

The magazine for alumni and friends of Slippery Rock University

The **ROCK**

WINTER 2012



**Legacy of
Leadership**



Dear Friends,

These are interesting times for higher education in Pennsylvania. In January, Governor Tom Corbett presented his 2012-13 budget proposal that reduced funding to PASSHE by 20 percent, or more than \$82 million.

As Chancellor John Cavanaugh shared, "The proposed budget represents the latest in a cascade of reductions to the state system in the past 18 months. If this proposal stands, we will have lost more than \$170 million in state and federal education and general funding, compounded by a 50 percent reduction in our capital allocation and the loss of key '93 funding dedicated to deferred maintenance. Taken together, these reductions now mean that we must increasingly decide whether to renovate and maintain our existing physical plant or provide students the courses and programs they require to graduate."

"We do our part. PASSHE has reduced operating costs by more than \$230 million during the past decade and will continue to seek additional efficiencies through collaboration. It has frozen and/or eliminated positions. We continue to review our academic offerings; we have eliminated or put into moratorium hundreds of programs."

"We respond to the commonwealth's needs. Our new programs have focused on meeting the needs of the shale industry, filling workforce training gaps in the Northern Tier of the commonwealth, and responding to the growing need for well-prepared allied health professionals, especially nurses and physician assistants. It will be challenging to continue to devote funds to these efforts without stable funding."

"We appreciate the support of and look forward to working with the General Assembly and the governor during the upcoming budget process. Our budget hearings will provide the opportunity to discuss the successes we have had in cost control and reduction, as well as the impact of the proposed cuts."

As we have in the past, we are looking to each of you to add your voice to the discussion. It's time to refresh your membership in ROCK Nation (or join) and share with legislators and others the importance of your Slippery Rock University education. You can access ROCK Nation via the SRU homepage at www.sru.edu.

This is also a time of transition at The ROCK. Former President Robert Smith officially retired Feb. 10. For those unable to attend his farewell events, this edition of the magazine includes a commemorative booklet that chronicles his legacy of leadership at Slippery Rock University.

We have completed the campus portion of the presidential selection process and have forwarded names to the chancellor and board of governors for consideration. Visit our website or Facebook page for updates.

Best wishes,

Charles Curry, acting president

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To our readers

Dear Readers:

So long, friend, and thanks for the legacy. This edition of *The ROCK* celebrates the contributions of Robert Smith, 15th president of Slippery Rock University, who retired in February.

You can't walk from one building to another without noticing the campus transformation that Smith conceived and led. New construction, building renovations, academic gains and greening initiatives such as campuswide tree plantings are just some of the hallmarks of his tenure.

The SRU Council of Trustees honored Smith recently by naming the new student union after him. You will read about the three-story Robert M. Smith Student Center on Page 14.

It turns out that one of the most popular television shows, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, is accurate when it comes to conveying the importance of forensic science in solving crimes and finding missing persons. You will read about Chuck Heurich, '87, who was honored recently for helping to develop a national database containing tens of thousands of files on missing persons, and SRU's criminology and criminal justice program.

Alumni know that SRU connections are deep and lasting. You will read about the late Elmer Cottrell, the physical education professor and coach who pioneered aquatics education at SRU. His children, both SRU graduates, recall his influence on the University and their lives.

As always, I appreciate hearing from you.

Gordon Ovenshine, '88
Editor, *The ROCK*
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THE ROCK

The *ROCK* is published three times annually by the Office of University Public Relations for alumni and friends of the University.

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The ROCK is a National Admissions Marketing merit award winner.

University Vision Statement

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

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

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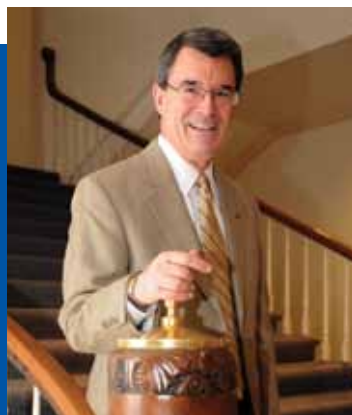
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CELEBRATING A Legacy of LEADERSHIP

17



29



About the cover

Robert Smith, on the Old Main grand staircase, retired as 15th president of Slippery Rock University in February. He increased academic quality and shepherded a campus renaissance.

Trustees name Curry acting president

Charles Curry, vice president for finance and administrative affairs, is serving as acting president while the University searches for its 16th president. The Council of Trustees elevated Curry to acting president this winter. He replaces Robert Smith, who retired in February.

"I'm pleased to step in. I'm prepared, and I'm excited to accept the challenge," Curry said. "We have a great leadership team in place at the University and we are working together to make sure our myriad of projects stay on target."

Curry earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Le Moyne College, his master's degree in business administration from Syracuse University and his doctorate of education degree in higher education administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

He and his wife, Jean, are the parents of two grown children, both SRU graduates: Lea Ann Curry, '94, a senior projects manager for a financial benefits company who lives in Syracuse, N.Y.; and Jason Curry, '04, a conditioning coach for a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Atlanta Braves in Lynchburg, Va.



Mobile website provides smart connections

A new mobile website provides a wealth of information about campus activities and programs through smart phones or other electronic devices. Information concerning applying to SRU, dining hall menus and serving hours, the latest sports scores, campus news, upcoming events and when the next campus shuttle bus will arrive are now available through the new mobile site.

To use the new mobile site, those with smartphones or other similar electronic devices with an Internet connection, can simply connect by using their Internet browser and typing in <http://m.sru.edu> (Note: It is not necessary to type in www).



