

“Slippery Rock from day one was incredible for me. I honestly want to go back and teach there someday,” she said. “Driving in for a visit, I look at the football field, softball field and everything else and it is amazing. It still has its charm that it always had.”

After graduation, Conn became a physical education teacher in Erie. Ultimately, she left teaching because of her twin passions – football and faith.

“My decision to come to the Passion was faith driven,” she said. “I felt a calling. Honestly, I was not looking for it. I am a country girl, and coming to Pittsburgh was not really in my picture, but I felt I was supposed to, and I had a lot of experience.”

She draws a salary from sponsorships and motivational speaking engagements. She mentors college students, elementary and high school students and has been the keynote speaker for the YMCA and The Guardian Girls Going Place Program for young entrepreneurs.

Conn’s gridiron girls practice in pads, run sprints and hit at full speed, just like men’s football. They also break during halftime for prayer, a spiritual reading or to share stories. They attend each other’s weddings and baby showers. They’re a family.

“We have everything on this team – rich, poor, black, white, young, old, straight, bi, professional and non-professional, including three attorneys who are married and have families,” she said. “With all our differences, our common thread is we always stand back up.”

Whether the Passion wins another championship will be determined on the field. Conn’s approach to life will remain consistent no matter the wins and losses. She’s like a team that recovers a fumble and methodically marches down the field, knocking over obstacles.

“You don’t play football without a helmet. You are not going to live life without taking shots, so I really do believe you learn from life,” she said. “The thrill comes when you truly understand you are not practicing for a sport, but for life.”

**Touchdown!**

The Pittsburgh Passion, one of 41 teams in the Independent Women’s Football League, includes players and trainers from SRU. They are (from left) Maria Slater, ’86, defensive back; Talisa Beachom, offensive center; Teresa Conn, ’86, team owner and defensive back; Lisa Horton, ’03, quarterback; Jayne Beatty, ’85, team photographer; Kerry Garrett, ’00, athletic trainer; and Shelley Zoelle, ’98, game day disc jockey and entertainment specialist. More than 1,600 women compete in the league, including the D.C. Divas and Boston Militia.

“It doesn’t matter whether you are trying to lead a major corporation, a sports team or a family team, the ingredients are the same: dedication, honesty, loyalty, sacrifice and integrity.”

– Teresa Conn, ’86 Rock graduate, owner of the Pittsburgh Passion women’s football team and founder of Passion for Youth Leadership Camps
Slippery Rock University captures its first Dixon Trophy

The Rock capped off a very successful 2007-08 athletic campaign by winning its first-ever Dixon Trophy as the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference’s most successful all-around program.

SRU finished third in the Dixon Trophy competition one year ago, which equaled its 2002-03 finish, its highest prior to this year.

“We are extremely proud to be this year’s Dixon Trophy recipient,” SRU Director of Athletics Paul Lueken said. “To be crowned as ‘the champion’ of a conference loaded with the quality talent that exists in the PSAC is a real tribute to the time and efforts put forth by our student-athletes, coaches and administrators.”

SRU nipped second-place West Chester by two points (132.5 to 130.5) in this year’s close competition.
California U. of Pa. finished third with 125.5 points, followed by Kutztown with 125, Indiana U. of Pa. 123.5, Shippensburg 122, Bloomsburg 120 and 2006-07 winner Lock Haven 119.

The Dixon Trophy is named after F. Eugene Dixon, Jr., former chairman of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education. It is awarded annually to the PSAC member institution that accumulates the most points based on results of conference playoffs and/or regular-season records. Each institution’s point total is calculated by adding its top six men’s finishes and top six women’s finishes in 21 conference sports.

The Rock’s award-winning effort in 2007-08 was paced by four PSAC championships won by track and field programs under the guidance of SRU Athletic Hall of Famer John Papa. SRU won outright conference titles in the men’s indoor and outdoor and women’s outdoor competitions and claimed a share of the women’s indoor title.

