



THE Top Rock

Slippery Rock University Magazine

Fall 2018

**Meet William J. Behre
SRU's 'Top Rock'**



View from the ROCK

Dear friends,

Will Rogers often quipped, "All I know is what I read in the papers." Until this summer, that's how I felt. Based on my reading, interview and two short visits, I knew that Slippery Rock University was a top performing school in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. I knew that enrollments were strong and budgets solid. And, I knew that the campus was expansive and beautiful. In short, it was clear that Interim President Philip Way, President Cheryl Norton before him, and lots of dedicated people here had positioned SRU for continued success. As such, it was the perfect place for an aspiring president.

What I didn't know was how quickly I would become enamored with the University, the community and its people. Most evenings, my wife, Leah, and I walk with our dogs, Oscar and Sadie, around campus. And while the pups have discovered ground-hogs, Leah and I have discovered the hospitality of western Pennsylvania. The warmth of the greetings that we have received has been matched only by the rich colors of the autumn sun setting over the fields of lower campus. Both regularly stop me in my tracks. It is truly a privilege to be here.

This fall I have dedicated myself to listening and learning about The Rock. I am fortunate to have this luxury. While many of my presidential colleagues wake up each day wondering how to help their schools survive, I spend each day helping this extraordinary place to thrive. As such, my role is to learn about and to support wonderful people doing fantastic work. No one on earth has a better job.

Each day I think a lot about the best ways to let the world know about and seek support for the extraordinary things that happen at SRU. There's Storm Harbor Equestrian Center where individuals with disabilities can experience equine therapy. It's neighbor, the Macosky Center, teaches the campus and community about keys to sustainable healthy living. And, there's the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program that has returned to low and moderate taxpayers more than \$21 million in the past nine years. These are just a few of the many good works performed by SRU students, staff and faculty. With each conversation I am in awe as I learn even more about our amazing people and their accomplishments.

As I continue listening and learning, I invite each of you to share your thoughts or observations with me by emailing me at president@sru.edu. And, please follow me on Twitter at @SRUpresident.

I look forward to getting to know the alumni and friends of SRU and to hearing about what makes The Rock so special to you.



William J. Behre
President

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THE ROCK

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The board of governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education unanimously selected William Behre to be the next president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania March 16, 2018. Behre, the former provost of Georgian Court University, took office July 1. Learn more about the University's 17th president and "Top Rock" by turning to page 22.



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of Pennsylvania

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of Higher Education

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SRU wins Department of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

Slippery Rock University has been recognized by the Department of Defense as one of 15 recipients nationally to win a 2018 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest U.S. government honor to employers for support of National Guard and Reserve employees. Recipients were honored Aug. 24 at a ceremony hosted by the Pentagon.

Nominations must come from a military member employed by the business or organization. Gary Clark, an SRU assistant professor of physical and health education and an Army Reserve member, nominated the University.

"The University has been fantastic when it comes to allowing me to fulfill my reservist duties," said Clark. "Military obligation can definitely place a burden on employers and in the 10 years I've been at SRU, I have been deployed twice.

"Through it all, the University has been incredibly supportive. It's not always easy to find someone with the background and expertise to cover some of the classes that I teach and pulling a faculty member away for a month during the middle of a semester is not easy for anyone; but through it all the University and my colleagues have always been there."

The 2018 recipients were selected from more than 2,350 nominations received from guardsmen and reservists highlighting how their civilian employers went far beyond what the federal law requires to support them. The Freedom Award began in 1996 under the auspices of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to recognize exceptional employer support. There have been 250 honorees to date.



MEET THE NEW BOSS

Slippery Rock University welcomed William Behre as the institution's 17th president July 2. Behre, the former provost at Georgian Court University, was greeted at the steps of Old Main by University mascot, Rocky, before beginning his day with a visit from the Slippery Rock Student Government Association Executive Board, talking to APSCUF President Ben Shaevitz and a welcome reception hosted by the President's Council. Other highlights of his first day included a visit to the University Union for his ID and parking pass, touring the Smith Student Center to visit with staff and lunch at Boozel Dining Hall. Read more about Behre on page 22.

TRANSITION OF CARE

For more than 50 Slippery Rock University physical therapy students, July 20 marked a major milestone in their educational and health care careers as they received their white coats in a special ceremony in the Smith Student Center Ballroom. The ceremony marks the end of their on-campus work and beginning of their clinical rotations which began this fall.



The Princeton Review names SRU as one of the “Best Northeastern” colleges

Slippery Rock University has been named one of the best colleges in the Northeastern region by The Princeton Review.

The Princeton Review broke the country into five zones – Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, West and International – to

name those institutions that they considered “academically outstanding and well worth consideration in a student’s college search.” SRU was one of only 225 colleges and universities ranked in the Northeastern region.

“It is a great compliment to our dedicated faculty and staff to have SRU once again named among the top institutions in the region,” said William Behre, SRU president. “Everyone who works at this institution is dedicated to making sure each of our students receive an excellent education that prepares them for success in life. To have that commitment honored is gratifying.”

Princeton Review editors made their selections based on data the company collected from its survey of administrators at several hundred colleges in each region, as well as its staff visits to schools over the years, and the perspectives of college counselors and advisers whose opinions the company solicits. Consideration was also given to what students enrolled at the schools reported to Princeton Review about their campus experiences on a student survey solicited for this project.

SRU student comments noted SRU is both “quaint” and “really is a beautiful place to be,” while the “proximity to Pittsburgh allows for an easy escape when the urge for a serious road trip strikes.” Regarding the University’s academics, one student wrote, “I have been pleased with the availability of the professors, their willingness to work with students and their reliability. They are very personable and take the time to listen to students.”

SRU again named a national “College of Distinction”

Slippery Rock University has again earned a rather distinctive trifecta of accolades, being named a 2018-19 national “College of Distinction,” a Pennsylvania “College of Distinction” and a public “College of Distinction” by collegesofdistinction.com. The University earned similar distinctions in 2017-18. Colleges of Distinction evaluates institu-

tions based on their commitment to “Four Distinctions:” engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community and successful outcomes. The selection process consists of a review of an institution’s freshman experience and retention efforts alongside its general education programs, alumni success, strategic plan, student satisfaction and more.

Colleges of Distinction has recognized and honored schools throughout the U.S. for excellence in undergraduate-focused higher education for more than 15 years.

SRU recognized nationally as a “Great College to Work For”

Slippery Rock University, for the eighth time, has been selected as one of the nation’s “Great Colleges to Work For” by The Chronicle of Higher Education, a top trade publication for colleges and universities.

SRU was recognized in three categories: compensation and benefits, professional/career development programs and supervisor/department chair relationships.



The Chronicle’s “2018 Great Colleges to Work For” survey is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. This

year, 53,000 people from more than 250 institutions participated. All accredited institutions in the United States with an enrollment of at least 500 were invited to participate, including 165 four-year and 88 two-year institutions.

The Great Colleges survey included a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies, and a survey administered to randomly selected faculty, administrators and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was employee feedback.

SRU featured in Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education rankings

Slippery Rock University has once again been featured as among the best national colleges and universities in the 2019 Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings. The WSJ/THE rankings include a total of 968 institutions nationwide.

Developed in partnership with U.S. experts and universities, the rankings adopt a balanced scorecard approach. WSJ/THE uses 15 individual performance metrics, grouped into four pillars representing resources, engagement, outcomes and environment. SRU’s strongest pillars were Outcomes and Engagement.

Data sources for the rankings include the THE U.S. Student Survey, the THE Academic Reputation Survey, along with public data from IPEDs, the College



Scorecard and the Federal Student Aid on areas including completion rates and graduate employment.

THE’s student survey captured key milestones in a student’s educational journey with their institution, covering motivation, engagement with learning, career impact and satisfaction and value. The 2019 instrument contained 12 core questions, framed by demographic questions to capture the students’ background and degree status.

SRU earns prestigious ‘Best Regional University’ and ‘Best Public University’ U.S. News & World Report rankings

If the following announcement seems like something you’ve heard before, it’s because you have – 10 times over in fact. In rankings released Sept. 10, Slippery Rock University was named among the 2019 “Best Regional Universities – North” by U.S. News & World Report. It is the 10th consecutive year that SRU has earned the accolade.

SRU was also honored as one of only 46 “Top Public Schools – Regional Universities (North).” The Rock came in tied for the 25th spot alongside College at Brockport-SUNY.

The University also was named to the “Best Value Schools – Regional Universities North” list, coming in at No. 54.



The University ranked among the top 90 regional universities in the North. According to the magazine, the 459 universities in the regional category were ranked against

their peer group in one of four regions – North, South, Midwest and West – because “in general they tend to draw students most heavily from surrounding states.”

According to U.S. News, regional universities are defined as “(those) institutions that ... provide a full range of undergraduate majors and master’s programs; the difference (being) that they offer (fewer) doctoral programs.”

Rankings are based on several key measures of quality, with scores for each measure weighted to arrive at a final overall score, including: outcomes (degree completion), 35 percent; faculty resources, 20 percent; expert opinion, 20 percent; financial resources, 10 percent; student excellence, 10 percent; alumni giving, 5 percent.



Brandon Berns, '07 Bachelor of Arts, Sport Management

HOME:

Verona, Pennsylvania.

PROFESSION:

Employed by Highmark Health as a senior community affairs analyst. My primary responsibility is to plan, promote and execute the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. The annual, multi-location fundraising event – in Pennsylvania and Delaware – helps raise funds for more than 200 health and human service nonprofits. In 2018, the walks raised a record-setting \$1.5 million.

HOBBIES:

Attending local sporting events and golfing.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Raising more than \$10 million for various health and human service and cardiovascular organizations during my professional career.

WHY I GIVE:

When I look back at my time at SRU, I remember fondly the fantastic experiences I had, including supporting SRU athletics for four years, while working with the University's mascot, Rocky; working at the Aebersold Recreation Center's with the intramural sports teams; and being named Homecoming King in 2005. As a first generation college graduate, it's important for me to give back to help continue the tradition of excellence established at SRU and within the Sport Management and Athletics Departments.



SRU releases new interactive campus map

Slippery Rock University's web communications team recently completed a major update to the University digital campus map that is available at <http://rockpride.sru.edu/map/>.

The new map offers a visual representation of the campus that is more interactive than the previous version, featuring 360-degree images, embedded drone video and syncing with Google maps to link to turn-by-turn directions.

The new map uses scalable vector graphics that are more compatible for mobile devices and supported by most internet browsers, while the map design meets Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Two SRU alumnae named SHAPE America Teachers of the Year



Duff



Wininsky

Two of the nation's top six health and physical education teachers have something in common other than just the National Teacher of the Awards they received earlier this spring: they also have degrees from Slippery Rock University.

The Society of Health and Physical Educators of America named Jody Duff and Johanna Wininsky as 2018 SHAPE America National Teachers of the Year. They were recognized at the SHAPE America National Convention and Expo in Nashville, Tennessee.

Duff, a 2006 SRU graduate with a degree in health and physical education teaching, won the award for adapted physical education, while Wininsky, a 1997 SRU alumna with a degree in dance, was honored in the dance education category.

Teachers of the Year were also awarded for health education, elementary physical education, middle school physical education and high school physical education.

SRU student attends The Harrisburg Internship Semester

Jacob Gillette, a Slippery Rock University junior political science major from Schuylkill Haven, is working in the office of state Sen. Vincent Hughes, D-Philadelphia, as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Gillette is one of nine students participating in The Harrisburg Internship Semester program, which provides students the opportunity to work in all areas of state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits. THIS invites students from each of the State System universities to participate.

More than 600 students from the State System universities have participated in THIS since the program began in 1989, each gaining valuable insight into the workings of state government at the policy-making level.





Solid as a (Camp) Rock

Slippery Rock University's Camp ROCK program for youth on the autism spectrum provides equine-assisted therapeutic recreation and other activities promoting health including horseback riding, archery, yard games, biking and horticulture among its variety of activities. This year's event, June 18-29, was attended by 23 campers ages 12-21 and cohosted by the Butler County Family YMCA. Twelve SRU students teamed with local high school students acted as mentors for the campers.

SRU creates academic department for homeland and corporate security programs

After two years of offering bachelor's degrees in homeland security and corporate security, Slippery Rock University has officially christened an academic department, Homeland and Corporate Security Studies, to house the programs. Previously, the programs were offered within the Criminology and Security Studies Department, which has been renamed Criminology and Criminal Justice.

More than 100 students were enrolled in the homeland security and corporate security majors during the 2017-18 academic year. Since they were first offered in fall 2016, both programs have exceeded their recruitment goals, including the homeland security program more than quadrupling its target with 78 students. In May, four SRU transfer students were the first to graduate from the program.

"SRU was the first institution in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education to offer a bachelor's degree in either homeland security or corporate security, the latter of which is particularly rare for on-campus programs," said Susan Lubinski, associate professor of criminology and security studies.

SRU students in the security studies program are trained to work in fields such as intelligence, immigration, emergency response, fraud prevention, anti-money laundering and compliance. The corporate security program has two major concentrations, fraud and organizational security. The department also offers three minors: fraud, homeland security and organizational security. Certificates are also available in those respective fields.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR

Slippery Rock University PERFORMING



Alumni and friends still have time to get in on the action and enjoy the 2018-19 Slippery Rock University Performing Arts Series.

Martini Pop combines the "cool factor" of The Rat Pack, the harmony of Manhattan Transfer and the quirky arrangements of Post-Modern Jukebox to bring audiences an unforgettable musical experience. Four amazing vocalists, backed by a jazz combo, perform retro versions of songs from Sinatra, Lionel Ritchie, Taylor Swift, Rhianna and many more of the world's most popular musicians. The quartet performs at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 2 in the University Union.

Performing a set list of the most well-known and beloved songs recorded or performed by Frank Sinatra, A Swingin' Holiday Affair starring Steve Lippia and featuring the SRU Jazz Ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 17 in the Smith Student Center Ballroom. Lippia has become one of the most prominent, in-demand vocalists and has quickly established his place among the finest interpreters of "standards" and traditional pop music in the nation.

The country's premier Fleetwood Mac tribute band, Rumours, will recreate the energy and sounds of one of rock 'n' roll's most well-known groups at a 7:30 p.m., Jan. 25 performance in the University Union. Rumours blends perfect harmonies and precise instrumentation to create a visually engaging stage show that appeals to diehard Fleetwood Mac fans as well as those who are new to the band's music.

Neil Berg's "American Royalty: Queens of Sex, Soul and Song" will wrap up the season with a 7:30 p.m., March 29 performance in the University Union. Featuring an amazingly talented all-female cast of four Broadway, rock 'n' roll, jazz and pop artists as they perform hit songs from Ella Fitzgerald, Whitney Houston, Barbra Streisand and many other musical icons.

For show and ticket information, call: 724.738.2018.



SRU's emergency alert system changes name, adds new features

Omnilert, the parent company that owns and operates Slippery Rock University's emergency alert system, has given its "child" a makeover, including a new name. The service, formerly known as e2Campus, is now called Campus Alerts.

When there's an emergency or changes to the University schedule because of a weather event, members of the campus community are notified by text message through Campus Alerts. The mass notification system also sends messages to registered users' email and from the University's official Facebook and Twitter accounts.

In addition to changing the name of their emergency notification system, Omnilert upgraded the product. New subscribers will find a more user-friendly sign-up page, which will allow them to receive alerts via a variety of modalities including text, email and mobile apps.