SRU Trustees name three continuing presidential candidates

Three continuing candidates have emerged to become the next president of SRU. They are David Dauwalder, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of New Haven; Jack Maynard, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Indiana State University; and Cheryl Norton, former president of Southern Connecticut State University who is currently a fellow with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

The three candidates were selected from six candidates who were interviewed and hosted open forums on campus this winter. In all, more than 75 people applied.

The finalists will be interviewing with top officials from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. It is hoped a new president will be in place by summer. Complete vitas of the finalists can be read at: www.sru.edu/president/Pages/PresidentialSearch.aspx.



David Dauwalder



Jack Maynard



Cheryl Norton

Weisenfluh renovation wows campus

A \$3 million renovation to Weisenfluh Hall has converted the 50-year-old facility from a typical college cafeteria to an upscale retail-dining center offering healthier, Mediterranean and international meals and a more enjoyable dining experience. The "Fluh" also received a new entrance, exterior trim and sign, furniture and a totally reconfigured interior.

The all-new fare includes flatbread sandwiches, roasted red pepper cream soup, lamb gyros, Angus burgers and Lebanese namoura cakes. Food is served from four food stations called Elia, The Met, Umami and Horizons.

Patrons order cooked-to-order signature burgers, ancho pork, red curry chicken, marinated vegetable skewers, Thai peanut shrimp or a signature burrito. The Umami station dishes sushi and other Asian delicacies. There are smoothies, hot and cold drinks, parfaits, breakfast sandwiches and mixed green salads – all of it available to eat in or go.



Students 'STEM' into national research spotlight

SRU is an institution that recognizes and encourages student-faculty research and presentation at conferences. Five undergraduates and one May graduate were recently honored for their research by earning an invitation to present at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in Utah. The students presented their research findings about landscapes in South Dakota, the geologic history of limestone in western Pennsylvania, perception of ideal body weight and computer cloud scripting.

The students invited to present are geography, geology and environment majors Lisa Andresky of Monaca, Megan Burns of Canfield, Ohio, Colten McDevitt of Slippery Rock and James Stevens of Tabernackle, N.J.; computer science major Kelly Smith of Slippery Rock and Ryan Spiardi, a December exercise science graduate.



STEPPING OUT: James Stevens, a geography, geology and environment major from Tabernackle, N.J., researches the landscape in the Badlands, South Dakota.

Webcam offers job interview tool

The "cyber job interview" has arrived. The Office of Career Services recently launched a program offering students and alumni opportunities to practice webcam interviews, giving them valuable preparation for real job interviews.

"Many companies are already employing use of remote interviews making use of webcams," said John Rindy, director of SRU's Office of Career Services.

Check out the new programs at: <http://sru.interviewstream.com>

St. Jude fundraiser helps sick children

Slippery Rock University students raised a record \$71,552 for the "Up 'til 2 for St. Jude" program for children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

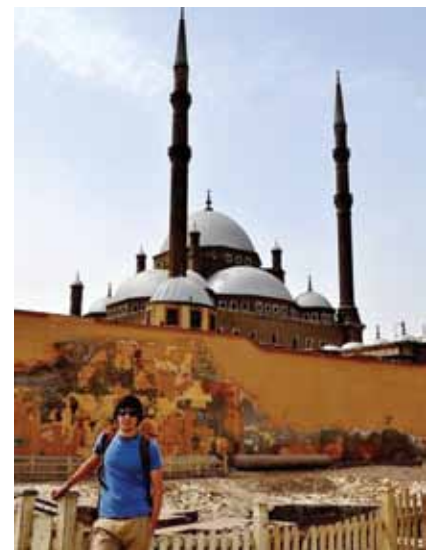
The program gives students a bit of fun while emphasizing civic responsibility. Students enjoyed a late night of games and wrote letters seeking contributions from family and friends. SRU has participated in the program since 2007, raising a total of \$246,572.



Japanese master chef demonstrates craft

Japanese master chef Hiroko Shimbo visited the University recently to cook gourmet versions of a college-student classic – ramen noodles – and host a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Shimbo, a noted chef and restaurant-menu consultant based in New York City, blends traditional Japanese cuisine with western cooking concepts.

More than 100 students, faculty and staff sampled her ramen noodles made with shrimp, pork, tomatoes, chives, corn and pickled eggs. She dished the delicacies in Boozel Dining Hall. For the tea ceremony in Weisenfluh Hall, Shimbo donned a red kimono and invited students to participate.



International opportunities garner national recognition

SRU has been ranked 14th among master's degree-granting institutions for students participating in short-term study abroad programs, and 34th for the total number of study abroad students. The recognitions come from the Institute of International Education's recent Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange.

Nearly 271,000 U.S. students studied abroad during the 2009/10 academic year – 412 of them were from Slippery Rock University.



The Scordo Family (from left): Lucas, Ken, Bridget and Leo

Kenneth Scordo, '85, management

Home:

Laguna Niguel, Calif.

Profession:

Founder, chief executive officer and president of OC Securities, Inc., a fully registered, online securities broker dealer.

Hobbies:

Tennis, skiing, travel, the outdoors and exploring the west.

Greatest accomplishment:

Graduating from Slippery Rock University, starting my career on Wall Street after graduation, and moving to California in 1992.

Why I give:

I give to challenge other alumni to give and make our alma mater the greatest college in the country.



SRU embraces social media as informational tool

SRU recognizes the value of social media and has become an active participant on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Social media gives students, alumni and friends of the University the opportunity to receive information about campus activities, chat, share memories and view numerous photographs.

If you haven't already done so, like us today at: <http://www.facebook.com/slipperyrockuniversity> and join the conversation.