SRU has won each of the last three PSAC women’s outdoor championships. This year’s women’s indoor championship came on the heels of The Rock’s first-ever title a year ago, while this year’s men’s indoor title was SRU’s first.

The Rock also claimed conference runner-up finishes in three sports - men’s cross country, women’s soccer and women’s tennis - during the 2007-08 academic year and added a fifth-place finish in women’s cross country.

Slippery Rock’s coach Papa hits grand slam of coaching honors

Track and field head coach John Papa recently hit a grand slam with Coach of the Year awards as he received two honors each from the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association and the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

Papa was selected by both his Division II East regional and conference peers as the winner of the respective group’s men’s and women’s Coach of the Year titles.

“I am proud to accept these awards on behalf of my assistant coaches and the SRU student/athletes,” he said. “These awards that were given to me belong to everyone involved in our track and field program.”

Rock sprints coach Dave Labor was also honored by the USTFCCCA as the regional women’s Assistant Coach of the Year.

The coaching honors came in the wake of Papa and Labor leading The Rock to PSAC team titles in both men’s and women’s competitions. The women’s team title was the third straight won by SRU, while the men’s crown was the first captured by The Rock since 2000.

“We are lucky to have over 100 student athletes involved with our men’s and women’s track and field program,” Papa said. “All the coaches and athletes in our program have the same goal...that is to get better every year. The athletes inspire me to do my best and do what it takes to improve.”
SRU taps Kevin Reynolds to lead men's basketball program

Kevin Reynolds, a 10-year member of the NCAA Division I coaching fraternity, was named in May as The Rock's head men's basketball coach.

Reynolds assumes reins of the NCAA Division II Rock program after serving one season as assistant coach at Divisions I Morehead State University, where he served under 2007-08 Ohio Valley Conference "Coach of the Year" Donnie Tyndall.

Reynolds was selected from a candidate pool of more than 180 applicants, according to Rock Director of Athletics Paul Lueken.

"We think we have found the right person to lead Rock Basketball back to the elite of the PSAC (Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference)," Lueken said. "Kevin's experience as a successful player and coach in the PSAC, along with his recruiting contacts in Division I and II, will be invaluable."

Prior to joining the Morehead State staff, Reynolds was named in May as The Rock's head men's basketball coach.

181 SRU student-athletes earn PSAC Scholar-Athlete status

A school-record and conference-best total of 181 Slippery Rock University student-athletes were recently named as recipients of 2007-08 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference "Scholar-Athlete" honors.

The announcement of The Rock's PSAC Scholar-Athlete list, which represents 45 percent of SRU's total of 401 student-athletes, comes two weeks after Slippery Rock was named as the winner of the 2007-08 Dixon Trophy, emblematic of the most successful overall athletic program in the PSAC.

"We are extremely proud of the achievements of our student-athletes in both athletic and academic pursuits during the 2007-08 academic year," SRU Director of Athletics Paul Lueken said. "Winning the Dixon Trophy and setting a school record for most PSAC Scholar-Athletes in the same year speaks volumes about our commitment to provide our student-athletes with a quality academic and athletic experience."

"I applaud the efforts of our student-athletes, coaching staff and numerous support personnel who had a hand in our achieving these athletic and academic accomplishments. Without each of them doing their individual part, none of this would have been possible," Lueken said.

The list of Rock student-athletes who achieved PSAC Scholar-Athlete status includes 117 female student-athletes, 64 male student-athletes, 35 student-athletes who are members of more than one Rock program and at least one representative from each of SRU's 19 varsity intercollegiate athletic programs.

The list features six female student-athletes who own perfect 4.0 grade point averages.

That elite group includes women's volleyball players Marissa Balmert (North Huntingdon/Norwin H.S.), Anna Bixler (Irwin/Penn-Trafford H.S.) and all-region performer J Jennifer Blasko (Summit Hill/Marian Catholic H.S.); softball student-athlete Nicole Collins (Clearfield/Clearfield H.S.) and women's field hockey student-athlete Stephanie Sylvia (Cicero/N.Y./Cicero-North H.S.).