The system will continue to be opt in and users will be responsible for any messaging charges from their wireless service provider.

The University only uses the Campus Alerts system for emergency purposes and will never share user information with a third party.

For more information or to sign up for Campus Alerts, visit: www.sru.edu/alerts.



SRU football's Marcus Martin named PSAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Former Slippery Rock University football standout Marcus Martin, '17, earned the highest academic honor the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference awards when he was named the PSAC Pete Nevins Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

In order to be eligible, a student-athlete must be named to one of the PSAC Top 10 teams during the year, maintain above a 3.50 cumulative GPA and must be at least a sophomore in academic standing.

Martin was one of the most dominant defensive ends in college football last season. He led the nation in both sacks and tackles for loss, finishing with 15.5 sacks and 26.5 TFL, respectively, in just 11 games. The senior also recorded 82 total tackles, two forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries. He broke the NCAA all-time sack record for players from any level, finishing his career with 56 sacks. He also broke the all-time NCAA Division II record for tackles for loss with 92.5.

In the classroom, Martin was just as impressive. He was the only Division II representative in the 13-member National Scholar-Athlete Class presented by the National Football Foundation last fall, for which he received an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship. Martin was also named a CoSIDA Academic All-American for the third time, becoming the first SRU football player to ever accomplish such a feat. He graduated last December with a bachelor's degree in safety management and a minor in business administration.

Martin became the 11th SRU student-athlete to ever win the honor. No other school has more than seven PSAC Scholar-Athletes of the Year. Martin recently signed with the Los Angeles Rams' practice squad.

SRU student organization receives grant to open free physical therapy clinic

Even with medical insurance, the cost of physical therapy can cause patients to stretch their dollars while stretching their muscles. However, students at Slippery Rock University are easing the burden by creating an alternative; a free physical therapy clinic for the local community.

Slippery Rock Pro Bono Physical Therapy is a student-run organization at SRU that is establishing a free physical therapy clinic for the public with graduate students from SRU's Doctor of Physical program volunteering as therapists. While the clinic is already three years in the making, a grant recently awarded to SRPBPT will help get the clinic up and running this fall.



SRPBPT received a \$3,155 grant from Move Together, Inc., a nonprofit organization that increases access to quality rehabilitation medicine for people all over the world.

The Move Together grant was needed to purchase sustainable equipment such as high-low treatment tables and a recumbent stationary bicycle for the clinic that will be housed in the School of Physical Therapy Building, Room 325.

Patients will be referred to SRPBPT from local professional clinics in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango counties once it is determined that the patient cannot afford treatment, because they do not have insurance, the insurance copay is too costly or they maxed out their insurance benefits to continue treatment. SRPBPT will also partner with local clinicians who will mentor SRU students.

There are 100 students enrolled in the two-year Doctor of Physical Therapy program at SRU and SRPBPT organizers anticipate about 25 interested volunteers would be able to treat as many as four patients per evening beginning in October.



Having a ball

The Pittsburgh Steelers hosted a non-contact football camp at Slippery Rock University's soccer practice fields for boys and girls ages 6-14 June 25-26. Kids learned eight different positions, team concepts and played NFL Flag Football Games. High school coaches from the area, as well as current and former Steelers players, including former quarterback Charlie Batch, instructed the kids, while Steelers players also talked to the campers about some of their valuable life lessons.



WOW-ing the crowds

You might say it's gone from "WOW" to "WHOA!" In recent years, Slippery Rock University's Weekend of Welcome – a program that helps new students move in and get acclimated to the campus community – has evolved into an entire Week of Welcome with improvement and expansion of programs to ensure students are getting the most out of their SRU experience.

As first-year students moved into their residence halls Aug. 23, they weren't alone. Hundreds of volunteers eagerly greeted families, lending a festive air to the day and making short order of the work at hand.

The move-in program, which in recent years was spread across two days, was fit into one day this year to maximize SRU's Week of Welcome. WOW includes 11 days of programming to set students up for success.

SRU ranked one of the nation's best public universities

Slippery Rock University has been named a "Best Public Colleges and Universities" for 2018 by CollegeConsensus.com. SRU, ranked No. 98, was the only institution from Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education to make the Top 100.

The methodology used by CollegeConsensus.com to determine an institution's ranking is comprised of two parts: a "Publisher Rating" which is an average of all rankings from publishers like U.S. News & World Report, Times Higher Education and Forbes; and the "Student Review Rating" which averages all of the legitimate student reviews from sites like Cappex and My Plan. Together, the two combine to form the CollegeConsensus.com score.



"Press"-ing closer to the pitch

Slippery Rock University recently welcomed a new addition at the Jim Egli Soccer Field. A pressbox was installed. The \$120,000 project includes seating for eight media and SRU athletic communication staffers, a video platform and a storage facility. The soccer field was also the recipient of a new set of bleacher seating for Rock futbol fans.



Lyndse Costabile, '07 Bachelor of Science, Marketing

HOME:

Gloucester Township, New Jersey.

PROFESSION:

Consultant, public speaker, global STEM advocate.

HOBBIES:

Flying various aircraft, traveling, running with my Australian Shepherd, trying out new craft breweries with my fiancé, visiting The Rock, oil painting, STEM outreach to youth, helping more women get into aviation, mentoring and public speaking.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Oversight and execution of a historic global solo flight for STEM outreach (Dreams Soar).

WHY I GIVE:

To me, giving is an act of love. Actions speak louder than words. When I graduated from SRU, I made a promise to my alma mater that once I was financially able, I would establish a scholarship in my family's name to pave the way for future business professionals to earn a degree. Going to college with financial burdens weighs heavily on young adults. Why should these burdens exist when donors can act, motivate, inspire, empower and encourage our next generation? It's our duty to support the flight paths of those succeeding us. I try to inspire others to create their act of love: do something unpredictable to surprise themselves and their family, and their heart will never be the same.



From left: When Slippery Rock University theatre student Frantzi Schaub went into cardiac arrest, classmates Samantha Dyer and Samantha Balaj helped save his life.

BACK *to* LIFE



SRU student brought back to life by classmates, first responders

"I'll Be There For You" is the theme song to Frantzi Schaub's favorite television show, "Friends." The senior theatre major at Slippery Rock University was even wearing a "Friends" sweatshirt when his heart stopped during his acting class. But thanks to his friends – and few new ones working as first responders – Schaub is alive today because people were there for him.

"It's crazy to think I died and someone was there to give me a second chance," said Schaub, a resident of Slippery Rock who was born in Haiti and raised in Beaver Falls.

Schaub now wears a replacement "Friends" sweatshirt because his previous hoodie was extracted when he went into cardiac arrest March 20, 2018, at the Maltby Center theater, two days before he had surgery to insert an implantable cardioverter defibrillator into his heart.

He lived to tell the story, but he doesn't remember much.

Not to worry, the bystanders and first responders were available to fill in the gaps for him.

"We were in the middle of an acting exercise," said David Skeelee, SRU professor of theatre who was teaching the Michael Chekhov Technique known as "Radiating and Receiving" to 10 students in his acting class. "I asked everyone to come up on stage and I looked around and one of the students was on the floor, kind of writhing there and making an awful sound. I thought the student was getting caught up in the acting exercise."

Skeelee said students were imagining they were characters generating energy in a chaotic way, and although it involved light aerobic activity, the exercise was certainly little threat to anyone with a healthy heart.



Dyer

"Frantzi runs down the aisle and just collapses," said Samantha Dyer, a junior dual major in biology and theatre from Corry. "And he's extremely dramatic as it is, so we all thought he was just doing his thing. I peeked around the corner and saw that his hand was all cramped up, which meant oxygen wasn't reaching his brain. I ran to him and saw that he wasn't waking up."

Another student in the class, Samantha Balaj, a junior exercise science major from Akron, Ohio, was trained in first aid and CPR. She called University Police from her cell phone, telling the dispatcher: "There's an unconscious student in Maltby, we need help."

"(Balaj) threw her phone at me so she could start CPR on him," Dyer continued. "At first we were thinking seizure, so we rolled him onto his side and we realized he didn't have a pulse. So we rolled him back and she started CPR while I talked to the SRU police officers; updated them on everything that was going on."

Spc. Tyler Gray, who was training Officer Guerino Cararini, took the call and dispatched Officers Trevor Buckley and Wayne Cochran. Buckley, who was just starting his shift and was at his desk, was the first to arrive after driving the 0.4 miles on Keister Road and Campus Drive with lights and sirens blazing, an automated external defibrillator by his side.

"Upon exiting the vehicle, I started undoing the pads on the AED while running into Maltby," said Buckley, who according to dispatch reports arrived at 3:01 p.m. "I could hear on our radio that dispatch was still on the phone and they said the unconscious male still wasn't breathing. I relied on my training and had the pads ready to go."

Meanwhile, Balaj, who despite her training had never performed CPR in a real emergency, was completing her second set of 30 chest compressions, between which she attempted rescue breathing.

"She would push the air in and you could tell that she was struggling, but he would reject it," Dyer recalled.

"That was the most terrifying thing in my entire life."

Buckley rounded the corner and ordered Balaj to remove Schaub's shirt before he placed the pads on Schaub, turned on the AED and started another 30 compressions.

"Then the AED said 'Shock advise, everyone stand clear,'" said Buckley, who previously used an AED but never in an instance that required a shock. "I pressed the shock button and his body had a major reaction to it; it seemed like he jumped four feet in the air."

Buckley performed 90 compressions in all before he was relieved by Cochran, who by then arrived and used a mask with a one-way valve to administered two rescue breaths.

"I could tell that the breaths were getting in because I could see his chest going up and coming back down," Buckley said.

"At some point, after the two breaths, we noticed the valve was starting to push back, like his body was trying to breathe. That's when we stopped and moved away."

The valve in Schaub's mouth started to fog up; he was responsive and alive.

At 3:08 p.m., seven minutes after Buckley arrived, first responders from Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire Company, EMS and Lt. Brian Hoak of the Slippery Rock Borough Police had arrived. By 3:16 p.m., Schaub was en route to Grove City Medical Center, before he was transported later that evening to UPMC Presbyterian Medical Center in Pittsburgh, where he was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

HCM, a common cause of sudden cardiac arrest in young people, occurs when heart muscle cells enlarge and cause the walls of the ventricles to thicken. Schaub, who had no previous known heart problems, had surgery two days later and was discharged a day after surgery. He returned to class the following Monday, six days after the incident.

Several students and Skeele, who arranged a phone chain for updates following the incident, visited Schaub, who also credits his friend, Erica Robbins, for helping him during his recovery. Although there is no "cure" for Schaub's condition, he is expected to fully recover and live a normal life with his implanted defibrillator.

While students in the class were offered counseling by the SRU Student Counseling Center, Schaub's return a week later was surreal.

"I don't have too many words to describe it; I'm just thankful. It's cool to be able to see (the people) who brought me back to life. I owe them my life."



Balaj



Buckley

"It was traumatic for everyone and it took a couple of class periods to be able to get back into our groove," Skeele said. "We talked about it. He was joking a lot about it as his way of dealing with it, but some people were in a state of shock."

"I walked in and said, 'I'm back;' They didn't clap, but whatever," said Schaub, cracking a smile as if recalling a scene from his favorite episode of "Friends." "I feel like it was more traumatizing for them than it was for me because I don't remember anything. They had to watch all that."

Following the incident, Schaub sat down with Buckley, whom he never met – consciously, at least – Balaj and Dyer to recall what happened and thank them.

"I don't have too many words to describe it; I'm just thankful," Schaub said. "It's cool to be able to see (the people) who brought me back to life. I owe them my life."

"In my opinion, (Balaj) was the biggest hero in the class because she started CPR on him and kept him alive until the (first responders) got there," Skeele said. "(Dyer) was really good and got University Police on the phone and stayed on with them until everyone got there. Among all the responders, they all got there really quickly and were highly competent and knew exactly what they were doing. They were so calm, quick and efficient. I admire the way all of them dealt with it."

"No one is trying to take sole credit for anything," Buckley said. "It was an entire team effort all the way. Everyone was professional, quick and relied on the training. I don't want to say it was routine or part of the job, that's kind of cliché, but at the same time it is what you're trained to do and you have to be prepared for anything at any time."

"I appreciated things beforehand but I have a much different outlook on everything now," said Schaub, who has a "five-year plan," with a list of places to see, including New York, Las Vegas and California, while pursuing a career in the performing arts. "I'd love to be on Broadway or work in film or stage music; it doesn't matter, as long as I'm performing."

Schaub is prepared to play the lead role in his life story, with plenty more "radiating and receiving" in his future.

"I thought I had a good story before; this just adds to it," Schaub said.



The Life Saver's Tool

After Frantzi Schaub's life-threatening incident, it's natural for members of the SRU community to switch their concern from "Will he be OK?" to "What if that happened to me?" Thankfully, SRU takes extra measures to make sure that help is available, whether that means having a team of University police officers trained in CPR patrolling campus, automated external defibrillators mounted in strategic locations or the opportunity for students, faculty and staff to receive life-saving instruction through programs offered by Campus Recreation.

SRU's recently increased the number of AEDs available on campus from 37 to 54. Although AEDs are not required equipment by law, such as fire extinguishers, they are becoming more prevalent as schools and workplaces realize their importance in potentially saving lives if someone were to become unresponsive or suffer a cardiac arrest.

"When situations happen, it serves as a stark reminder how important it is to be aware of our surroundings and to make every effort to provide life safety devices for our students, faculty and staff," said Paul Novak, executive director of environmental health and safety. "(The decision to increase the number of AEDs) speaks very highly of SRU's continuing commitment to health and safety."

An AED is a portable device that treats sudden cardiac arrest. Once applied to a patient, an AED checks the heart rhythm and sends an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. When an AED is activated, prompts appear that guide the user through a very brief step-by-step process starting with the placement of pads on the victim's chest. The AED analyzes the victim's heart rate and determines whether a shock is needed. If the AED does not detect an abnormal heart rhythm, no shock will be delivered. If a shock is needed, the AED will prompt the user to press a button that will deliver the shock.

According to a recent American Heart Association survey, about half of all U.S. employees don't know where their workplace's AED is located. Workers in schools and other education facilities were most likely to be able to find it, at 61 percent, but the AHA survey is a sobering reminder for the need to identify the nearest AED. A complete list of AEDs is available on SRU's environmental health and safety webpage under "Emergency Management and Preparedness."