NASA recruits geology Professor Patrick Burkhart

NASA, impressed by Patrick Burkhart, professor of geography, geology and the environment, has recruited him to co-lead the space agency's Lunar and Planetary Science Academy summer internship program. Burkhart will teach 20 of the nation's finest college science majors about the surface of the earth and supervise a student-faculty research expedition to the Grand Canyon.



It is the second consecutive year NASA has tapped Burkhart for the internship program, which inspires the next generation of scientists to pursue careers in space technology.

"I feel very fortunate that my interest in planet Earth and my ability to inspire other people to revere planet Earth have been recognized as an asset by the team of NASA scientists who asked me to make a contribution," he said.

Program provides 'home away from home' welcome

More than 65 minority high school seniors received a first-hand look at SRU academics and social life by participating in the annual Opportunity Knocks program. Opportunity Knocks gives prospective SRU students the chance



to meet professors and current students, spend the night in a residence hall, eat in the dining hall and participate in a scavenger hunt throughout campus to learn more about what the University offers.

Students met professors from biology, business, communication, criminology, education, exercise and rehabilitative sciences, music, psychology, and social work.

Baghouse passes 'sniff' test

Thanks to the addition of a baghouse system, SRU's coal-burning boiler plant particulate emissions are nearly 100 times lower than the federal legal limit. Third-party test results show the plant, located next to Morrow Field House, emits no smoke and a minute amount of particulates.

Scott Albert, SRU director of facilities and planning, said the certified testing demonstrates that plant operations exceed U.S. Clean Air Act standards. "We feel a sense of relief that the baghouse performed as it was designed," he said.



SRU's Dailey wows Chennai crowd

It was standing room only in Chennai, India, when David Dailey, professor of computer science, presented a two-day workshop recently to more than 250 students from 39 universities at Kurukshetra 2012, a major technology festival. Dailey, a world-recognized expert in computer scalable vector graphics, or SVG, was invited last year to present at the computer festival billed as the "Battle of the Brains."

"The students were duly impressed and seemed to enjoy the concept," he said.



Slippery Rock

UNIVERSITY

Numbers

0
Number of findings in the University's annual financial audit. SRU received an "unqualified" opinion for the year ending 6.30.2011.

1
Where SRU's team of three exercise science majors finished in the regional American College of Sports Medicine College Bowl. SRU bested more than 40 teams.

79
Percentage of Jump Start participants who achieved a 2.5 or better GPA for their first semester.

98
Fall occupancy rate for University Housing.

161
Number of SRU officially recognized student clubs and organizations.

846
Students reached through 27 fall semester Healthy Outreach through Peer Education programs.

64,000
Dollars raised through the annual Storm Harbor Equestrian Center fundraiser.

154,183
Pledges and gifts raised through the 2011 SRU Campus Family Campaign. The campaign recorded a 55 percent employee participation rate. Retired faculty and staff contributed a total of \$11,466 in gifts and pledges.

200,000
Grant dollars awarded to George Brown, professor of political science, by the Henry Luce Foundation to study the Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia.

652,179
Total dollars for 15 grants received through the Grants Office for the period of July through December 2011.

1,160,627
Dollar value of gifts received by the SRU Foundation for fiscal year 2011-12 as of Dec. 31, 2011.

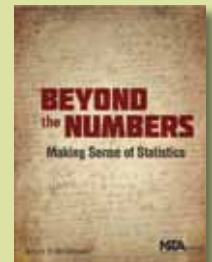
16,835,515
Combined value of the SRU Foundation and SRU Alumni Association endowments.

UNIVERSITY BOOKSHELF

New books by SRU faculty and alumni

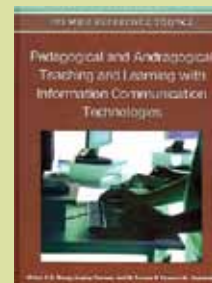
Professor Edwin Christmann pens statistics textbook

Edwin Christmann, professor of secondary education/foundations of education, has written "Beyond the Numbers: Making Sense of Statistics." The book provides a practical, nonthreatening approach to teaching statistics and targets education majors. Christmann, who coordinates SRU's mathematics and science teaching program, breaks down statistical processes to provide easy-to-follow explanations of statistics. The book is available at Amazon.com.



Alumna co-authors teaching, learning book

Pamela Golubski, '93, '97, has co-authored "Pedagogical and Andragogical Teaching and Learning with Information Communication Technologies." The authors argue that teachers can further their art by considering both pedagogy and andragogy in light of each other, specifically in the modern classroom. Golubski is assistant director of education administration at La Roche College. Her book is available at Barnes and Noble.com.



Alumna examines author Neil Gaiman's writings

Tanya Jones, '08, has coauthored "The Mythical Dimensions of Doctor Who," a selection of essays examining author Neil Gaiman's writings. Gaiman is an English author of short fictions, novels, comic books and films.

Jones serves as chairperson for the English department at Lincoln Charter High School in Denver, N.C. The book is available at amazon.com.



Life on the investigative edge

By Tom Nugent



For “Sammy Award” winning forensics expert Chuck Heurich, ‘87, successfully identifying anonymous murder victims – and thus bringing a measure of resolution to their grieving families – is a way of helping the bereaved to heal.



Charles Heurich, '87, accepts a prestigious "Sammy Award" for helping to develop a national missing persons website.

Ask forensics expert Chuck Heurich to describe the new missing-persons program he helped launch at the U.S. Department of Justice a few years ago, and the Slippery Rock University biology graduate responds by telling you a heart-rending story.

That wrenching saga unfolded in 2009, when a Kansas City woman named Stephanie Clack finally learned of her sister's still-unsolved murder, which had taken place more than 20 years before. The Missouri tragedy began when Stephanie's older sister – an attractive and high-spirited retail store cashier named Paula Beverly Davis – disappeared suddenly in August of 1987.