Also included on the list of Rock student-athletes honored are football standouts Mike Butterworth (Northen Cambria/Northern Cambria H.S.) and Clint Forsha (Blairsville/Blairsville H.S.), who each earned first-team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America; men's soccer all-region performer Nick Christy (Pittsburgh/Whaler H.S.), who each earned ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District honors and women's soccer Scholar-All-America award winner Danielle Cooper (Lancashire, England).

Blasko also earned ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America honors.

Butterworth and Hansen are included in a group of six Rock student-athletes who earned All-America honors in athletic competition as well as PSAC Scholar-Athlete status. Also included in that elite group are men's cross country/track and field standouts Pat Reagan (Mount Aweron/Albert Gallatin H.S.) and Jeff Weiss (Avella/McGuffey H.S.), women's track and field student-athlete Nicole Blaesser (Oxford/Oxford Area H.S.) and two-time women's soccer All-America selection Meghan McGrath (Vernon, N.J./Vernon Township H.S.).

PSAC Scholar-Athlete honors are presented to student-athletes at the conference's 14 member institutions who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25.

Daniels' tenacity pays off, lands nation's top recruit

SRU alumnus Joe Daniels ('64) played a major role in one of most highly publicized recruiting efforts in college football history.

The quarterbacks coach at The Ohio State University and a 2004 inductee into the SRU Athletic Hall of Fame, Daniels was the point person in the Buckeyes' successful two-year courtship of Jannette High School star Terrelle Pryor.

That's why Daniels went against doctor's orders and, while still recovering from Feb. 28 surgery to remove a cancerous kidney, waited anxiously beside the fax machine in the OSU football office March 19.

"Let me just say it was very important to me," Daniels told The Columbus Dispatch. "When you spend that much time recruiting a guy, you want to be there when it becomes official. And, of course, the recruiting with him went a little extra long, so it was great to see it."

Pryor, who led Jannette to state championships in both football and basketball during the 2007-08 academic year, originally intended to announce his decision on National Signing Day (Feb. 6). But when the appointed hour came, during a live telecast of a press conference he had called, Pryor said he hadn't made a final decision.

continued on page 40
In other notes of interest about athletic-related Rock alumni:

- **Andy Major** ('88), an Assistant to the Athletic Director at SRU since January 2007, has been named Executive Director of Marketing for the NFL Buffalo Bills. Prior to joining the SRU staff, he served as head of ticket operations for the NFL Miami Dolphins and M LB Florida M arlins.

- **Heather Kearney** ('99'), SRU’s all-time leading scorer and No. 2 all-time rebounder, has been named head women’s basketball coach at California U. of Pa. after serving eight seasons as assistant coach and associate coach for the Vulcans.

- **C. Vivian Stringer** ('70), head women’s basketball coach at Rutgers University and a 1984 inductee into the SRU Athletic Hall of Fame, led her team to an appearance in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight last winter.

- **Royce Waltman** ('64) led his team to a 14-13 final record last winter as interim head men’s basketball coach at the University of Indianapolis. Prior to serving in that capacity, Waltman was head coach at Indiana State (1997-2006) and Indianapolis (1987-97) and as an assistant to Bob Knight at Indiana (1982-87).

- **Larry Kunselman** ('64) was inducted into the Armstrong County (Pa.) Sports Hall of Fame in April. A former football offensive lineman for The Rock, he was head coach of the 1980 Knoch High School team that played in the W PIAL finals at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.