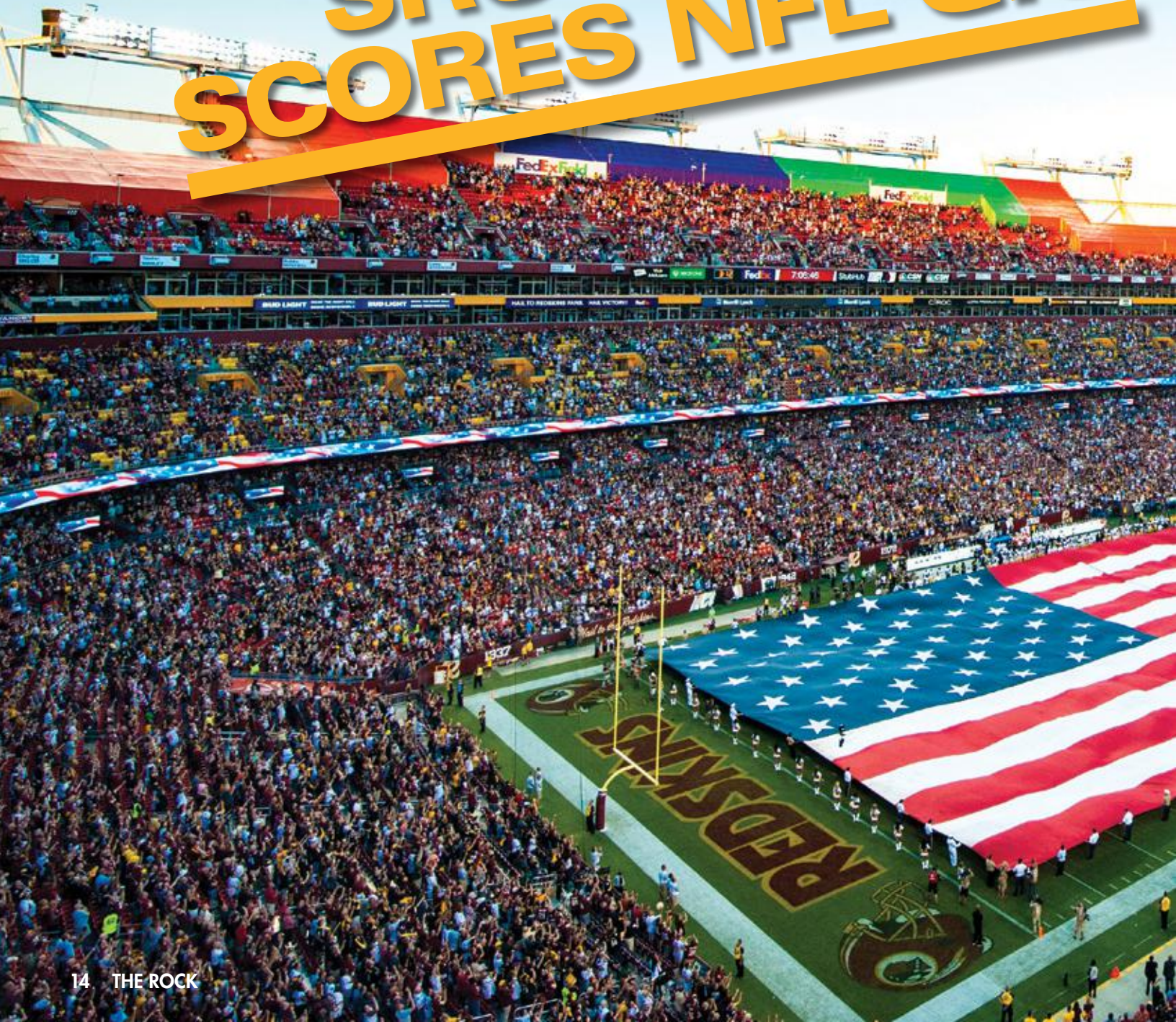
"From a prudent, proactive standpoint, AEDs are installed because of the statistics that are out there with these devices saving lives," Novak said. "It's a worthwhile investment and the University has a fair amount."



Officer Trevor Buckley of University Police was the first responder on the scene, arriving with an automated external defibrillator.

"TOUCHDOWN"

SRU GRAD
SCORES NFL GIG



When Jon Radke graduated from Milton (Pennsylvania) High School, he was laser-focused on two life goals: Either he was going to be a sports professional or he was going to work in professional sports.

His 2002 Slippery Rock University sport management degree set the final course by providing the necessary guidance and understanding of his future career as the operations manager with the National Football League's Washington Redskins, which make their home at FedExField in Landover, Maryland.

Radke has served in this role for just more than two years, following numerous career-building responsibilities within Major League Soccer. He is still awestruck by the opportunities presented him by his various jobs, including the chance to rub elbows with players, coaches and staff from across the NFL; soccer players from around the world; and such top entertainment artists as Taylor Swift, Jay-Z and Beyoncé. "And," he said with a smile, "I get to play host to thousands and thousands of our guests, making sure their experience in our facility is perfect."

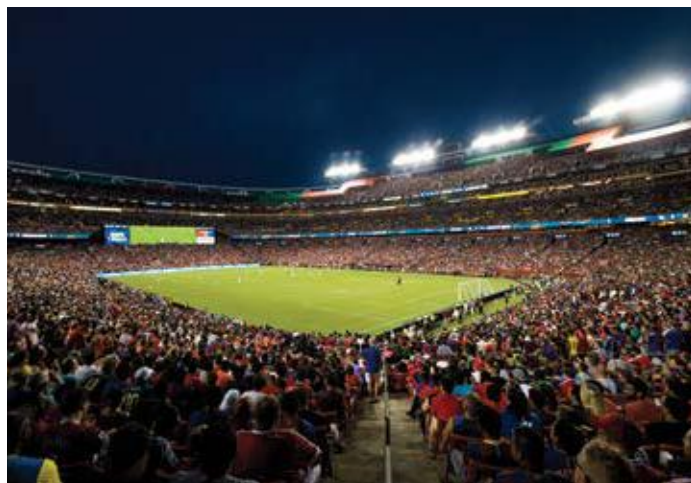


Jon Radke





Taylor Swift Concert from July 2018



Manchester United vs. Barcelona from July 2017

"It has been a dream come true" Radke said. "While I live in Alexandria, Virginia; the Redskins represent Washington, D.C. The team is headquartered in Ashburn, Virginia, but we play in Landover, so I get to make the rounds."

Those rounds include Radke's primary duties of managing events at FedExField, overseeing anywhere from 300-400 events per year, including weddings, birthday parties, food conventions, trade shows, company picnics and, of course, NFL football.

"My staff and I assist in overseeing events with our corporate sponsors and those involving the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation," Radke said. "The team hands out Thanksgiving dinners and hosts a Christmas store event for youth in the area, among other projects, so we have a hand in that as well."

"On the large-event calendar, of course, our priority is the regular season NFL games, in addition to a pair of pre-season games."

"When football is not filling the stadium, we work with various promoters to host a large number of concerts. This summer such artists as Taylor Swift, who is considered one of the world's leading contemporary recording arts, and her

'Reputation' Tour filled the stadium to capacity. After Jay-Z and Beyoncé completed their European tour, FedExField was the second stop of their 'On The Run 2' tour in the U.S."

"During my time at the stadium, we have also hosted Guns N' Roses, U2 and Coldplay," Radke said.

In August, Radke and his crew hosted the International Champions Cup Tournament, which featured Spain's Real Madrid and Italy's Juventus, two of the world's most renowned soccer clubs.

Moving from futbol to football, Radke and his staff switched gears to host the University of Maryland and the University of Texas on Labor Day weekend, just one week prior to the start of the 2018 NFL season.

"On the day-to-day side, I work with the operations team on every professional sporting or entertainment event we host," Radke said. "My team, along with our guest services team and security and facilities staff, works to make sure everything goes as planned."

And it's a big plan too. Radke manages operations for the stadium's 200-plus guest suites, including food and beverage operations and the hospitality operations that are required.

Official concert seating for FedExField is approximately 50,000, but that capacity balloons to 82,000 for NFL games.

Radke's path to the NFL started at SRU. "Following my SRU graduation, I moved to the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area for an internship with Major League Soccer's D.C. United. The team played at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium, which was built in 1961 and is one of the oldest U.S. stadiums still operating. At the end of the internship, they asked me to stay on, and from 2002 to 2011 I worked my way up from an operations intern, to operations coordinator, to

manager of operations and later to director of operations and finally director of operations and guest services before leaving for a post at MLS headquarters," he said.

MLS, based in New York City, is a men's professional soccer league sanctioned by U.S. Soccer and represents the sport's highest level in both the United States and Canada. The league oversees the operations of 23 teams – 20 in the U.S. and three in Canada – across North America.

"Part of my work as operations manager were the day-to-day functions of the department. This is more of a governmental type

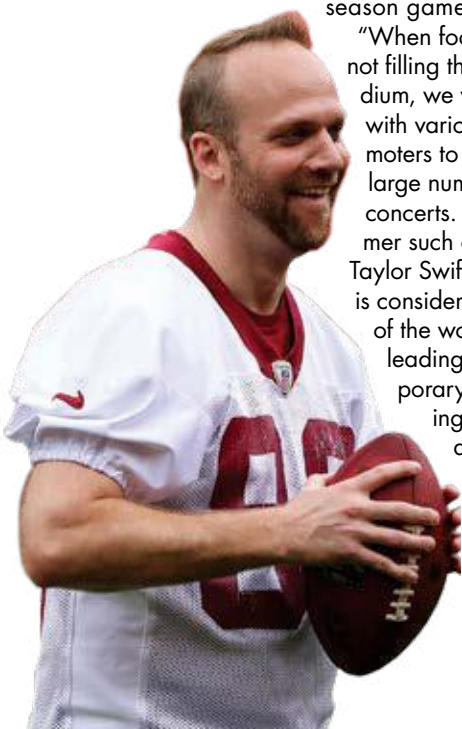
"When I enrolled, I truly did not know what sport management was all about. I did not know all the opportunities available. My classes showed me what I could do in this career."

of position, working with the clubs to ensure they operate according to league protocol. We maintained close ties with the clubs, so that meant site visits with every franchise. I also assisted the operations departments of newly selected franchises entering MLS. One of those was the Montreal Impact. Our department worked hand-in-hand to ensure their successful launch into MLS," Radke said.

In addition, the SRU alumnus was in charge of game presentation for the annual Major League Soccer All-Star Game, hosted in a different city each year, as well as the MLS Cup, hosted at the end of the season to determine the league champion.

While with MLS, Radke, who was named the league's 2007 "Director of the Year," was also director of operations for Soccer United Marketing, a sister organization serving as the marketing arm for the league.

"Through that organization, we were responsible for the operation of the Mexican National team games played in the U.S."



We worked with the Confederation of North American, Central America, Caribbean Governing Body of Professional Soccer, including organizing what was called The Gold Cup every two years from 2011 to 2015. That tournament is made up of national teams from North America, Central America and the Caribbean, and part of the job included hiring all of the venue managers at 13 stadiums in the U.S. and Canada, then staging the international tournament,” Radke said.

Born in Lansdale, outside Philadelphia, Radke grew up in New Columbia hell-bent on playing soccer in college and professionally. He first enrolled at Lynchburg, Virginia’s Liberty University as a walk-on.

“I was the last of two guys being considered (for the final roster), but in the end, I was not selected. So I stayed two semesters, reset my options and started looking for an affordable school where I could earn a sport management degree and play soccer. I talked with coaches and faculty, then transferred to SRU as a sophomore to finish my degree,” he said.

Radke credits his SRU sport management internship requirement for setting him on the path to success.

“I think hard work was at the forefront. A lot of people take their internships for granted and just go through the motions. I went in with goals and aspirations. I played for the varsity soccer team, but there comes a time when you realize your professional career is not going to be as a player, so I went into my internship with a goal of being successful in professional sports. I was willing to do anything it took – to work hard and to make myself known, to show what I was capable of, and to show the value I could bring to the organization through creativity and how I operate. That philosophy paid off with a fulltime job offer.

“I hear people that dislike their jobs. In professional sports and entertainment you work a lot of long hours and it is very challenging. It is a challenge to get your foot in the door, but when I look back at all of the major

events I have been a part of it is very satisfying. When I am on the field during an NFL game and get to see those amazing athletes and know I was part of making it possible, it is one of the greatest feelings. At the end of the day, I realize I have set the stage for these amazing athletes who have entertained all of their fans, and the fact that I set the stage on the concert side for such major events is just something you cannot replicate in any other job experience.

“Of course, there is also a little downside: late nights and working weekends. We often work seven days a week. Then, there are games on Thanksgiving night and Christmas Eve and sometimes even on New Year’s Eve. Going in you have to know you will give up on things many consider ‘normal life,’” he said.

Facility security and safety also play a major role in Radke’s everyday work.

“Security is at the forefront of everyone’s mind; even those not in professional sports operations,” he said. “Think of the changes that have taken place in our country since 9/11. Look at the way professional sports have evolved the last 10-15 years. Policies in professional sports have changed drastically, including the addition of magnetometers at gates and the institution of the Clear Bag Policy.

“We follow NFL security policies and best practices. Of course, we work with local authorities and we have a baseline security plan in place for every event. We tweak it as necessary for each specific event and as law enforcement provides last-minute intelligence. We also promote the ‘See Something – Say Something’ concept across the board. All of our staff is part of the frontline of security. Every new employee is required to go through training that promotes safety and security.

“Our staff is versed in alcohol management and how to manage those situations. They also know how to work in emergency situations, ranging from a guest passing

out to more serious health-issue situations,” Radke said.

Looking at FedExField’s 2018 events calendar, Radke noted it includes the largest number of major events, 17, hosted during his tenure.

Despite being 16 years removed from The Rock, Radke continues to praise the faculty and the sport management program.

“I still correspond with Dr. Crow (SRU professor of sport management) and I stay involved by offering support and recommendations for the program when asked. The approach of the department and its mission through the course structure shows the faculty wants to create successful students.

“When I enrolled, I truly did not know what sport management was all about. I did not know all the opportunities available. My classes showed me what I could do in this career. I found courses in which I had to create an event from scratch: signing on sponsors, fundraising, the whole thing. I

learned to never be late for class, discipline, to be ready for everything I was going to be faced with. It was all part of learning the skills needed

in sport management,” he said.

When asked about his personal struggle between his love of soccer and football, Radke, who earned SRU’s Sport Management Alumni MVP Award in 2012, said, “I am very passionate about soccer, I have played it since I was 5 years old. I also love the NFL, having grown up a passionate fan, but I separate business and pleasure. When I step foot in the building, I represent the Redskins family and I want to create a great experience for all of our guests at FedExField.”