Then 21 years old, Davis was never seen or heard from again. Because of the trauma involved, her mother suffered a nervous breakdown and never fully regained her health. Stephanie Clack, only 14 when Paula vanished, grew up under the bleak shadow of her sister's unexplained disappearance.

But then, only a couple years ago, Clack experienced what seemed to her like a miracle.

While watching a "cold case" crime show on television, she learned about an innovative new program at the U.S. Department of Justice which – for the first time – combines a national database of unidentified murder victims with another huge database containing tens of thousands of files on missing persons.

That program, known as the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS) was the brainchild of Heurich and a justice team of forensics experts . . . all of whom had spent several years searching for a better way to solve "cold cases" involving unidentified murder victims across the U.S.

Thanks to the files now maintained at the NamUS website, Stephanie Clack was able to compare her own information about her sister's history with details from thousands of files on unidentified remains to help authorities find her sister's body in an unmarked grave.

"That particular case is a powerful example of the benefits that can flow from NamUs," said Heurich, who recently won a Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Justice and Law Enforcement Medal for his role in helping to develop the new information-processing system. The "Sammy Award" pays tribute to America's finest public servants who make a significant contribution to our country through innovation and hard work.

NamUS is a fully searchable database used for investigating and solving missing and unidentified person cases nationwide. It is the only site where everyone who is interested in solving such cases – law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners and families – can share information.

Heurich was instrumental in getting the project off the ground. He served as an advocate for the database inside government, played the role of mediator and moderator among stakeholders, managed technical issues and handled funding. Since its 2009 launch, NamUs has helped resolve cases involving 44 unidentified persons and 65 missing persons.

"Thanks to the versatility of the new program – which now allows medical examiners, coroners, crime investigators and the general public to talk with each other at the same time – we are increasingly able to connect missing persons with unidentified remains," Heurich said. "As a result, we can now do a much better job of helping families and friends of the missing to learn what happened to their loved ones, 10 or 20 or even 30 years after the initial disappearance. This exciting new tool is a compelling example of how technological innovation – along with some good old-fashioned detective work – can help to ease the burden of



...the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS) was the brainchild of Heurich and a justice team of forensics experts . . . all of whom had spent several years searching for a better way to solve "cold cases" involving unidentified murder victims across the U.S.





Forensic science plays an important role in solving missing person cases.



Heurich consults with a colleague about a cold case.

suffering for those who must live with unsolved murders such as the one that ended Paula Davis' life back in 1987."

The keys to solving the Paula Davis disappearance were actually two small tattoos – of a rose and a unicorn – that had been found on an unidentified murder victim's body in Ohio, less than a day after Davis disappeared in Missouri. Based on a coroner's description of the two tattoos (and their locations on the body), Clack realized the woman who'd been buried in that unmarked grave in Ohio two decades ago had to be her sister. She had been strangled.

"Finding out what happened to Paula brought some closure," Clack said. "We would not have known without NamUs."

In another case, a police officer in Omaha, Neb., entered the name and data for Luis Fernandez, missing since July 2007, into the NamUs system in March 2009. A citizen sleuth noticed similarities with an unidentified case and tests concluded it was a match. Because a coroner in another state had also used the system, the agencies were able to identify Fernandez, who was murdered, and then close their cases and return his remains to his family.

Rock experience shapes life

When Heurich arrived at The Rock in 1983, he said he was already determined to become a forensics expert who would solve heinous crimes and bring unrepentant perpetrators to justice.

His obsession with the science of crime detection started early. While growing up in Buffalo, N.Y. and Frederick, Md. – as the son of a traveling salesman – the youthful Heurich had become a "huge fan" of the razor-sharp lab assistant who helped NBC-TV's "Quincy, M.E." to solve murder mysteries each week. For the awestruck Heurich, the genius of TV lab technician Sam Fujiyama was a thrilling thing to watch.

Heurich said he became even more determined to become a forensic detective after an eight-week internship with the Baltimore City Police Department crime lab during high school. After enrolling at SRU, Heurich studied under Frank Hoffman, a retired biology professor whom Heurich recalled as "wonderfully supportive and helpful."

Hoffman told his student that if he wanted to learn how to identify bloodstains and gather fingerprints, he needed to major in biology.

He did.

"Those were very exciting years," Heurich said. "Professor Hoffman understood what I needed to work on if I really

intended to go into police work down the road. He always had time for me – and he often inspired me to stay late in the lab and perform experiments in which I was urged to think for myself."

Another highlight of his years on campus, said Heurich, were the seasons he spent playing forward on the men's soccer team. "I wasn't terribly gifted, and I didn't get into many games," he said with a chuckle of nostalgia, "but I did get lots of healthy exercise, and I did form some terrific friendships that I'm still enjoying today."

After picking up his biology degree, Heurich spent three years as a crime lab investigator in Baltimore. Hungry for more knowledge about the science of crime detection, he earned a master's degree in forensics at George Washington University and then put in a 12-year stint as a cold case investigator for the Montgomery County Police Department in Maryland.

By then a nationally recognized expert in computer-based crime information systems, Heurich was recruited by the U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice in 2005. His first major assignment, as program manager of the forensics division, was finding new and innovative ways to use the tools of cyberspace more effectively, so that missing persons' data could be linked to data on unidentified remains. To accomplish that task, he led the way in the development of NamUs.

"As you might imagine, we're very excited about the potential for this new investigative tool," said Heurich, while pointing out that more than 100,000 Americans are believed to be missing in this country today – while 40,000 unidentified sets of remains continue to cause headaches for homicide investigators in 2012. "More cases are coming into the system all the time, and we're getting more successes."