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**Fall sports at THE ROCK**

**FOOTBALL**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<td>at Seton Hill</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>at Millersville</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>KUTZTOWN</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>GANNON</td>
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<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>at M ercyhurst</td>
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<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>at Indiana, Pa.</td>
<td>2:35 p.m.</td>
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<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>at Clarion</td>
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<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>EDINBORO</td>
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<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>at California, Pa.</td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>LOCK HAVEN</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>EAST STROUDSBURG</td>
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**FIELD HOCKEY**

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<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>CATAW BA</td>
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<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>at Seton Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>INDIANA, PA</td>
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<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>at M anfield</td>
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<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>at M ercyhurst</td>
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<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>SETON HILL</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>KUTZTOWN</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>EAST STROUDSBURG</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>SHIPPENSBURG</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>M ILLERSVILLE</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>at Indiana, Pa.</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>M ANSFIELD</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>at Bloomburg</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>BELLARMINE</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>at Shippensburg</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>at East Stroudsburg</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>M ERCYHURST</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WOMEN’S SOCCER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>SETON HILL</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>at Clarion</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>EDINBORO</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>INDIANA, PA</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>at Gannon</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>at M ercyhurst</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>at Kutztown</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>LOCK HAVEN</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>at California, Pa.</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>at East Stroudsburg</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>CLARION</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>at W heeling J esuit</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>at Edinboro</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>at Indiana, Pa.</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>M ERCYHURST</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>GANNON</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>at Lock Haven</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>CALIFORNIA, PA</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>CLARION</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MEN’S SOCCER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 23</td>
<td>at Ashland</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>at W . Va. Wesleyan</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>OHIO VALLEY</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**VOLLEYBALL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 29-30</td>
<td>at Colorado School</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>at M ercyhurst</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 5-6</td>
<td>at M ercyhurst tournament</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>at Point Park</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12-13</td>
<td>at PSAC/W VIAC crossover</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>at Indiana, Pa.</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>at East Stroudsburg (at W CU)</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>M ERCYHURST</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10-11</td>
<td>at Shepherd tournament</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>at California, Pa.</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17-18</td>
<td>at W heeling J esuit</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>EDINBORO</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>at Gannon</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>LAKE ERIE</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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For the latest news on Rock sports, go to www.rockathletics.com or call The Rock Sports Hotline at 724.738.2962.
A Conversation with...

Ursula Payne

Ursula Payne, professor of dance, graduated from SRU in 1992 and became a member of the dance faculty in 1997. Her solo choreography has been presented nationally and internationally, including at the National Taiwan University Dance Festival. She is a founding member of “This Woman’s Work.” The New York-based collaborative showcases African-American choreography. Dance Magazine included the group in its national “25 to Watch” list.

Q: When did you know you wanted to become a professional dancer?

A: After my experience as Pearl Primus’ assistant and as an undergraduate student in the SRU dance department, the content of my choreography changed dramatically. I went from creating dances with superficial themes to popular music and using movement vocabulary that was a reflection of my favorite moves and cool images to dancing about topics that had current or historical political/racial implications.

I was awakening to the fact that there was more to be found in the study of dance as an art form, as a viable career option and as a way of discovering more about my own heritage as a woman of African descent.

Q: What is harder, performing or teaching dance?

A: I see my teaching and performance practice as being intricately integrated. There are challenges inherent to both areas. I have been fortunate enough to achieve success in both.

Q: What does it mean to be a leader in dance?

A: I have internalized this as being willing to invest in my name and cultivate my intelligence. Out of this springs greater insight and inspiration that ultimately impacts the quality of my work as a scholar-artist, and the scope of my reputation in the field of dance. Being willing to limit both social and cultural diversions after graduation, allowed me to fully dedicate myself to pursuing and establishing a long-term career in dance that could sustain me financially and professionally.

Q: What leadership qualities must dance professors possess?

A: The ability to inspire students through a variety of methods to improve upon their skills and the practical application of knowledge gained within the curriculum. This involves the continual process of learning and refining skills, making oneself vulnerable to feedback from peers, and maintaining a current body of artistic work.

Q: How do you instill leadership in dance students?