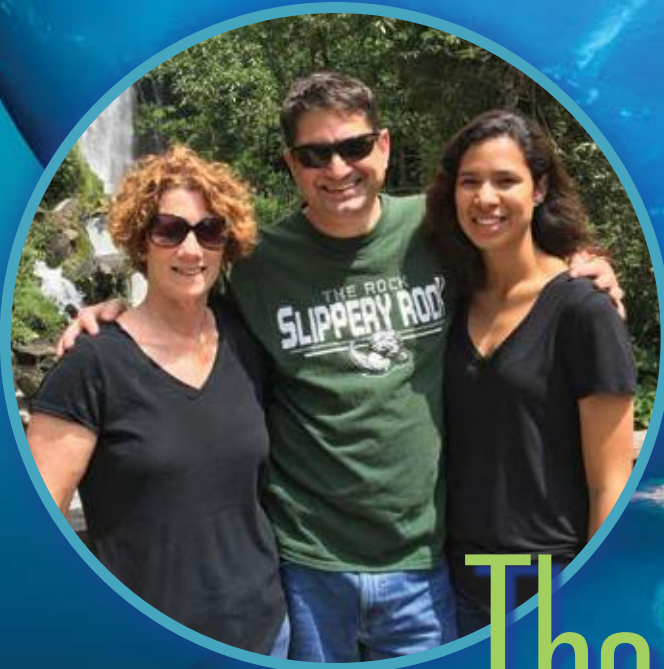
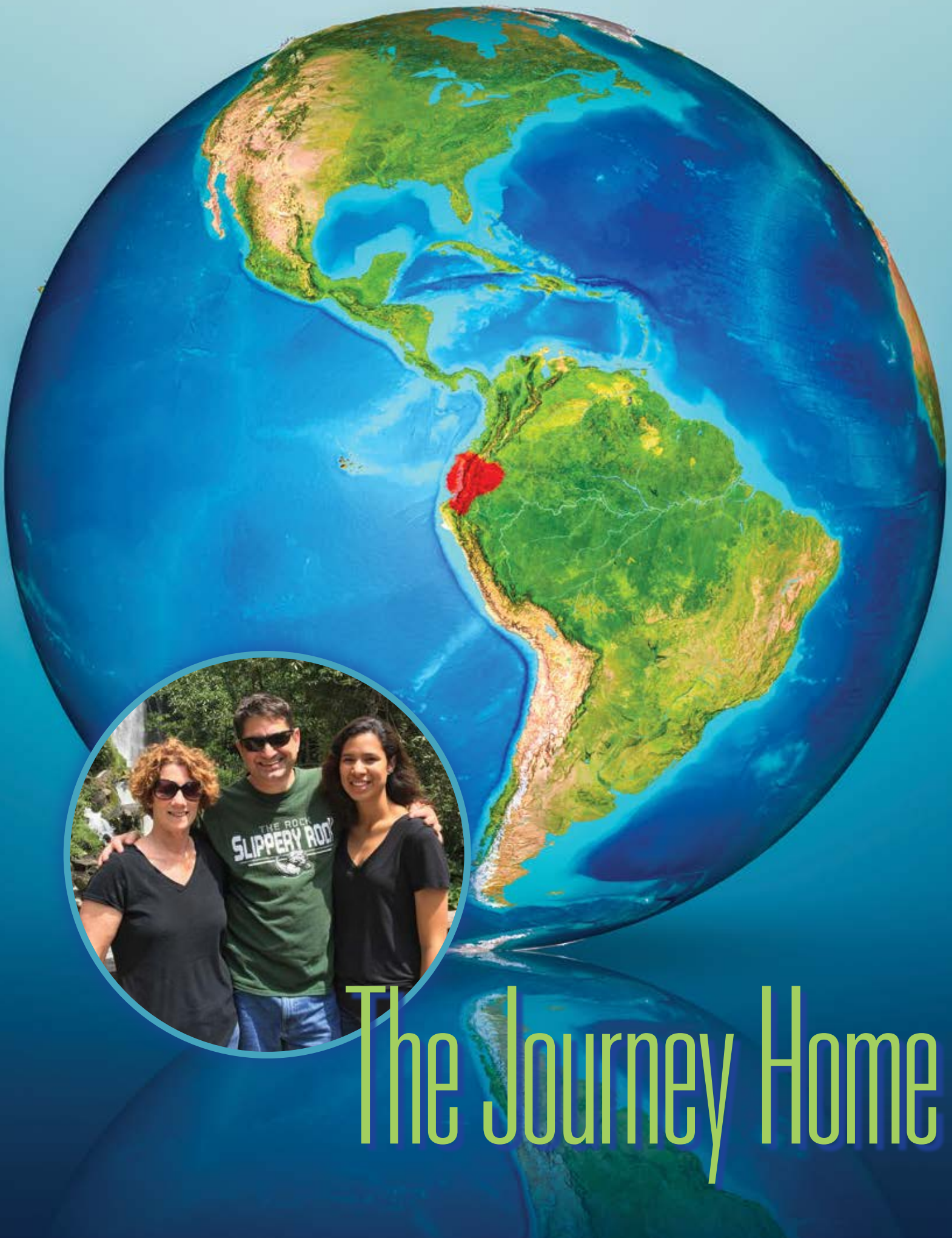
From left: Catriona Higgs, Brian Crow, Radke, and Radke’s mother, Celeste Radke celebrate Radke’s receiving of the SRU Sport Management Most Valuable Professional award (2012); Radke escorted actor Gerard Butler at MLS Cup 2012 hosted at LA’s StubHub Center; Radke (background) watches as David Beckham and his children celebrate the LA Galaxy’s 2011 MLS Cup championship.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images.



Photo courtesy of Sports Illustrated.



The Journey Home

Olivia Kass was never more frightened for her life. She stood with her host family along a busy four-lane highway in Quito, Ecuador. Her "host" mother, Lourdes Almeida Cordero, saw an opening and grabbed Kass' hand, pulling her, an infant and two children quickly across two lanes.

"Vamos! Vamos! Vamos!" her host mother shouted, before safely stopping the group on the median.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh!'" Kass said. "Nobody else was scared."

The host family's 12-year-old daughter, Romina Luzuriaga, seemed more interested in Kass' reaction than the oncoming traffic.

These were among the first steps Kass took on the ground in the country where she was born. When she left an orphanage in Quito nearly 19 years earlier, she was not old enough to walk.

Kass, a senior social work major at Slippery Rock University, spent the 2018 spring semester attending Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Cumbaya, Ecuador, as part of a study-abroad program – and to learn more about who she is.

Born in Santo Domingo, Ecuador, in 1998 and named Lisbeth Torres, Kass was adopted from a Quito orphanage by Dan and Sara Kass, and raised in Attleboro, Massachusetts, from the time she was six months old until she left to attend SRU.

Sara and Lourdes are two of three women Kass refers to as her mother. The name and whereabouts of the third woman, her birth mother, are unknown to her, but that's not why she went back to Ecuador. She returned to find herself, something that many teenagers do when they go away to college.

"I always wanted to come back here," Kass said by phone, shortly after she arrived in Ecuador. "My biggest thing coming here was that I never had the feeling that I looked like someone. I wanted to see people who looked like me and be around people I can relate to. I didn't feel I would be completely whole until I revisited where I was born."

Both Kass and her older brother, Lewis, were born in Ecuador and adopted by Dan and Sara, who told their children about their adoption story from the time they first held them in their arms.

"Ever since Olivia could talk she spoke about Ecuador and her birth mother and how she wanted to see her," said Sara Kass, who wanted to prevent her kids from "missing something from their identity."

"We were very open from the beginning and willing to help them ... we know how important it is for them to feel good about themselves."

While Lewis never developed a desire to return to Ecuador, his sister would draw pictures about Ecuador, dress her dolls with Ecuadorian clothing and, by the time she was a teenager, tell her parents that she would like to visit Ecuador and "be with my people."

She found a different place to call home when she found SRU on the College Board website and applied "just for fun."

After a campus visit she said, "This is the place for me," but there was still that longing to connect with Ecuador.

"That was a big thing, to make sure I was able to study abroad," Kass said.

SRU's Office of Global Engagement helps facilitate nearly 500 students each year with affordable study-abroad programs, both short and long term, including an average of 15 students each semester who spend an entire academic term with a partner institution and have their credits count toward their SRU degree. Because SRU did not have an exchange partnership with a university in Ecuador, Kass pursued direct enrollment through a third-party provider, which had more stringent Spanish-language prerequisites than most of SRU's partners.



Sara (top) and Dan Kass (bottom) adopted their daughter, Olivia, from the FAFECorp orphanage in Quito, Ecuador, in 1999, and while there they visited the Ciudad Mitad del Mundo monument (middle) located on the equator.



"I've never seen a student work as hard as she did to get into a program," said Theresa Thrower, SRU's assistant director of global exchanges and partnerships. "Once I found out she was adopted from there it all made sense because at first I couldn't figure out why she was so set on Ecuador. When we were able to work it out she was just beyond ecstatic; she was so committed to going back."

Kass arrived in Ecuador Jan. 9 and spent the next four months living with her host family in Quito, Ecuador's capital city with a population of more than 2.6 million. She learned how to navigate the public transportation, developed a liking for the food (empanadas, a stuffed pastry, are her favorite) and made friends, including several American students, at USFQ, where she took five classes, two in Spanish and three in English.

"Sometimes I feel like everyone knows I'm from America, but then other times I feel like I'm so Ecuadorian ... because I literally am," said Kass. "When I'm surrounded by Ecuadorians I feel like, 'OK, I'm definitely not Ecuadorian,' but when I'm with my international friends I'm like 'OK, I'm more Ecuadorian than you.'"

Kass got to explore her home country, visiting the Galapagos Islands; a jungle in the Mindo Valley among the Andres Mountains where she went zip-lining; and

a week at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Amazon.

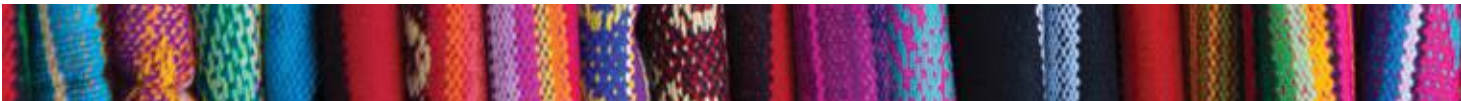
She waited until her adoptive parents arrived to visit in late March before traveling to her birth city, Santo Domingo. Dan and Sara last visited Ecuador when they picked up their daughter in 1999.

Based on a recommendation from their Massachusetts-based adoption agency, Alliance for Children, the Kasses were initially connected with an Ecuadorian attorney, Alfredo Baragan, to adopt their first child. By the time they returned to adopt Olivia, Baragan and his wife, Maria Jose



The Kasses visited Ecuador in March 2018, during Olivia's four-month, study-abroad. They went horseback riding with Olivia's friend Tyanna at Teleferico (bottom), the highest point in the city of Quito, and they visited Olivia's birth city, Santo Domingo (top right), where they met with members of an indigenous tribe called Tsachila, or "true people."





Buendia Bellettina, owned an orphanage in Quito called FAFECorp.

Because Kass was born in Santo Domingo, her adopted parents had to make the three-hour drive from Quito with their baby to get approval from a tribunal court to finalize the adoption.

"It's a beautiful drive but (it goes along) a very dangerous, long and winding mountainous road," Sara Kass said. "When we went the first time it was extremely stressful because we were new parents and we didn't know what to expect. Going back with Olivia this time was an amazing experience, especially for her because she's wanted to see that part of the country and where she was born for a long time."

This time, the Kassses had a guide who took them to Santo Domingo for a day trip. They visited an indigenous tribe called the Tsachila, which means "true people." The Tsachila people showed the trio tribal dances, how they prepared food and conducted a spiritual cleansing ritual, where a shaman sprayed alcohol and medicinal herbs over the patient.

The visit to Santo Domingo helped Kass feel at ease. Although she made no attempt to search for her birth mother while her parents were in Ecuador, they brought documentation from her adoption. Kass felt inspired to look into her past after they left.

"We told her, 'This is your journey to take and if you decide to, we certainly support you,'" Sara Kass said. "The research she did was completely on her own."

FAFECorp closed years ago, but by searching on Facebook, Kass found an article mentioning the couple that founded the orphanage. She then searched for Maria Jose Buendia Bellettina on Facebook, who, sure enough, listed FAFECorp as a former employer. Kass sent her a private message explaining that she was adopted and was back in Ecuador.

"(Buendia Bellettina) responded immediately and said, 'I would love to meet you this Wednesday; what time are you free?'" said Kass. "She looked at me and said, 'Oh my goodness, I can't believe you are one of so many girls I feel like I've changed their lives.' I showed her a picture of my parents and she said, 'I know exactly who they are; I remember it like it was yesterday.'"

Kass paused, and proclaimed, "I never felt more connected to Ecuador than I did



when I talked to Maria Jose."

Buendia Bellettina shared stories about Katalina, one of Kass' caregivers at the orphanage who wrote an acrostic poem spelling Kass' birth name, "L-I-S-B-E-T-H," one that the Kassses still have. She said something else that comforted Kass: only 1 percent of the orphans at FAFECorp were from parents who didn't want their children; almost all of them were there because of other circumstances.

Unfortunately, Buendia Bellettina could not immediately provide details about Kass' biological mother without additional documents that were back in Massachusetts. By the time the request would maneuver through the bureaucratic process, Kass would be home.

"After looking into my adoption more and more, I realize this (research) process will take a very long time," said Kass, who would at least like to find a picture of her biological parents and maybe write them a letter "to say 'Hi' and explain everything. But I still don't feel 100-percent comfortable meeting them without my (adoptive) parents."

Still, her semester studying abroad in her native country was a transformative experience.

"It has been life-changing for me," said Kass, who plans to return to Ecuador in the

future. "This has been my dream my whole life. Getting to Ecuador was only the half of it, but being able to meet somebody who said that they knew who I was when I was little and to say that they know my story is absolutely the most incredible thing that I could have ever dreamed of. I just feel so connected to this place and I feel like a new person. I feel like something inside of me is whole now because I am getting somewhere and having more information ... somebody knows."

Her parents noticed a difference, too.

"You can see that she has grown so much and learned so much about herself over the past four months," said Sara Kass, who was particularly taken aback by how well her daughter could speak Spanish and translate for them. "It's just so amazing how strong she is and how outgoing she is; it's almost like she's been there forever. We're so proud of her and what she's done since she's been there."

Kass is now also able to walk across the busy streets of Quito without fear. Even when her parents were visiting her they said, "Oh my god, Olivia, what are you doing? A car is going to hit you!"

She just told them, "It's fine, this is how we live."



Meet the top “ROCK”

Behre takes SRU's helm as 17th president

When the board of governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education named William Behre (berry) the 17th president of Slippery Rock University March 14, he was already the father of two grown children: Annie, 21, a bioengineering major at Lehigh University, and Jane, 22, a graduate of Barnard College with a degree in theater who works for the Dallas Theater Center in Dallas, Texas.

But no sooner was the former provost at Georgian Court University named to his new post that he and his wife, Leah Ingram, realized they had just become foster parents to SRU's record-setting student enrollment.

Christmas and birthdays could get a little pricey around the Behre residence.

"Leah and I joked that (making the move to SRU) means that we just adopted about 9,000 people," Behre said with a laugh. "But I actually do think that there is accuracy to that. There is something awesome, and I mean that in the traditional sense of creating awe, about being given the trust that this community has given me and that is amazing. It is a challenge, something to live up to.

"I am very cognizant of – and this next part isn't my line, I'm borrowing it from a book, but it's great word-play nonetheless – 'Remember that you have been appointed, not anointed.' Not only is that true, but remembering it helps keep your perspective straight and your ego from going crazy.