Although he's "extremely proud" of his team's forensic breakthrough, Heurich said he becomes "a little bit uncomfortable" when people give him sole credit for creating NamUs. "That was a team effort, period," he said. "The best part of the award was that I was able to take five of my colleagues to the dinner that night – and then make sure they all got the credit they deserve, too."

Heurich, who lives in Frederick, Md., with his wife and two daughters, said he is careful not to make exaggerated claims for NamUs. "This system doesn't always bring closure to the families of the missing," he said, "and it certainly isn't a substitute for the detailed, grueling police work that's usually required to apprehend a killer. But this new approach to crime solving does bring some resolution, often to people who have been suffering in isolation for many years. For me, just being part of that healing process is a huge reward."



UNIVERSITY CLUES INTO **CRIMINOLOGY**

Most people want nothing to do with prison. Sara McIntosh, a Slippery Rock University criminology and criminal justice major from Johnstown, is doing everything she can to get into one. McIntosh plans to help inmates by working as a prison counselor.

"I believe our nation's prisoners are often a 'forgotten' population," she said. "Although not everyone can be rehabilitated, I feel that if I can help some offenders, especially when they get released, become successful contributors to society I have done my job. A lot of prisoners come from bad backgrounds such as abuse, drugs or a bad home life, and may not have received counseling. To sum it up, I am just really passionate about helping people, especially less fortunate and vulnerable populations."

McIntosh, like many people, has always been fascinated with the darker side of human behavior.

Interest in the criminal element, rehabilitation methods and the development of modern crime-fighting technology such as computer facial reconstruction and DNA mapping is helping SRU grow its criminal justice/forensic science program into one of the hottest majors on campus.

Forensics has also been popularized by television coverage of high-profile cases and primetime television shows such as "CSI," "Cold Case" and "Bones."

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Interest in the criminal element, rehabilitation methods and the development of modern crime-fighting technology such as computer facial reconstruction and DNA mapping is helping SRU grow its criminal justice/forensic science program into one of the hottest majors on campus.



SRU offers an undergraduate and online graduate program in criminology and criminal justice, both of which include a curriculum in forensics.

“The role of criminalistic forensics is very important in investigations, obviously,” said David Champion, SRU associate professor of criminology and criminal justice. “Not only the DNA technology, but advances in other fields such as geographic profiling, blood spatter analysis, cyber forensics and crime scene reconstruction with the use of computer-generated crime scenes are all important tools of detection.”

Criminology spans the study of the criminal justice system, including police, corrections, theories about criminal behavior, as well as the impact of crime on society. SRU’s programs prepare graduates for jobs in law enforcement, probation, parole, community corrections, penal corrections, juvenile justice and other criminal justice fields.

Champion said the undergraduate program has grown 25 percent since 2008 and has 350 majors. To keep up with demand, SRU recently hired two additional professors, Rebecca Schnupp, who teaches criminology theory, corrections and research methods; and Sarah Kuehn, who teaches introduction to criminology and the death penalty. Also new is a crime-scene simulation laboratory in the basement of Patterson Hall. It provides a venue for conducting practical exercises in crime scene documentation and evidence collection.

McIntosh, who plans to pursue a master’s degree in social work at the University of Pittsburgh, said SRU’s program stands out because of the professors.

“The merits of our program include the honesty of the professors,” she said. “They are all knowledgeable on the topic. They all have a passion for teaching, you can just tell. They are there for the students and push us to learn.”

John Yarnell, a student in the criminology graduate program, works as the chief juvenile probation officer for Sullivan and Wyoming counties and teaches firearms and defensive tactics at Harrisburg Community College. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom

Corbett recently appointed him a commissioner for the Firearm Education and Training Commission.

“The job of a probation officer is interesting because it is never the same from day to day,” Yarnell said. “Probation officers perform drug screenings, curfew checks, school checks as well as room searches to ensure the juvenile does not have anything which would violate the court order. I have personally found weapons, including firearms, drugs, as well as other illegal items during room searches.”

Yarnell said caseloads vary. Some probation officers see their juveniles up to three times a week, supervising up to 15 general cases. They also spend a great deal of time in schools offering educational assemblies.

“One of the more interesting things happened recently when I was doing a room search. I found a Desert Eagle .357 in a juvenile’s pillowcase along with about 40 knives, brass knuckles and bath salts. The parents reported that they did not go in the kid’s room because he gets mad. Over the years I have taken a lot of weapons and drugs off of juveniles but this was just over the top.”

Yarnell said he enjoys SRU’s program. “I really cannot say enough good things about the program,” he said. “I have two other officers in my office who will be starting in the fall.”

Jamaica native La-Shawn Stewart, a 2009 criminology graduate, said she started at SRU as a forensic chemistry major but was drawn into the broader field of criminology.

“My interest in the field of criminal justice arose from my desire to understand the practices of the police in Jamaica as well

as the various courts and corrections agencies that deal with the problem of crime on the island,” Stewart said. “My focus is on research related to corrections, specifically, prisoner reentry. This area, in my opinion, is very important to addressing crime and its impact on our society, both the lives of offenders and well as citizens within the community.”

Stewart, who completed her master’s degree in criminal justice at the John Jay College of

Criminal Justice/The City College of New York in 2011, said she wants to return to SRU to pursue a community counseling graduate degree. Her career goal is to continue along the path of research and academia.

“I am also interested in working with special needs populations, namely juveniles at risk and offenders with substance abuse problems,” she said.

SRU’s programs prepare graduates for jobs in law enforcement, probation, parole, community corrections, penal corrections, juvenile justice and other criminal justice fields.