A: By listening to their needs, involving them in decision-making processes, challenging their ideas, and mentoring their aesthetic development as choreographers and performers through participation in the Slippery Rock University dance theatre and repertory courses.

Q: What is the biggest misconception about majoring in dance?

A: That it’s an easy, fun major that does not offer adequate job opportunities upon graduation.

Q: Does it bother you that some see dance as a non-academic major?

A: No, because their opinions are usually uninformed and based upon knowledge that is often distorted or limited in experience.

Q: Who is your favorite dancer, historical or otherwise?

A: Dr. Pearl Primus.

Q: What might surprise people about you?

A: Dance is how I became conscious of my connectedness to the cultural histories of Americans, African-Americans, women’s issues and global human rights violations. I have traveled to 17 different countries within five continents to perform, teach or conduct research in dance.
Medley of fun, with purpose

The annual Kaleidoscope arts festival brought thousands to campus for arts entertainment, live music and Children’s Day activities, including an appearance under the big tent by Pittsburgh’s Zany Umbrella Circus. The circus uses art as a vehicle for promoting dialogue, teaching cooperation skills and encouraging children to use their imaginations to create artwork of their own. Staged the same weekend was the Earth Festival at the Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research. Hundreds turned out for workshops on organic cooking, wind and solar power, kite flying as well as a children’s animal farm exhibition and maze. See you at next year’s events.
Capitol Steps
Sept. 12, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
The Capitol Steps began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them. They have been featured on NBC, CBS, ABC, PBS and can be heard on NPR. You are guaranteed to laugh, regardless of your party affiliation.

The Four Freshmen
Dec. 6, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
The Four Freshmen continue to bring their unique brand of vocal harmony to audiences worldwide. The names and faces have changed, but the legendary sound continues. They placed No.1 in the “Best Vocal Group” category for the 2007 Jazz Times Readers Poll. The SRU Jazz Ensemble will be featured in this holiday show.

THE VANAVER CARAVAN PRESENTS
Pastures of Plenty
Feb. 6, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Woody Guthrie is celebrated in music, dance and song. This show is an explosion of movement and masterful musicianship. “In the end, everyone is on their feet cheering!” – Pete Seeger. Produced by Woody Guthrie’s daughter, Nora Guthrie.

Dublin’s Traditional Irish Cabaret
March 21, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
This joyous celebration stars Ireland’s greatest comedian Noel V. Ginnity and features famous vocalists, champion dancers and award-winning musicians.

If You Give a Pig a Pancake and Other Story Books
May 15, 2009, 7 p.m.
A mini-musical of eight beloved children’s stories: “Diary of a Worm,” “Fluffy the Classroom Guinea Pig,” “Horace and Morris but Mostly Dolores,” “How I Became a Pirate,” “If you Give a Pig a Pancake,” “Lilly’s Big Day,” “The Paper Bag Princess” and “Ruby Mae has Something to Say.” All ages - $8.

All shows are in Miller Auditorium.
For ticket information call 724.738.2091

Slippery Rock University
www.SRU.edu
A member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
Angela Hollis MD, ’99, biology
Family physician, Hometown Family Care, Cheraw, S.C.

DAY JOB: I treat all ages and multiple illnesses. I treat diabetes and high blood pressure. I take off toenails, do Pap smears and give vaccinations. I treat asthma, allergies, colds, rashes and more while still doing preventive care such as physicals.

MOONLIGHT: I’ve started doing office consults for weight management. I have more than 60 people participating, and the group has lost a total of 485 pounds. I provide a valuable service to my patients who rely on me for continuity of care.

INFLUENCE OF SRU: I have always been proud to say that I went to Slippery Rock University. I performed as well as my medical school colleagues who came from Ivy League colleges. SRU had a great benefit being a smaller school, and I felt the professors and other students in biology were like a family. The late biology Professor Frank Pugliese, as well as Mark Shotwell (biology), were especially important in my success. I am a member of the Alumni Association and give back to SRU. I have made donations over the past few years.