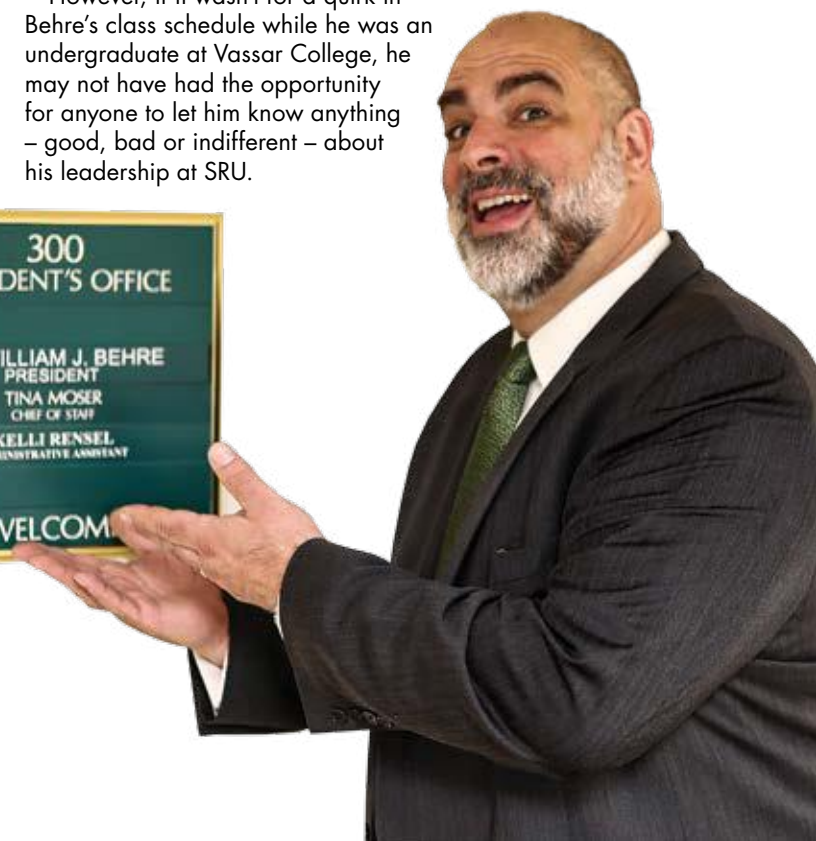
"Being the new guy in town and becoming president of this incredible institution has caused me, for whatever reason, to become a minor celebrity and I still marvel at it sometimes, because when I look at myself, I'm still just Bill Behre.

"And when I sit back and think about the fact that this University community has so warmly embraced us so quick and they have put a trust in us because students' educations and futures, and

people's careers and quality of life, depend on the decisions that come out of this office; I am humbled by that trust.

"I sometimes fear that everyone is going to wake up in December and say, 'We hired him to do what?' I hope to live up to the expectations people have for me, this office and the continued success and growth of our students that we're entrusted with and the institution itself. And I fully expect that if I am not doing that, that people will let me know."

However, if it wasn't for a quirk in Behre's class schedule while he was an undergraduate at Vassar College, he may not have had the opportunity for anyone to let him know anything – good, bad or indifferent – about his leadership at SRU.





From left: SRU President William Behre meets with the Slippery Rock Student Government Association executive board on his first day in office; Behre hams it up with wife, Leah Ingram, following his introduction to the University community March 22; Behre speaks to a new crop of SRU students during an orientation event.

A native of Long Island, New York, Behre grew up in what he deems as a “very typical 60s and 70s existence” with one older brother in his family’s 1200-square foot ranch home. In high school, he tried out for the soccer team, “but since I’ve been the size I am now since the eighth grade, I was told No, you need to play football,” said Behre.

Behre played two seasons of football and “was pretty good actually,” but didn’t enjoy it enough to continue. During the eighth grade football offseason, he began working with his high school theater group. “I discovered there were more girls in the theater than in football, so I did a lot of theater,” Behre said with a smile.

He would stay involved in the theater scene throughout high school, deciding only to move back to sports when he entered college. The move was initiated following the death of a former classmate and role model who fell to his death from the top of a platform while working with stage lighting.

“At that point, I kind of pulled away a little bit from theater, which had owned me in high school, and made the decision that I wanted to expand my horizons and do things that I didn’t do in high school, so I went back to athletics and played volleyball. I didn’t want college to be high school again.”

Following high school, Behre arrived at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, where he described his time on the volleyball squad in a journeyman’s role, but would also find himself logging time with the college’s student government and eventually, as a junior and senior, returning to the theater,

working in lighting and sound.

Academically, SRU’s future president was intent on pursuing a career in medicine.

“I went (to Vassar) thinking I was going to be a physician,” he said. “And the reason I was going to be a physician was that I was really good in science in high school. And if you are really good in science in high school everyone tells you that you need to be a doctor.

“So I showed up to college as a biology major but never took a biology course because I had AP credits and I got out of all freshman science. I made up my mind that, with science out of the way, I would start knocking down my general education courses.

“I went off and enrolled for some liberal arts courses, my schedule was nearly full, I only needed one more class. An upperclass-

man who had befriended me took me over to the political science table – at the time we didn’t register online, we had to go from table to table – because that was his major and he thought I should take a class. I got to the table and couldn’t find a class that would fit the spot I had open.

“I’m standing there wondering what exactly I’m going to do and a voice from the table next to political science says,

‘I have a course that fits your time slot.’ That voice belonged to an economics professor, David Kenon. I signed up for his class and that chance encounter altered my path.”

Behre describes his time in Kenon’s internal microeconomics class as “fascinating” and ignited his change in major from biology to economics.

“I hope to live up to the expectations people have for me, this office and the continued success and growth of our students that we’re entrusted with and the institution itself. And I fully expect that if I am not doing that, that people will let me know.”



“For me, it helped that economics looked like business. People who are English majors have to explain to everyone what they’re going to do with an English degree. No one asks you what are you going to do as an economics major,” he said with a laugh. “They assume you’re doing something with money and numbers and call it good.”

Behre, who graduated high school with a 3.89 GPA, went into college assuming it would be just as easy as high school. Much to his chagrin, it was not.

“Yeah, college was much tougher,” he said. “But one of the things that I am proud of is that I made a decision my freshman year that I was in college for an education, not a GPA, so I never dropped a course because it was hard. I never dropped a course because I thought it might damage my grade.

“When I came to that conclusion, it was the most liberating thing in the world because I wasn’t protecting a GPA anymore. I just took courses because they were fascinating. I took 18th century literature because I thought it was cool and, frankly, had I taken that earlier, I probably would have been an English major – and explaining to people what I was going to do with an English degree – because that

class was so good. I took a medieval history class just because the topic seemed fascinating to me. It was just a great thing to be able to do because I was never going to have a great GPA; it was just never going to happen. I got a great education, I was engaged in my learning and, hey, I graduated with a 3.0, so it turned out OK."

OK, indeed.

Following his time at Vassar, Behre would go on to work for Burson-Marsteller, a global public relations and communications firm headquartered in New York City, for a two-year period before embarking on a four-year journey as a special education teacher at Brooklyn's Intermediate School 318.

"In a nutshell, I met a guy at a barbeque who talked me into becoming a teacher," Behre said with a laugh. "I wasn't particularly happy at Burson-Marsteller. Part of me wanted to be a screenwriter; you're young, you have all these dreams, but my aunt was a teacher, I have a lot of cousins who are teachers, so becoming a teacher was not a foreign concept to me. So, when I was approached about being a midyear replacement teaching social studies, I took the job."

It was during his teaching tenure that Behre earned a master's degree in the education of students with emotional disabilities from Hunter College, the largest college in the City University of New York system, before accepting a research assistant/instructor position (1993-97) at the University of Michigan while earning a doctoral degree in education with a focus in special education policy.

Shortly after graduating from U-M, Behre returned to the east coast, accepting a position as an assistant professor at The College of New Jersey. He would spend seven years at that institution, moving up the ladder to associate professor, professor, chair of the department of special education, associate dean of the School of Education, interim dean and dean of the SOE, assistant vice president for the Division of College Advancement and finally interim vice provost and provost.

"My friend, Susan Bakewell-Sacks, who was dean of the school of nursing, and I agreed to take on the provost's role together," said Behre. "We each had a number of other projects we were involved with that we didn't want to walk away from, so it made sense to us and the president. Susan handled faculty and academics and I handled the budget and operations. We did that for two years while the college conducted a pair of searches for a new provost.

"Neither one of us applied for the job because TC&J had a history of not hiring from within and honestly, if I had applied and not gotten it, I would have been angry, so I avoided the stress, gained valuable

experience and began to search for another opportunity, which led me to Georgian Court University."

As provost at GCU, a small, private university in Lakewood, New Jersey, Behre worked closely with deans, department chairs and the president's cabinet. He was responsible for academic program development and review; research and sponsored projects; faculty development; overseeing student life, student success, retention, career services, continuing education, global education and intercollegiate athletics.

Under his guidance, GCU increased its student retention rates each of the last three years, expanded the number of articulation agreements with community colleges and high schools, rewrote its general education curriculum and developed its first doctoral program, among other accomplishments.

"Georgian Court was great to me," said Behre. "While I was there, I never hid the fact that I wanted to be a president someday ... it was just a matter of time, my feeling that I was ready and that I had found the right institution."

Enter SRU.

"I didn't apply during the first search because I had limited myself geographically a bit in an effort to stay closer to Manhattan, which is where my mother is," said Behre. "But when the search was reconstituted, I really dove into what SRU was, what it was doing and what it had to offer and that made me want to reach outside of my original circle ... it was that good of an opportunity and institution and it seemed familiar to me. TC&J was originally a normal school, so the trajectory of SRU from a normal school to a highly regarded, regional, comprehensive institution was one that felt very comfortable to me.

"And let's be honest, it's a great institution. By any measure of success, it has estab-

lished itself as a leader within PASSHE: posting record enrollment, retention and graduation numbers. It has a faculty and staff that are rowing in the same direction and a student population that is genuinely happy to be here. That said, I believe its best days are still ahead and I know I can contribute to its success.

"I've said it before and I'll say it again, I feel like I won the job lottery."

With that kind of attitude, it appears as though SRU is the one richer for Behre's arrival.

From top: Behre arrives on campus for a day at the office; greets students at an August "Welcome Back" event at the Smith Student Center; and is seen addressing the Class of 2022 at this fall's New Student Convocation.

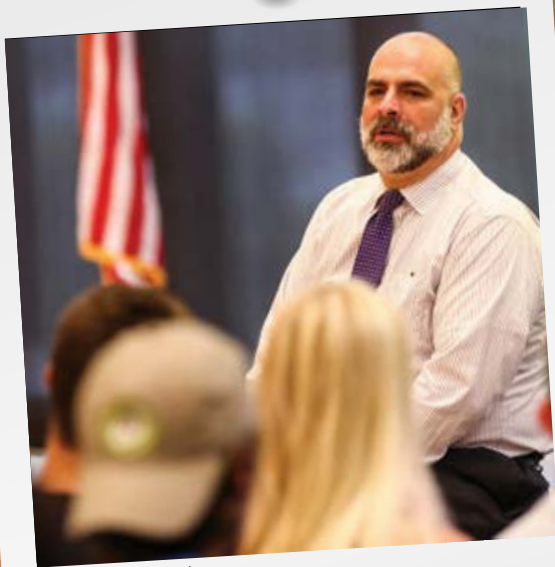


"The best a D V I C E I ever received..."

Advice
/ad-vyce/

def: Recommendation or opinion
given to someone in order
to solve or help with
a problem.

Advice can be a curious thing. Sometimes we want it, sometimes we think we want it and we don't, and sometimes we flat out abhor it. Sometimes it's good and other times, well, not so much. There are, however, those occasional bits of advice that stick with us throughout our lives. Whether it's from your grandma, a friend or even a song, certain things stick with us more than we ever thought possible. The ROCK magazine asked several folks to share with us one of the best pieces of advice they've received. Enjoy, and feel free to pass it on.



William Behre

"As I entered administration years ago, a mentor of mine gave me a simple principle to follow: 'Leave the woodpile a little larger than it was when you arrived.' It's simple advice. Whether it's picking up a piece of litter as you walk by or brightening a tense situation with a comforting word, always do what you can to leave a place better than it was when you got there.

"I try to extend this principle into my email and social media spaces as well. Before posting or hitting send, I ask myself, 'Will what I am about to say move the conversation forward in a meaningful, positive way?' If it doesn't, it's time to hit delete."

— William Behre, University president



Wayne Forbes

"When I was growing up, my mom and dad would encourage me to give each day my best effort; to treat others as I would have them treat me, that is, with kindness, regard and respect; and to work hard and never give up. They would say, 'Wayne, in all that you do, be a person of integrity and remember always that honesty is the best policy.' I am by no means perfect. However, I strive daily to live by these guiding principles, and each day I think, 'I will give today my best effort.'"

— Wayne Forbes, associate professor of biology

"Even though I am an education professor, and this advice was first given to me as a student teacher in relation to teaching, I think it applies far beyond teachers. When I was student teaching, I had a teaching mentor who was 35 years into his career and loved every day of it. I once asked him what the secret was to being so happy and excited about a career that deep into it. He shared that 'the key to life-long happiness was to avoid taking your work home with you. If you have to stay late or go in early, do it, but work stays at work.'"

"Now, 17 years into my teaching career, I work hard when I am working, and I play hard when I'm not. His advice makes both aspects of my life more rewarding, and when I encounter others who are unhappy, I often reflect that they may be carrying that baggage of an inability to distinguish between their work life and the rest of their life."

— Jason Hilton, associate professor of education



John Hilton



Ursula Payne

"I was in my early 20s and having a tough time getting over a relationship that had just ended. My father told me that men will come and go out of my life and not to be too excited when they come, nor too sad when they go. The most important thing is that I am following my dreams, creating the life that I want to have and I'm able to take care of myself as an independent woman."

— Ursula Payne, professor of dance



Katrina Quinn

"Upstairs in the hallway of my grandparents' tiny two-bedroom home hung an old piece of grandma's needlework in a rickety black frame. It read, 'A House and Tree spell Contentment to Me.' It was simple, lovely, and aside from a white picket fence which did not actually exist, represented my grandparents' house quite well. These words told me to celebrate the simple things in life. To acknowledge the gifts that I might take for granted. In short, the message inspired me to be grateful and to live a frugal life, as my grandparents had. 'If I have one wish for my students, it would be that they appreciate their opportunities and find joy in their accomplishments, no matter where the future takes them. Being grateful is, in my mind, the best advice.'"

— Katrina Quinn, associate professor of communication

“Giving” it the old college try

2nd Annual Giving Day exceeds goal

Every day is a good day to give back, but Slippery Rock University’s March 26 Giving Day was an exceptionally good day to support SRU students.

Organized by the SRU Foundation, Inc., the second annual online campaign, designed to encourage SRU alumni, friends and current faculty, staff and students to donate to the University, attracted nearly 700 donors who contributed more than \$54,000 for an average gift of \$78. This year’s campaign exceeded its goal of doubling the number of participants and gifts compared to the inaugural campaign.

Donors could designate their gift to benefit specific areas of campus, such as student organizations, academic programs or student scholarships. Scholarships, organizers noted, are particularly critical to student success; 85 percent of SRU students rely on scholarships and grants to help defray the cost of attending the University.

“This type of Giving Day has really taken off,” said Erin Bryer, assistant director of development, annual giving for the SRU Foundation. “More people are preferring to give online and they know their money could be used the very next day. It’s an opportunity for people to make an instant impact.”

The day coincides with SRU’s Founders’ Day, the anniversary of the founding of the University. Organizers encouraged SRU alumni, friends and current faculty, staff and students to make a “birthday gift” to the University.

For 2018, the Foundation partnered with several campus groups, including various student organizations and varsity sports teams, to spread the word about Giving Day via their email lists and followers on social media using #RaisetheRock.

“This is a way for us to tell alumni what is going on at SRU and what they could support in a really concise way,” Bryer said. “Giving Day is the Rock Family coming together to support the next generation of Rock alumni and making sure students know there’s



this larger community of people out there who were once where they are now.”

Two “challenges” were met during the 2018 Giving Day, resulting in two anonymous contributions, totaling \$5,000, to the Student Support Fund. One gift of \$2,500 was made in honor of the first 134 Giving Day donors and another \$2,500 was committed when 268 donors pledged. Overall, a total of \$22,000 was contributed to the Student Support Fund.