Rock graduates also work as forensic sleuths. Chuck Heurich, '87, helped launch a missing-persons program at the U.S. Department of Justice. The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS) is a fully searchable database for investigating and solving missing and unidentified missing person cases nationwide. It is the federal government's only site where law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners and families can share information.

Heurich recently received a Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Justice and Law Enforcement Medal for his role in helping to develop the system.

"He is an outstanding graduate," Champion said. "His drive and passion for helping people has clearly made a difference."

SRU criminology professors teach theoretical and research approaches to the field and the three modes of the criminal justice system: policing, courts and corrections, as well as juvenile justice. Electives give students specific knowledge of topics such as criminal investigations and the role of media in criminal justice. SRU offers a specialization in community corrections, which covers probation, parole and principles of balanced and restorative justice.



CRIME FIGHTERS: (from left) David Champion, associate professor and Patrick Harvey, assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice, recently set up a crime simulation laboratory in Patterson Hall to give students hands-on training in evidence collection.

"The undergraduate program is part of a liberal studies education in which we stress a lot of the basic educational principles and outcomes of undergraduate education: writing skills, critical thinking and understanding the role of diversity and multiculturalism in criminal justice and society, and a foundational understanding of ethics in the criminal justice system," Champion said.

Students are often wary when they begin Kuehn's Death Penalty class. As part of the curriculum, students study the history and methods of execution and examines which countries have abolished capital punishment and those that haven't. Kuehn has

her students compare the cost of execution versus life imprisonment and examine the ethics of the death penalty from a religious perspective. She said she also shares her knowledge about wrongful executions.

"Most of my students are very pro death penalty before the class, but after taking my course many of them change their mind," she said.

The graduate program offers advanced courses in policing, courts and corrections.

"We also focus on fostering further knowledge, understanding and skills in criminology theory, research and statistical methodology and community corrections, among other subjects," Champion said. "The graduate program expands the writing and critical thinking aspects of criminology and its focus is deeper than the undergraduate curriculum." In the policing and corrections courses, professors stress principles of ethical and sound leadership. Champion said many graduate students already work in the field and seek further education to hone their leadership, knowledge, skills and abilities.

"The graduate program is designed to provide a meaningful and rigorous graduate level education for professionals who want to advance in their field as well as for traditional graduate students who desire a sound master's level education as a basis for doctoral level work," Champion said.

While forensics captures the public's fascination, Champion said it is important to remember that forensics are only a tool in criminal detection, albeit a useful one. Cases can be made without forensics.

"There is not always enough physical evidence at a scene for a 'CSI' type of approach to work," Champion said. "What is always important is good, methodical police work and investigative principles such as protecting the crime scene, maintaining proper chain of evidence, chasing down leads, documentation and adhering to constitutional guidelines in collecting evidence."

Technology is always changing, which is why investigators are always updating their training. What does not change is the importance of avoiding crime scene contamination, documentation, maintaining a cogent plan of investigation and collecting evidence in a constitutional way so that it doesn't get excluded.

"These are principles that we stress in our criminal investigations class," Champion said.

"What is always important is good, methodical police work and investigative principles such as protecting the crime scene, maintaining proper chain of evidence, chasing down leads, documentation and adhering to constitutional guidelines in collecting evidence."

**— David Champion,
SRU associate professor of
criminology and criminal justice.**

Centered on



Designed with students in mind, the soon-to-open Robert M. Smith Student Center is already creating buzz as the heart of campus. The \$39-million facility, named in honor of former Slippery Rock University President Robert Smith, connects the residential and academic portions of the campus. The bold, smart-designed center includes glass walls, a food court, bank, bookstore, coffee bar, commuter pantry, student meeting rooms, a theatre with accordion seating and a ballroom.

The center replaces the 42-year-old University Union and offers a new standard in design that enables students to feel connected.

"There is a concept that is driving a lot of college campus development called 'See and Be Seen.' We used that," said Christopher Cole, director of the student center. "We know students want to be able to see who they are interacting with, see who else is in the space, and be seen by their friends. So that idea of being constantly connected created a different design; it is a very open facility, and there is a lot of glass."

The structure defies convention and blurs the line between indoor and outdoor spaces. It is a study in transparency that

makes a statement about the University's commitment to students. "The front of the building on the first floor is separated from the outside pedestrian plaza by glass walls and doors so you can see everyone whether inside or outside," Cole said.

Funded through student fees and conceived by SRU's Student Government Association, the University infused sustainability into the design, function and location of the three-story facility. Rather than use new green space, SRU reused the land where the former Dodds and Bard residence halls once stood – a stone's throw from the remodeled Boozel Dining Hall and the suite-style residential student housing complex.

"This building is all about the students," Smith said. "It's what they wanted. It's what they needed. I am so proud of the Student Government Association members and their leadership throughout the process. They had a vision, and even though many of them knew they wouldn't personally benefit from the building while they were students, they were committed to making sure future students would benefit. That is a real legacy."

students

Robert M. Smith Student Center provides new direction



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— Robert Smith

"The Smith Center creates an open and inviting feel for students, staff and faculty to come together and accomplish common goals," said Chelsea Nugent, a marketing and finance major from Wexford. "The professional setting on the third floor gives the University the option of offering more professional meetings and conferences. The center is a great addition to all the changes that the University has undergone over the past few years."

The 106,869-square-foot building includes a rain runoff system and a specialized parking lot to prevent snow accumulation. Plentiful windows for natural daylight, wide stairways and high ceilings emphasize architectural interconnectivity. The fireplace and commuter lounges surrounding the atrium are available as study spaces. Several computer surf stations throughout the building and wireless access enable students to do personal computing.

"It offers a wow factor for students in many ways," Cole said. "They walk in the front door and immediately feel as if they're in the hub of the campus. It is designed to be the central meeting place of the campus. So students walking in that building sense immediately that this is a place that 'whatever I need to do I can

take care of' – anything from shopping to eating, and banking to studying. The way the building is laid out, each floor has a different zone."

The first floor is the retail zone that includes grab-and-go retail, the new SGA Bookstore, a Starbucks, electronic technology center, PNC Bank, Information Desk and administrative offices. "The entrance floor is the jump-in-and-take-care-of business floor," Cole said.

The second floor is designed as a student living room where students sit and stay awhile. It offers a food court, a Quaker Steak and Lube restaurant, a fireplace lounge and a commuter kitchenette with lockers. Student organizations, the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, Office of Multicultural Development and the Women's Center are located on this floor.

The third floor includes meeting and conference rooms, a ballroom for banquets and a movie theatre providing "a full movie theatre experience," Cole said. A surround sound stereo system and Blu-Ray technology complement the big video screen. The individual accordion seats are attached to rigging like in Morrow



10 reasons to love the new Robert M. Smith Center Student

- Movie theatre with surround sound
- Largest new ballroom in Butler County
- Expanded Student Government Association Bookstore
- Open design, green roof
- Food court with Quaker Steak and Lube, Starbucks
- Fireplace lounge
- Student development suite
- Commuter pantry with lockers
- Electronic technology center
- Pedestrian bridge

Field House and can be retracted along the wall, leaving a flat floor surface for other events.

“The number one feature that students wanted was a movie theatre,” Cole said. “Back in 2006, we surveyed 1,500 students and asked them to tell us the feature they were most interested in. The number one feature was a movie theatre.”

The idea for a new student union was launched in December 2004 when then Student Government Association President Jude

Butch notified the administration that the SGA had approved a resolution requesting the expenditure of \$40,000 from Union fees to conduct a feasibility study on renovation of, or construction of, a new student union. It would take nearly six years, two student referendums, dozens of focus groups and last-minute politicking in Harrisburg before University administrators broke ground in October 2010.

Smith invited Butch and other former SGA presidents back to campus last fall to tour the building.

“As a former student leader, it is so incredible

to walk through the building and know that it exists because of the hard work of students,” said Butch, a ’05 graduate and current leadership program coordinator at the University of Buffalo. “The new Student Union proves that once again, Slippery Rock University is leading the way with new technologies, innovations and accommodations for students that make it a great place to live and learn.”

Butch said he is pleased the trustees named the building after the former president. “It was his guidance, advocacy and leadership that helped to bring students’ vision of what they wanted for a student union to fruition. Dr. Smith’s legacy as a president is that he helped take SRU to the next level in terms of academic rigor, campus revitalization and student success.”

“Reaching for 2025 and Beyond, the University’s strategic plan, emphasizes sustainability in campus construction and the Smith Center is a great example. A green roof above the bookstore and ballrooms includes boxes to seed plant material. Hearty plants will slow the transition of rainwater into retention basins, lessening the potential for flooding,” Cole said. The Smith Center also includes a pedestrian bridge that connects a pathway from the old Wally Rose Baseball Stadium parking lot to the roof level of the Smith Center.

The University Union will be repurposed to provide space for student services offices and be renamed the Student Success Center. University Police will relocate there. The campus radio station will remain there.

Alumni said they expect the Smith Center to provide a student recruitment boost. “SRU is keeping up with the ever-changing world,” said Rock graduate Julie Hepner Obney, who served as SGA President in 2005-06. “Students want access to new buildings, the best amenities and a one-stop shop. This is what the new center provides to students.”



CELEBRATING A *Legacy of*
LEADERSHIP
THE TENURE OF PRESIDENT ROBERT M. SMITH
2002-2012



Slippery Rock
University



A VISION EMBRACED

Slipperry Rock University President Robert Smith reshaped the campus physically, academically and culturally to help it Reach for 2025 and Beyond.

Visitors to President Robert Smith's office soon discover a unique phenomenon – no matter where they are sitting, or where they look, they can always see a working clock.

"That really was by design," Smith said, relaxing in his office a few days after his final commencement ceremony as president, in a room filled with mementoes of his long career in higher education. "People are just more comfortable when they can see the time without having to be obvious about having to look at their watch or cell phone. It also helps to keep everyone focused, so that we don't waste time."

Time has taken on special significance for the president this year as he prepares to leave the University he's led since 2002. "As you can imagine, the past several months have been an especially challenging time for Ramona and me," he said.

As Smith prepares to retire, he leaves as his legacy a campus reshaped physically, academically and socially.

Smith, a Kansas native, came to Slipperry Rock University in 1999. He was offered the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs on his birthday. "I always thought that was an omen of good things to come," Smith said.

He's not been disappointed.

During his 12 years, the University has grown in a myriad of ways, including academic standing; leadership in sustainability and greening; offerings in state-of-the-art technology; modern, up-to-date classroom buildings; new and expanded academic programs; contemporary academic and academic-related facilities; comprehensive international study opportunities; and ever-expanding friend support.

He has led the local and regional community in economic development and was instrumental in creating a downtown resurgence that brought new enterprises, success and jobs to the community. His

work at the regional level in developing a higher-education learning alliance and workforce training center has become a national model.

“Teamwork, not one individual, brought about the tremendous progress we’ve experienced in recent years,” Smith said. Still, faculty, staff, students and alumni say Smith was the spark that ignited efforts for change.

Serving as SRU’s provost for two years before being tapped as interim president gave Smith the time and opportunity to develop a strong and comprehensive rapport with faculty, staff and students, and build his case for making SRU a “first-choice university” and an economic engine in the region.