The newly created Student Support Fund, administered by the University’s Office of the Associate Provost for Student Success, provides SRU students with short-term financial relief, such as money for groceries, gasoline or even a winter coat.

“We’re helping address the basic needs that have a positive impact on a student’s education,” said Karla Fonner, SRU director of student support. “One of the things we pride ourselves on as an institution is student success and retention. Students want to stay here and do well, so this is another way we can help them. It’s a retention tool, but it’s also the right thing to do.”

Students can receive a one-time gift of \$100 or less once an emergency is identified, although Fonner indicated that as the fund expands, larger amounts could be awarded. For students to be eligible for the fund, they must first meet with Fonner, who will assess the situation based on a submitted Care Report, which is a request or referral application her office uses to connect students with resources.

“We talk through what kinds of resources and what type of plan we can put into place so student can take care of themselves in the future,” said Fonner, noting agencies like a community food cupboard or financial management service, so that when students need groceries again or when the heating bill arrives, they won’t need another \$100. “There are all kinds of services we have depending on the need. It’s very much tailored to the student’s need and what they are



thank you

for making our 2018 Giving Day so successful!

\$54,208

raised in 24 hours

693

total donors



UNLOCKED
\$5,000

in challenge grants

Student
support ♥ fund

\$22,000+



17
Founders' Gifts



"Giving Day is the Rock Family coming together to support the next generation of Rock alumni and making sure students know there's this larger community of people out there who were once where they are now."

willing and able to access. That conversation starts in my office."

"This type of student need resonates strongly with alumni," Bryer said "They say, 'I remember a student like that,' or 'I was a student like that and someone helped me so I want to do that for somebody else.' They want their money to go directly to students, and,

of course, their donations do that, but this is really tangible."

The third annual Giving Day will be March 26, 2019. For more information about ways to donate or to contribute to the Student Support Fund, visit the SRU Foundation, Inc., website at <https://www.srufoundation.org/>.

WWII



Sparkling Memories

Alumni gathering brings together recollections of campus and the world at war

When Slippery Rock University graduates assembled last spring for the annual Alumni Weekend and Reunion, the usual chitchat – updates on family, jobs, retirement status, travel reports and health issues – ended as it often does, in a bevy of handshakes, hugs and laughter; but for three attendees, the camaraderie of the weekend turned to a shared history with history: World War II.

Two members of the group were WWII veterans themselves, while a third provided details gleaned from her husband and brothers who served. Their stories ranged from hearty chuckles to edge-of-your-seat drama.

All three of the 1943 SRU graduates, now nonagenarians, recalled the war years in recent phone interviews from their homes: Dr. Edwin (“Ed” or “Cotty”) Cottrell, now 96, detailed having his P47 plane severely damaged by anti-aircraft guns over Germany, and having to literally return to base on a wing and a prayer; Genevieve Lescsak, 97, recalled her work at Walter Reed Army Hospital, including delivering physical therapy to World War I’s famed Gen. John “Black Jack” Pershing; while Jesse (Reed) Meighen, 97, related her husband’s harrowing experiences as an Air Force B24 pilot.



Cottrell



EDWIN COTTRELL

Now a four-year resident of Lake Point Landing Retirement Community in Hendersonville, North Carolina, Edwin Cottrell first talked of his then soon-to-be wife – and fellow student – Mildred “Millie” Weed, also a 1943 graduate.

“We met our freshman year, dated and got engaged just before I left for the service. We married in 1944, right after I got my pilot wings,” Cottrell said.

Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Cottrell’s dad, Elmer, moved the family to Slippery Rock in 1922 so he could teach in the Health and Physical Education Department. He was also the swimming coach and assistant football, tennis and golf coach until

1948. A scholarship in Elmer Cottrell’s memory was created at SRU in 2004.

Recounting his military career, Cottrell said, “I was in my junior year and knew I was going to be drafted. I took the Navy and the Army air corps flight tests and passed both. The Navy said, ‘You go tomorrow,’ but the Army said, ‘Go back and finish school.’ I was in my last semester when I got a call to go to Miami Beach. From there, I went to Beloit College for training. Even Slippery Rock had some cadets. That fall, I went on to ‘primary school’ for flight training. ‘Basic,’ the second stage of flight school, was at Chico, then on to Luke Field in Phoenix, Arizona, for advanced training. I got my fighter pilot wings in April 1944. Then I came back to Slippery Rock and got married.”

Shortly thereafter, Cottrell was assigned to Wendover Field to train on the P47 Thunderbolt, a major pursuit plane. Loaded on a ship bound for Europe, he soon joined his fighter group outside Paris at Villa Coupe – the 48th fighter group, 493 fighter squadron.

“We regrouped to a smaller nearby field, then on to St. Trond, Belgium, where I flew missions from November to February,” said Cottrell.

Cottrell almost immediately saw action and flew 65 missions over Germany.

“I had two very interesting experiences: The first, Dec. 17, while flying near Cologne, Germany,” he said. “We were on a mission to dive-bomb and strafe German Tiger Tanks moving against the Allies near Bastogne, Belgium. I was the wingman. There were 12 planes in formation. We found the tanks, went down strafing and bombing, but as we came off the deck (land), we were jumped by a group of ME-109 German fighter planes. I was to the right of my squadron commander and at 1 o’clock saw a 109 coming down with his 20 millimeter gun shooting flames. One round

hit my plane; oil covered the windshield as the engine conked out. I told the flight leaders I had been hit and needed to get out or I would have to bail out. The plane’s nose went straight down. Luckily, within seconds, the engine caught and I was able to keep flying – just above stall speed.

“I knew I was in trouble but headed to 270 degree west – the designated flight path for planes in trouble. I was limping along, but quickly saw a 109 to my left and another to my right. They crossed behind me – usually marking a ‘kiss of death,’ because they are



going to shoot from behind. They flew formation and escorted me back to the bomb line, then peeled off. I don't know why. I was in territory I had never flown over, so I was lost.

"My radio still worked, so I asked anyone to help identify where I was. A guy in Italy's mountain area heard me, and asked for my airfield. I told him 892, and he replied, 'You are not far from it: You are south of it.' I turned and within 10 minutes saw the airfield. I headed for the runway. Just as the wheels touched down, the engine froze – and then stopped. Twenty seconds earlier and I would have probably crashed. They had to tow me off the runway. I had lost eight cylinders on the Pratt & Whitney R2800 engine. I think there were a total of 20 or 28 cylinders, which is why I was able to keep it in the air.

"Needless to say, the squadron commander put me on a mission the next day, saying, 'Forget about that.' That is how they did it then. Every time our squadron flew a mission, one of our planes came back with holes from enemy gunfire."

Cottrell and company were stationed at the nearest base to Bastogne, where the famed Battle of the Bulge occurred in which German troops broke through the Allied line of defense.

"They were using some of the remaining tanks from those we had strafed," said Cottrell. "On New Year's Day, 1944, there were reports the Germans were breaking through and there was a good possibility we might become prisoners of war. So, we had a big party, thinking that if we were going to be prisoners, we were going to party first. I broke my rule that said I would not drink; I had two shots of Scotch. At 4 a.m., they woke me saying I was on 'runway patrol,' which means you are one of four planes parked on the runway in takeoff position. I was in the lead plane. As you might expect, eight German fighters came in low over the runway. We didn't know this same action was under way at every field in the region. The Germans were making one last effort to hit all the planes they could.

"On their first attack pass, I was in the cockpit; we could not get off the ground. During the second pass, I was behind the landing gear; and by the third pass, I was in a ditch with the other three pilots. All eight German planes were shot down by our anti-aircraft guns."

When Cottrell returned to U.S. soil in 1945, those who had flown 65 combat missions or more could either go home or choose to go to Japan. Cottrell's wife was expecting a baby when he had left for Europe, so he opted for a discharge in order to return to Millie and his new baby girl.

At SRU, Cotty studied health and physical education to become a teacher. He played football, basketball, baseball and tennis.

"I started my first teaching job at Beaver High School and coached basketball; then moved to Neville Island's schools. I remained in the Army Air Corp Reserves and was assigned to recruit cadets to the Air Force Academy who were interested in becoming pilots, before retiring with 28 years' service," he said.

"My next move was to enroll at Pennsylvania State University to earn my doctorate in education. I taught at Milton Hershey High School before being hired to the West Chester University faculty to teach health."

As associate dean of WCU's School of Physical Education, Cottrell handled admissions for all students entering the health and physical education department.

"We had a very large school, listing some 1,000 students; 75 faculty. I was head golf coach from 1958 to 1980; we won the state championship. There was an organization of college coaches called the Golf Coaches Association of America, and I was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1991. In 2001, I received the Honor Award, the association's highest honor," he said.

Following his 1980 retirement, Cottrell went to work for the National Golf Foundation, promoting golf in schools around the U.S.

"I got to travel quite a bit and present clinics. Back then I was then director of education for golf with the National Golf Foundation – Far East, working in Japan. I worked there three weeks at a time at Japan's driving ranges. In all, I went 15 times. They had 600 to 700 driving ranges in the country, in part, because golf is too expensive for ordinary people to play at actual courses," he said.

Cottrell still plays golf with fellow retirees at a par-3 course.

"We play nine holes, but we don't keep score," he said. "I have had four hole-in-ones in my life, and have shot my age more than 100 times. At 96, I am just trying to stay alive."

Cottrell and his wife have two daughters.

“I was in my junior year and knew I was going to be drafted. I took the Navy and the Army air corps flight tests and passed both. The Navy said, ‘You go tomorrow,’ but the Army said, ‘Go back and finish school.’ I was in my last semester when I got a call to go to Miami Beach. From there, I went to Beloit College for training. Even Slippery Rock had some cadets.”

Lescsak

GENEVIEVE LESCOK

Genevieve Lescsak, 97 and living in Whittier, California, starts off by pointing out she has a very, very specific philosophy of life: "Certain things are very important," she said. "When I talk to coaches and high school students, I tell them you can make pluses or minuses out of some things. Those include: your parents. Some children are born with good parents – they don't beat you; they build you up. You are very fortunate, if you are born in the United States, have an average or better intelligence, an average personality, average looks and – this isn't as important as it was in my early life – whether you are male or female. Now that I am 97, an important factor is your age."

"I left Slippery Rock in June 1943, reporting directly to Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, D.C., July 1. I had never been that far away from home."

When I got off the train at Union Station, hundreds of taxi drivers were hollering their destinations, including Walter Reed. We were billeted in a very luxurious place: The Army had taken over a finishing school and turned it into a rehabilitation center with a dormitory area. I was a year in physical therapy training as a civilian. We were not inducted into the Army until we had finished training. At the end of the year, I was commissioned a second lieutenant

and assigned to duty at Walter Reed.

"I was there nine months. My 'claim to fame' was being selected to take care of Gen. (John) Pershing who had been the U.S. General of the Armies in World War I. Now considerably older, he had suffered a stroke."

"The Army had sort of a penthouse at Walter Reed where (Pershing) was being treated. Every day, when I went to treat the general, there was a man in

a chauffeur's uniform and a lady, who, to me, seemed very old – she was probably about 50. She was very made-up; she had dyed, red hair. She would pull a chair near the general's bed and comb his hair and moustache, then fix the handkerchief in his breast pocket. "This went on for a few days, interrupting my PT work. One day, I was on an elevator with a commanding officer, I said, 'Sir, I don't know what is going on, but a man and a lady come every day at the same time I am to do the general's treatment.' The commander said, 'Lieutenant, that woman does more good for him than you.'"

"I later learned the chauffeur had been the general's aide for years."

And, the reason they had to come at that specific time was that Gen. Pershing had a sister who was also in the hospital's PT clinic for treatment at that same time. She did not allow the general to

“I thank Slippery Rock for giving me the background to go to Walter Reed. It was the start of my entire life.”

see this lady. I always thought it strange that a general involved in a war was afraid of his own sister.

Lescsak's overall work at the hospital mainly involved amputees and rehabilitation, including work on reshaping tissue in preparation for prosthetics.

"I next got orders to go to the ETO – European Theater of Operations," Lescsak said. I was sent via the Queen Mary to England to join the 109 General Hospitals as a replacement PT. When the Queen Mary landed in Scotland, four of us were sent to South Hampton, but I soon got orders they had made a mistake. I was to return to England on an American Navy ship, then take a train to a hospital on the Welsh border. There, we were surrounded by hundreds of thousands of sheep. You have to know the Army is a big conglomerate and not very efficient. I was sent to fill in for someone at a hospital that literally had no patients. There were only 10 people there; within a week we had no patients. All had been discharged to other hospitals."

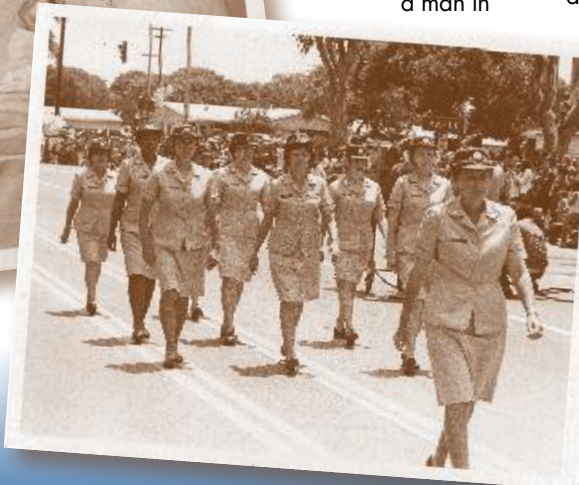
Lescsak was then sent to the West Coast and bivouacked at a tent hospital waiting to go to the South Pacific. She was part of a crew that was to set up a field hospital, but when the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the staff of all five field hospitals were disassembled following Japan's surrender which signaled the end of the war.

"While all of the patients were coming back stateside to existing hospitals, I was kept at Ft. Lewis and Madigan General Hospital," said Lescsak. "It was a wonderful place. I was stationed there three years before being discharged in 1948. At that time, medical personnel, and I was a colonel, were not allowed discharge until the patient load had depleted."

"Three of us newly discharged decided to get master's degrees. We enrolled at the University of Southern California. When I finished, I linked to a PT opening at Long Beach Naval Hospital. An instructor encouraged me to apply for a teaching job for handicapped children in the Whittier (California) School District. They did not interview me any more than I interviewed them. I told them I had to make more money than I was making – they paid me \$500 more a year. And, I said I could not take the job if I had to wear tennis shoes. They said I could wear whatever I want. I wanted shoes with good support, so I took the job and stayed 30 years," she said.

Retiring at 88, with 53 years of employment history behind her, Lescsak has since traveled the world. "But," she said, "life has not been nearly as exciting as when I was working."

"I thank Slippery Rock for giving me the background to go to Walter Reed. It was the start of my entire life," she said.



Meighen



JESSE MEIGHEN

Jesse (Reed) Meighen, 98, and a lifelong resident of Waynesburg, earned her bachelor of science in physical education at SRU. She recalls her most vivid campus memory came Dec. 11, 1941.

"I was on campus when we heard of the attack on Pearl Harbor," she said. "Across campus, students were quickly standing in line to call their parents from the limited number of telephones available. My future husband (William Meighen), was attending Waynesburg College and in the National Guard. They mobilized immediately; I knew they would if we went to war. He quickly transferred to the Air Force for officer training. It was chaos.

"He became a B-24 pilot as a first lieutenant and flew 32 combat missions over Germany and France from his station in England. His sixth mission was D-Day with the 392nd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force.

"On his fourth mission, his plane was shot up pretty badly, but he got it back to the base. His radio operator was wounded, but survived. I have the medals Bill earned, including the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal, with five oak leaves."

Meighen brightens up when asked about writing wartime correspondence to her husband.

"They read every word you wrote, such as it was," she said with a laugh. "When our son, James, was born, the military had stopped all mail about six weeks before June 6, 1944, because of the upcoming D-Day Invasion. And, it was stopped for weeks after. The American Red Cross could get word through about births or deaths. There would be a reply that the message had gotten through, but I did not hear from him until six weeks after. Of course, back then, we did not know if we were having a boy or a girl – so he was excited to learn the baby was a boy."

The pair were married for 41 years prior to William's death in 1984. Meighen's brothers were also part of the war effort.

"I had a brother, Samuel Reed, who was a civil engineer and Notre Dame University graduate, stationed stateside in the Navy – first at the Great Lakes Naval Base, then Lambert Field. He was also

at Rhode Island and later Key West naval stations. He was a first lieutenant. They called them 'Seabees' (a heterograph of the first initials of construction battalion), she said. "He was discharged in 1945 and returned to private practice before joining the state of Pennsylvania's bridge and dam construction operation."

Her youngest brother, Charles Reed, was a private first class with the quartermasters headquarter company in Europe when the 3rd Army invaded France. He survived the Battle of the Bulge and European Theater action. When that part of the war ended, the 3rd Army was sent to the Asian-Pacific Theater, and Reed served in the Philippine Islands with the 43rd Infantry Division. He was bound for Japan and in Tokyo Bay the day the armistice was signed on the USS Missouri, Sept. 2, 1945, ending World War II. Reed was soon discharged.

A third brother, John William Reed, also served in the quartermasters.

"I brag about it, and I think I should: I also now have a great-grandson in the Navy," Meighen said.

"I graduated from high school in 1938 and worked a year before going to college. They kidded me because I was the oldest student in the class," she said.

While at Slippery Rock, she worked as a choreographer for the dance and men's gymnastics teams.

In good health, Meighen does have some difficulty walking. She attributes that problem to her 30 years teaching physical education and health – and dancing.

"I taught one year in Waynesburg, then 30 years in nearby West Greene High School," said Meighen, who operated her own dance school for 20 years.

"At West Greene, I taught modern dance, ballroom dancing, line dancing and square dancing as part of the school's curriculum, and I was in charge of the drill team. Now, I am not able to do that, but for a long time after leaving the school, I still choreographed their school musicals. I was 80 when I was stopped; but I was still dancing at 86."

“I was on campus when we heard of the attack on Pearl Harbor.”

HUMANITIES

Ladder Gets a Boost

The Humanities Ladder has added a few more rungs in its effort to help area high school students climb even higher. The program, offered through Slippery Rock University's Stone House Center for Public Humanities, is a 10-week initiative that introduces underserved high school students to topics not normally covered at the high school level, including art history, gender studies and philosophy.

This year the Humanities Ladder received a Humanities Access Grant through the



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

National
Endowment
for the
Humanities,

providing \$100,000 to increase programming and serve additional students. The competitive, matching grant resulted in \$200,000, thanks to a combined \$100,000 in matching donations by the PNC Foundation, the Grable Foundation and private donors.

"To be honored with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, especially one of that size, was a welcome surprise and we're very pleased," said Aaron Cowan, SRU associate professor of history and co-director of the SHCPH. "We see this grant as recognition of the value of the work. It speaks to how NEH has shifted its focus to programs that have a bigger impact on the community and not just narrow, scholarly interests. The grant is a huge boost to the Humanities Ladder program and it gives us a chance to really expand its outreach."

Created in 2015, the Humanities Ladder currently serves more than 150 students from two area high schools, Aliquippa High School in Beaver County and Union High School in Lawrence County. The goal of the program is to help students develop a love of the humanities and feel empowered to attend college. The humanities can be described as the study of how people pro-

cess and document the human experience using the areas of philosophy, literature, religion, art, music, history and language to understand and record the world.

"The impact so far has been significant," said Cowan, who helps lead SRU faculty and student mentors who teach four, 10-week courses with two sections each semester. "We've seen a much greater awareness and interest and we're starting to see real gains in the students' confidence, their consideration of college and their ability to do academic work and ask thoughtful questions about the material."

According to the Humanities Ladder mission, the program empowers students to succeed by providing groundwork for understanding the complexities of the world, while fostering empathy for others and a desire to become active and effective citizens. This helps students envision new educational goals and develop greater confidence in civic participation.

An example of university-level subjects studied by the students included a unit on Plato's "Allegory of the Cave," as well classes about art history and gender studies. According to

Cowan, humanities education fosters appreciation for beauty, empathy for others and helps people think about complex issues.

One of the key strategic initiatives of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education institutions, including SRU, is to enhance the quality of life in their host communities. Through the Humanities Ladder, high school students not only learn these valuable subjects in the humanities,

but they are also better prepared for college success.

"Interaction with college professors demystifies the college experience and students increasingly believe that attending college and succeeding there is possible," Cowan said. "These students will continue to grow and challenge themselves as the program stays with them through graduation."

Although the NEH awards 900 grants a year ranging from \$1,000 to \$750,000, a majority of applications are turned down. There were only 34 Access Grants awarded following a rigorous and highly competitive peer-review process. The NEH evaluated each grant application before forwarding recommendations to the National Council on the Humanities, which serves in an advisory role to the NEH. The council then provides its recommendations to NEH Chairman William Adams for final approval.

"The humanities help us study our past, understand our present, and prepare for

our future," Adams said. "The National Endowment for the Humanities is proud to support projects that will benefit all Americans and remind us of our shared human experience."

Cowan said plans to expand

the Humanities Ladder include organizing a Summer Academy where high school students come to SRU for a weeklong camp with workshops for art, creative writing, history and philosophy; partnering with museums and other organizations to conduct field trips and workshops; and connecting students with authors.

The NEH grant secures funding of the Humanities Ladder through 2021.

During her lifetime, Ruth Podbielski was a woman who could be described as many things, including daughter, sister and educator to name a few. But when looking at the body of her professional work, the most apt moniker for the 1949 Slippery Rock State Teachers College graduate is that of pioneer.

TRAILBLAZER

Former alumna spearheaded advancement of women's athletics



Following her time at The Rock, where the 1999 SRU Sports Hall of Fame inductee played a variety of intramural sports, Podbielski began a storied career that saw her coach and direct intramural sports at Butler High School before spending 32 years at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

After arriving at IUP in 1955, she served in a number of roles, including as a faculty member in the health and physical education department; coaching women's basketball and volleyball; serving as director of women's intramurals; was assistant chair and acting chair of the health and physical education department; and as director of athletics for the IUP women's intercollegiate program. During her tenure, she was instrumental in the launching of 10 varsity sports, allowing thousands of women to take advantage of opportunities to compete in a varsity athletic program.

All of this being said, you might be asking yourself why The ROCK is extolling the virtues of a longtime IUP administrator. Well, the answer is rather simple: because Podbielski never forgot her roots.

Following her death April 3, 2017, Podbielski's estate established the Podbielski Scholarship at SRU through a \$26,000 gift. The scholarship, which will be awarded for the first time this fall, provides financial aid to female student athletes at The Rock.

Podbielski was born Sept. 20, 1926, in Beaver Falls, graduating from Beaver Falls

High School in 1944. Following her graduation from Slippery Rock State Teachers College, she continued her education, earning a master's degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Her dedication to equality in women's athletics was exemplified during her early years at IUP in the 1950s. At that time, only intramural basketball and volleyball were available to female athletes. With no opportunity for competition outside the university, Podbielski contacted friends from other western Pennsylvania colleges to arrange "Play Days," which were informal get-togethers for female students to break up into teams for some friendly competition.

As there were no officially appointed coaches or administrators assigned to the "teams," Podbielski transported players in her own car, packed sandwiches for them and washed their uniforms.

That all began to change in 1970 when she began putting together a varsity program on a budget of just \$3,700, much of which came through fundraising efforts by the female athletes. Her drive and determination helped launch IUP's women's basketball, volleyball, tennis and fencing programs.

"When you see where it came from and where it is now, it's mindboggling," Podbielski said of the advancement of women's intercollegiate sports in 2000. "They've come so far; it's just phenomenal."

It was her trailblazing efforts that made Podbielski a well-known fixture throughout western Pennsylvania and earned her a multitude of awards and recognition. Among her many honors she was awarded the Heritage Award from the Division of Girls' and Women's Sports of the Pennsylvania Association of Health, Physical Education,

Recreation and Dance in 1995, recognizing her "as a person who did not follow where the path led but instead went where there was no path and left a trail."

Podbielski was inducted into four sports/athletic halls of fame, including Indiana County (1995), IUP (1996), SRU (1999) and Beaver County (2001). IUP dedicated its softball field in her honor in 2000.

In 2013, she was named the winner of the IUP President's Medal of Distinction, the highest non-degree award presented by the university. The award was established in 1985 to honor citizens of the region and state

whose professional achievement or public service is of national significance or special significance to the university.

She actively served various organizations in leader-

ship roles including time as the president of the Women's Golf Association of Western Pennsylvania; being the first woman to serve on the Indiana Country Club's board of governors; the first chair of the IUP Athletic Hall of Fame; chairwoman and secretary of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Basketball Women's Division; chairwoman of the Recreation Committee of the Greater Indiana Strategic Planning Committee; and a volunteer member of the White Township Recreation Advisory Board.

She was awarded faculty emeritus status upon her retirement from IUP and was recognized with the IUP President's Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her years in health and physical education at IUP.

For additional information about the Podbielski Scholarship and other ways to give to SRU, visit www.srufoundation.org.

"The Podbielski Scholarship will assist a very deserving student-athlete realize her dream of competing at SRU while gaining a Rock Solid education."

— Paul Lueken, SRU athletic director

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

To submit "Class Notes," email us at alumni@sruc.edu or go to www.rockalumni.com. We do not publish engagements or pregnancies, but we do publish marriages and births.

Please note that due to space restrictions, submissions may be edited. However, remember that we are proud of all our alumni and all they do. GO ROCK!



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1960s

Larry Calabrese, '64, published a novel, "Legacy," based on a true story about two young men competing for a national championship and how their lives weave together under very contrasted circumstances. The book and a short introduction can be found online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble. ❶

1970s

Jewel Hopson, '72, published a book, "Parade of Shades," that tells the story of how a young girl survives her dysfunctional family with the help of a mentor whose advice guides her throughout her life. The book is available on Amazon.

Dave Reimold, '72, retired from General Electric in Grove City in 2012. He is on the boards of directors for the Greenville Symphony Orchestra and the Children's Aid Society of Mercer County.

Rita Belavic Harrell, '74, recently retired from Spartanburg (South Carolina) Day School where she was the athletic director. While at SDS, the school captured 19 state championship trophies and two President's Cup Awards. Prior to SDS, Harrell was AD at Shannon (S.C.) Forest Christian School where the sports teams earned seven state titles during her tenure. She plans on enjoying time with her husband, Jim, on their 150-acre farm in Fountain Inn, South Carolina.

Don Skacan, '74, recently retired as head golf professional for the Gibson (Maryland) Island Club. Upon his retirement, he was honored as golf professional emeritus and provided with trips to Pebble Beach and San Francisco. ❷

Linda Hysong, '75, retired after more than 30 years working in health care IT.

She is looking forward to retirement so that she has more time for her hobbies, which include running, golf and travel. ❸

Garry Benford, '77, set a new International Powerlifting Federation world record in the 63-year-old, 198-pound weight class with a press of 435 pounds. It is the 27th world record in bench press that Benford has set in more than five powerlifting federations since the age of 50. Benford has achieved all his world records after having double hip and shoulder replacements or implants. ❹

1980s

Lynda J. (Brenner) Mistick, '87, recently became a grandmother when her daughter-in-law gave birth to a baby girl, Eliza Rae. ❺

Joe Cioc, '88, celebrated the Class of 1988 with a specialized license plate, 30 years in the making. ❻

Lee Whitted, '88, recently celebrated 30 years in the field of social work. Whitted has served in a variety of positions including administrative manager, project coordinator, director of admissions and marketing, director of social and planning board member. ❼

1990s

Raymond Omer, '93, '99, was recently hired as the superintendent of the West Middlesex Area School District.

George Stroud, '93, '95, recently joined Dickinson College as vice president for student life and dean of students. Stroud will serve as a member of the president's senior staff and provide strategic leadership for collegiate athletics, the wellness center, student life, campus engagement, career development and public safety. ❸

Lisa Johnson, '95, recently received the "Excellence in Representation Award" from the United Way of Bradford. Johnson is the CEO of Bradford Ecumenical Home Inc., a church-based, non-profit senior community. The award recognizes an outstanding

agency representative who best exemplifies the United Way's mission and how it benefits the various programs and services in the Bradford community.

Anita (Jarvis) Stone, '97, was recently awarded the Safety Professional of the Year in Healthcare from the American Society of Safety Professionals.

Michael Baptiste, '99, graduated in September 2017 with a doctorate in sports marketing and leadership from the United States Sports Academy in Mobile, Alabama, after completing a mentorship at the University of Alabama. At UA, he worked on creating the online sports management program. His dissertation involved studying the role leadership plays in employee job satisfaction and how employee job satisfaction affects customer satisfaction and loyalty. Baptiste currently teaches online from his home in Slippery Rock for Grand Canyon University and Upper Iowa University where he teaches sports marketing, sport finance and strength and conditioning. Baptiste is pictured with his wife of 23 years, **Heather (Hasse) Baptiste, '99**. ❹

2000s

Benjamin Huggler, '01, was recently hired by The Erie Sports Commission as its new event services manager. Huggler has more than 15 years of experience in planning and executing large-scale national events. He resides in Millcreek with his wife, a teacher at Fairview Middle School, and two daughters. ❶

Adam Huck, '02, recently received a doctoral degree in philosophy from the University at Buffalo's Graduate School of Education. Huck's specialization is in curriculum, instruction and the science of learning.

Jesse Teudhope, '06, was recently promoted to assistant vice president of J.C. Ehrlich in Fairview. A 10-year employee, Teudhope supervises and oversees all aspects of residential exports.



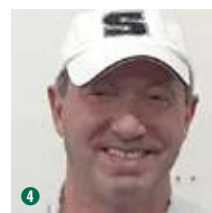
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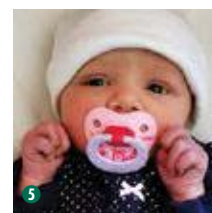
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Richard Graham, '07, was recently hired as director of recruitment at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. In that role, Graham leads efforts related to application generation strategy, prospective student visit experience and the development of strategic communication and marketing plans.

Phil Little, '08, was recently elected to a four-year term to represent the 38th senatorial district on the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee. The DSC is the governing body of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party. Little works in government and community affairs for the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General. 11

Jermaine Truax, '08, was recently named the director of athletics and recreation at Bucknell University, a Division I member of the Patriot League.

Amy (Retucci) Mitchell, '09, and Kristine Nowak were invited speakers at the Quebec Library Association's annual conference at Concordia University — Loyola Campus in Montreal. Their presentation, "Classifying the Rainbow: LGBT Users in Library and Classification Systems," focused around previous work as a pride center librarian and limitations in classifying LGBT material in traditional classification systems.

Nine SRU alumni were among 40 honorees recognized by a collaboration of chambers of commerce in Mercer County for the 2018 Mercer County 40 Under Forty awards for service to the community and professional fields. Kelly Bailey, SRU director of alumni engagement and a 2017 honoree, was the guest speaker. The following SRU alumni were recognized: 12

• **Heather Balas, '03**, with a master's degree in student personnel, employed by Hiram College.

• **Aaron Burnworth, '14**, with a degree in resort recreation management and tourism, employed by A&B Signature Properties.

• **Erin Marks, '12**, with a degree in

elementary education, employed by St. John Paul II, Thiel College and Marks Music.

• **Paul McMahon, '15**, with a degree in secondary education-mathematics and science, employed by Kennedy Catholic High School.

• **Maggie McQuiston, '13**, with a degree in communication, employed by Prescript-Ease and Medicine Shoppe.

• **Michael Muha, '06**, with a degree in political science, employed by Law Office of Michael T. Muha, Esquire.

• **Megan Snyder, '16**, with degree in health science, employed IXL Rehab & Fitness Center.

• **Dave Tomko, '04**, with a degree in special education and elementary education, employed by Sharon City School District.

• **Matthew Vannoy, '09**, with a degree in secondary education: social studies and history, employed by Sharon City School District.

2010s

Trevor Colvin, '12, recently joined Winters and Yonkers Law Firm of Tampa Bay, Florida, as an attorney. Colvin also commissioned the 15th Year Anniversary Celebration of East Coast Alliance of Frosted Entertainment and was the keynote speaker at the Social Media Injustice Conference.

Samantha Finigan, '14, was recently honored as one of five "Larry's Hometown Heroes" at an annual event hosted by KDKA morning radio host, Larry Richert, to honor Pittsburgh-area individuals who give back and make a difference in their communities. As part of her recognition, Finigan will receive \$1,000 as a donation to a charity of her choice.

John Drozdowski, '16, was sworn in as a Millcreek Township police officer during a ceremony at the Millcreek Township Municipal Building in Erie. Drozdowski also serves in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

Timothy Samec, '17, was recently honored by the National Science Foundation with an honorable mention in the 2018

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program competition. The NSF GRFP is the most competitive national fellowship competition and awards fellowships and honorable mention status to outstanding first- and second-year graduate students who display excellence in research and show promise to be a leader in their research field either in industry or academia. His application, which highlighted his project, Viral Peptide Mediated Delivery of siRNA for Ovarian Cancer Treatment, was selected as one from more than 15,000 applications competing for fellowship and honorable mention status.

Calahan Young, '17, was recently named to the U.S. men's national goalball team for a second straight year. Young recently represented Team USA at the Goalball World Championships in Malmo, Sweden, which serves as the team's first opportunity to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Goalball is a sport designed for athletes with visual impairments. Players push a ball that makes a beeping sound into a net.

Birth Announcements

Tony Mehalic, '04, and his wife, Abigail, welcomed their first child, Sadie Elizabeth Mehalic, born April 6, 2018. The couple resides in Latrobe where they are both teachers at Greater Latrobe. 13

Michael Sherman, '12, and **Tiffany (Zontek) Sherman, '13**, welcomed Kennedy Jeanne Sherman, born April 14, 2018. 14

Weddings

Ashley Lynch, '14, and **Adam Seger, '14**, were married April 29, 2017. The couple resides in Harmony. 15

Elizabeth (Eckert) Riddle, '14, '16, and **Vincent Riddle, '14**, were married July 15, 2017. The couple resides in West Seneca, New York. 16

In Memory

Lucille (Yuengert) Hayduk, '42
Dorothy (Beighley) Myers, '43
Sarah (Albert) Woessner, '43
Norma (Lantzy) Cooper, '50
Phyllis (Griffiths) Dregallo, '50
Harold Johnson, '50
Sarah (Craig) Ramsey, '50
Barbara (Shollenberger) Bigenho, '51
Elsie (Coulter) Elder, '51
Ann (Skapura) DiMarco, '52
Joseph Fierschnaller, '52
George Edmonson, '53
Luan (Reynolds) Igo, '53
Carol Preble, '53
Geraldine Mershon, '55
Antoinette Valentine, '55
Roy Smith, '56
Suzanne (Lyons) Maxey, '57
Erma (Colwell) Vigo, '57
Walter Bennett, '58
Joseph Marko, '58
George McCormick, '58
Phyllis (Skinner) McIlwain, '60
Margaret (Maxwell) Rudolph, '62
Joseph Henderson, '64
Marian Sutter, '65
Joyce (Baker) Woelke, '65
Margaret Yinger, '65
Beverly Koraido, '68
Corita Bauldoff, '69
Paul Gilman, '71
Harvey Harman, Sr., '71
Barbara Kreps, '71
Elizabeth "Libby" (Weber) Pagni, '71
Camilla Peel, '72
Janet (Daugherty) Orga, '74
Kathryn (Goetz) Phillips, '74
Barbara (Willis) Riesmeyer, '74
Ruth Rodgers, '74
Rhonda (Rader) Turner, '74
William Winnie, '74
Colleen (Bryan) Milligan, '75
Elsie Kutch, '76
Loren (Whitehead) Swivel, '76
Ekow Hayford, '77
Susan McElravy, '82
Carolyn (Bodnar) Milkovich, '86
Katherine Hogg, '87
James Gibson, '89
Elizabeth Carter, '90
Christine (Janick) Harmon, '93
Cara (Siebert) Braunstein, '95
Ryan "RJ" Hoffmann, '08
Anthony (Tony) Scibilia, '13

Sylvia (Morar) Abele, retired faculty
Andrew Back, retired faculty
Richard Freeman, Sr., retired faculty
Michelle McCollin, faculty
Kenneth Michael, retired faculty



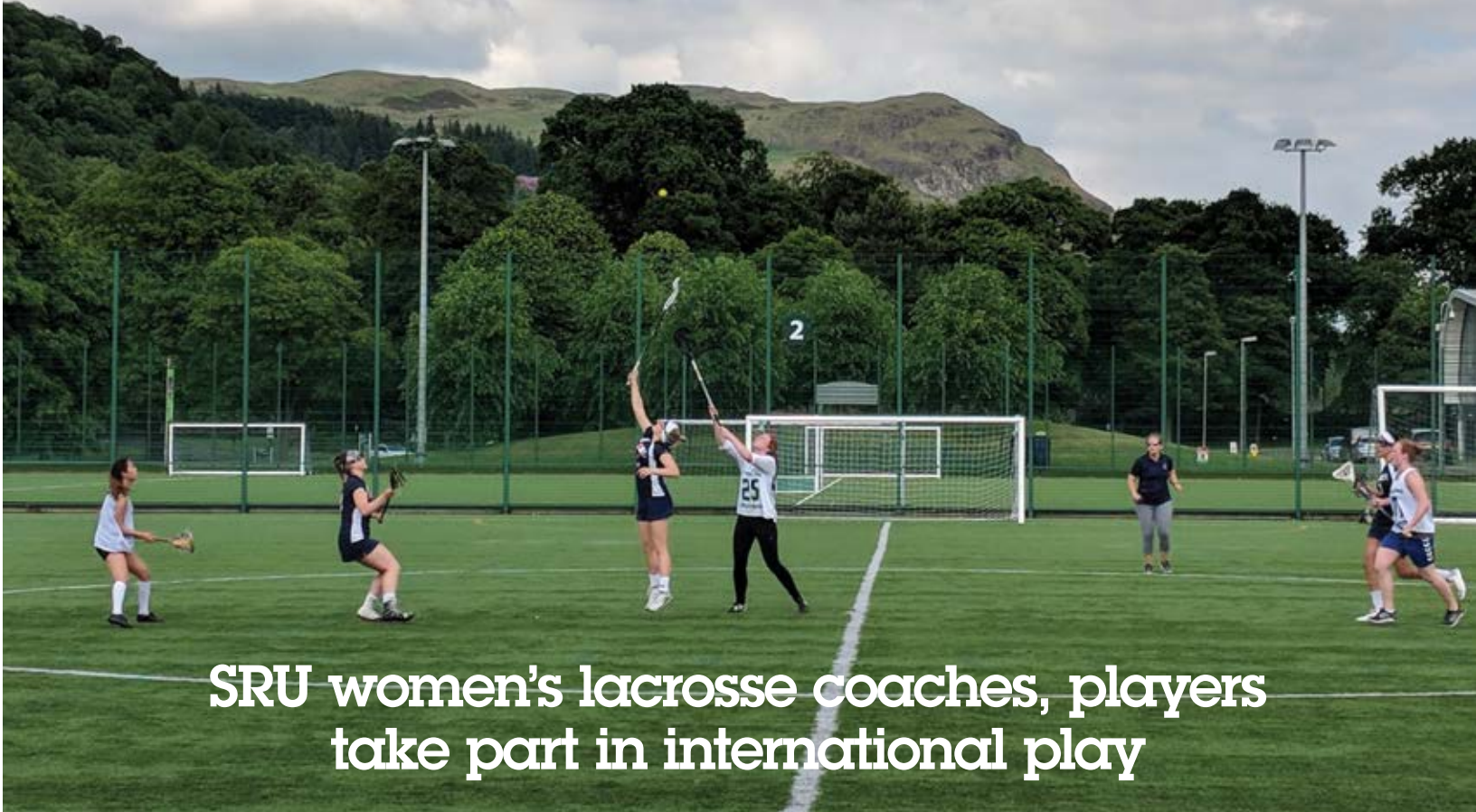
Our apologies

Margaret "Peggy" (Reimold) Rohr, '71, was inadvertently listed in the "In Memory" section in the last issue of The ROCK magazine. Rohr assures us that she is alive and well. We apologize for the confusion.



HEADING L"ACROSS"E *the pond*





SRU women's lacrosse coaches, players take part in international play

Shortly after coaching the Slippery Rock University women's lacrosse team to a school-record 13 wins last spring, first-year head coach Kelsey Van Alstyne asked assistant coach Sarah Lamphier and players Bre Vodde, Ally Culhane and Rae Waite to trade in the green and white for a different set of colors – the red, white and blue.

A month after their record-breaking collegiate season concluded, Van Alstyne and the rest of the SRU contingent embarked on a trip to the United Kingdom as members of the USA Athletes International lacrosse team. Van Alstyne served as the team's head coach and was assisted by Lamphier, while Vodde, Culhane and Waite made up a portion of the USA roster that competed in three games over a nine-day period.

USAAI is a non-profit organization that focuses on giving amateur athletes and coaches the opportunity to participate in

Left: Ally Culhane, Sarah Lamphier, Bre Vodde, Rae Waite and Kelsey Van Alstyne at St. Leonard's School.

Clockwise from top: Bre Vodde takes the opening draw in a game at Stirling University; Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland; group selfie of Culhane, Waite, Van Alstyne, Lamphier and Vodde at Skipton Castle in North Yorkshire, England; the SRU contingent visiting Kirkstall Abbey.





Top: Skipton Castle in North Yorkshire England.

Right: Van Alstyne, Culhane, Waite, Vodde and Lamphier in uniform prior to a game at Stirling University.

international Olympic-style sporting events around the world. USAAI sponsors 15 different sports in 25 countries around the world. Van Alstyne has served as a coach for USAAI on summer tours for the last three years. She originally learned of the organization during her first year as head coach at Morrisville State College in 2015.

"A co-worker from Morrisville worked with USAAI and gave me the contact information to submit my resume," said Van Alstyne. "A year later I was asked if I wanted to coach a group. My first year I went to Australia, last year I went to Berlin and Prague and this year we traveled to England and Scotland."

While USAAI athletes have to pay their own way, being able to cover the cost of travel does not guarantee anyone a roster spot as participation on a team is not an open invitation. Players are nominated by coaches, athletes or athletic professionals based on their skills, character, leadership ability and scholastic effort.

"Players who are invited are selected by their coaches as strong lacrosse players who will represent their institution and country in a positive way," said Van Alstyne. "I can't think of three individuals who better exemplify those characteristics than Ally, Bre and Rae."

"I think it was the perfect mix of lacrosse, exploring a different part of the world and getting to meet new people, not only from the United States, but from other countries as well."

— Kelsey Van Alstyne

itive and I think it was really enjoyable for the women to play and interact with the Scottish team."

Just as important as their results on the field was their experience off of it. During their tour, Van Alstyne and company were able to take in some amazing historical sights and experience a foreign culture.

"I think it was the perfect mix of lacrosse, exploring a different part of the world and getting to meet new people, not only from the United States but from other countries as well," said Van Alstyne. "I know for many of these student-athletes it was their first trip outside of their home country or to that part of the world.

On the field, Van Alstyne led USAAI to wins over the Stirling coed club team and the Edinburgh Capital Club.

"One of the highlights for us was playing teams from another country and seeing how lacrosse is spreading around the world and how different cultures play the game a little differently," Van Alstyne said. "Our second game was very compet-



Getting to see so many historical places and play the sport we all love made for an incredible trip."

The group started their journey in Leeds, England, where they visited Skipton Castle, the Royal Armouries national museum and Kirkstall Abbey, before moving on to York, England, where they took in the York Minster Shambles, which were the inspiration for Harry Potter's Dragon Alley.

Next on the itinerary was a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland, where they visited Edinburgh Castle and climbed 822 feet to the highest point of the city after hiking Arthur's Seat, which in mythology is where King Arthur's Camelot was located. Their trip ended with visits to St. Andrews Castle and Cathedral, Stirling Castle and the William Wallace Monument.

"Hiking Arthur's Seat was a great experience and spending the day at Edinburgh Castle was awesome," said Van Alstyne. "We saw the changing of the guards, a 21-gun salute and listened to some excellent bagpiping!"

The old adage, "It's not where you go, it's who you travel with," definitely proved true for Van Alstyne, who relished the opportunity to coach on the international stage with a close friend and colleague while also having one final moment with three members of her first SRU senior class.

"I really enjoyed sharing this incredible experience with Sarah and three of our graduating seniors," Van Alstyne added. It was fun representing The Rock internationally and a great way to finish off the year."



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of Higher Education

I am the rock

Jennifer Walters, '89, finance, CFO and treasurer, Trib Total Media

DAY JOB: I serve as the chief financial officer at Trib Total Media. The Trib publishes two daily newspapers, 14 weekly community newspapers and 28 weekly Pennsavers in western Pennsylvania as well content across several websites including TribLive.com. Our affiliate company, 535 Media LLC, provides a variety of digital media services including website development, e-commerce sites and digital marketing.

BACKGROUND: After graduation, I moved to Philadelphia and was working through a temp agency at the Philadelphia Inquirer & Philadelphia Daily News where I ran into a Delta Zeta sorority sister. We quickly rekindled our friendship, she introduced me to her manager as well as to several of her friends at the paper, and within a few weeks, I was hired full time and my career in newspaper had begun.

INFLUENCE OF SRU: When I was deciding on which college to attend, I fell in love with SRU's beautiful campus. I loved the small town, the manageable size of campus and the feeling I got when walking around that I belonged there. I continue to feel SRU's influence because I have been a sorority chapter adviser for almost 15 years, helping to mentor young women to become leaders. With that, I have had the privilege of being on campus every week during the school year and have gotten to see all of the wonderful improvements that have been made over the years.