When Smith, who earned his doctorate in communication from Temple University, was offered the interim president’s position at SRU in 2002, he took only a few minutes to review the options he and the University faced before accepting.

“Becoming president wasn’t on my radar screen,” Smith said, “But I knew we had the talent and the energy at SRU to really make a difference. I knew with hard work and strategic focus we could become Pennsylvania’s premier public residential university.”

“I understand that online learning is important and meets a certain need for a specific group of students, but I also

“Teamwork, not one individual, brought about the tremendous progress we’ve experienced in recent years.”

believe there remains a continuing need for the traditional, residential campus where students interact and learn side-by-side from dedicated faculty in face-to-face settings; where students live in residential communities learning firsthand about other cultures, backgrounds and dreams; and where students develop and share ideas, plans and visions as part of their academic growth by being part of a diverse community, which is often far different from their hometown,” he said. “I see today’s students as tomorrow’s leaders and see civic engagement as a means of helping them develop the talents and skills necessary for them to lead their communities, the nation and world. I don’t know how you do that online.”

DYNAMIC DUO

Power couple led SRU engagement activities

Bob and Ramona Smith have worked side-by-side throughout his tenure as president of SRU. “The president’s job is offered to an individual – the partner gets volunteered,” the president said with a chuckle.

The personable, poised Ramona Smith, the University’s “First Lady,” was often spotted chatting and laughing with campus guests and students.

“I have jokingly said, ‘She is far better liked on campus than I am.’ She has really engaged with our students, and she is present at so many things, often on her own, because I will be involved in another project.”

“She will go to a game or concert, or whatever, and I think people respond well to Ramona because wherever she is, she is one of them; she’s on the back bench at a basketball game, or she’s in the sixth row at a jazz concert or she is up at the Gail Rose Lodge during a football game – she is just involved.”

“Her work at the Institute for Learning in Retirement, in conjunction with Connie Smith, former President G. Warren Smith’s wife, helped establish and sustain that organization. Up until a few months ago, she was the only treasurer the institute had ever had. The ILR is a little like the Regional Learning Alliance in that it is a phenomenal success story in and of itself. Here are all of these people engaged at the University in a very different way. Ramona, Connie Smith and a couple of other people – and they celebrated that recently – made all that happen.”

“Now the ILR has their own building, which is strong testimony to how important that program is.”

“Before we moved to campus, Ramona was involved with Butler Health System and its foundation. She has done that for 11 years, and I know she is going to miss it when we move to Tennessee. It was truly like having full-time employment as a volunteer.”

Mrs. Smith received high public praise from Butler Health System officials at a recent retirement dinner where she was cited for her extraordinary volunteer, leadership and time commitment to the system’s board.

Fittingly, a centerpiece of the couple’s legacy will be an endowed need-based scholarship for students.

The Smiths plan to relocate to Tennessee following his retirement.



STUDENT CENTERED



“It’s a great time to be at Slippery Rock University.”

Smith’s hallmark at SRU has been an unwavering commitment to students. Throughout his career, his personal philosophy has always been, “It’s all about the students.” His tagline, developed simultaneously with then-SRU Student Government Association President Jude Butch, became the now, well-known, and oft-repeated phrase, “It’s a great time to be at Slippery Rock University.”

As president, Smith frequently used the tagline to focus his enthusiasm for the University’s programs and growth as well as to encourage others, both internally and externally, to celebrate all the good things happening at SRU.

As chief cheerleader and the public face for SRU, he was always in “bragging mode” and never missed an opportunity to share

or correct “misinformation” about the University. He shook hands with tireless enthusiasm and enjoyed welcoming visitors to campus at every opportunity.

Under his guidance, the University reversed an enrollment decline and set upon a strategic path to change the academic profile.

Since 2000-01, SRU’s admission and retention profiles have strengthened considerably, paralleling its strengthened academic profile.

The University achieved its highest total enrollment of 8,852 in fall 2010, nearly a 22 percent increase from its 2000-01 enrollment of 6,952. During this same period (2000–2010), the average SAT score for an entering freshman rose from 945 to 1018 and the average GPA increased from 2.99 to 3.39.

In 2001, only 5 percent of SRU’s entering class graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class. In 2009, 13 percent graduated from the top 10 percent. Nearly 80 percent of SRU’s first-year students report SRU is their first choice among their college choices.

This increase in selectivity led to improvements in student persistence. The first-to-second-year retention rate has improved from 70 percent in 2000 to 81.5 percent in 2010, and the six-year graduation rate improved from 49 percent in 2001-02 (1996 cohort) to 60.6 percent in 2009-10 (2004 cohort).

Smith launched an expanded program of involving undergraduate students with faculty and staff in far-reaching academic research projects. The program, open to all disciplines, helps build close faculty/staff -





student research teams – some lasting four years or more.

“Research shows students who are engaged in activities such as undergraduate research, student leadership or clubs and organizations, succeed and persist at a higher rate than those students who are not involved,” he said.



“We’ve received a lot of third-party recognition for our progress,” said William Williams, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “We were named among the top five ‘Best Value’ public

institutions in the nation by Consumer Reports; the Princeton Review selected the University as one of the top 286 Green Colleges in the U.S. and as one of the best 286 colleges and universities in the northeast; SRU has earned three ‘Great Colleges to Work For’ designations from the Chronicle of Higher Education; the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette selected SRU as a top workplace in

the region; SRU has been named a ‘Military Friendly School’ by G.I. Jobs magazine every year since the award’s 2009 creation; and U.S. News & World Report named SRU one of the top 100 colleges in the north region. We’ve also garnered national awards for success in enrollment, retention and academic quality enhancements are also on display.”

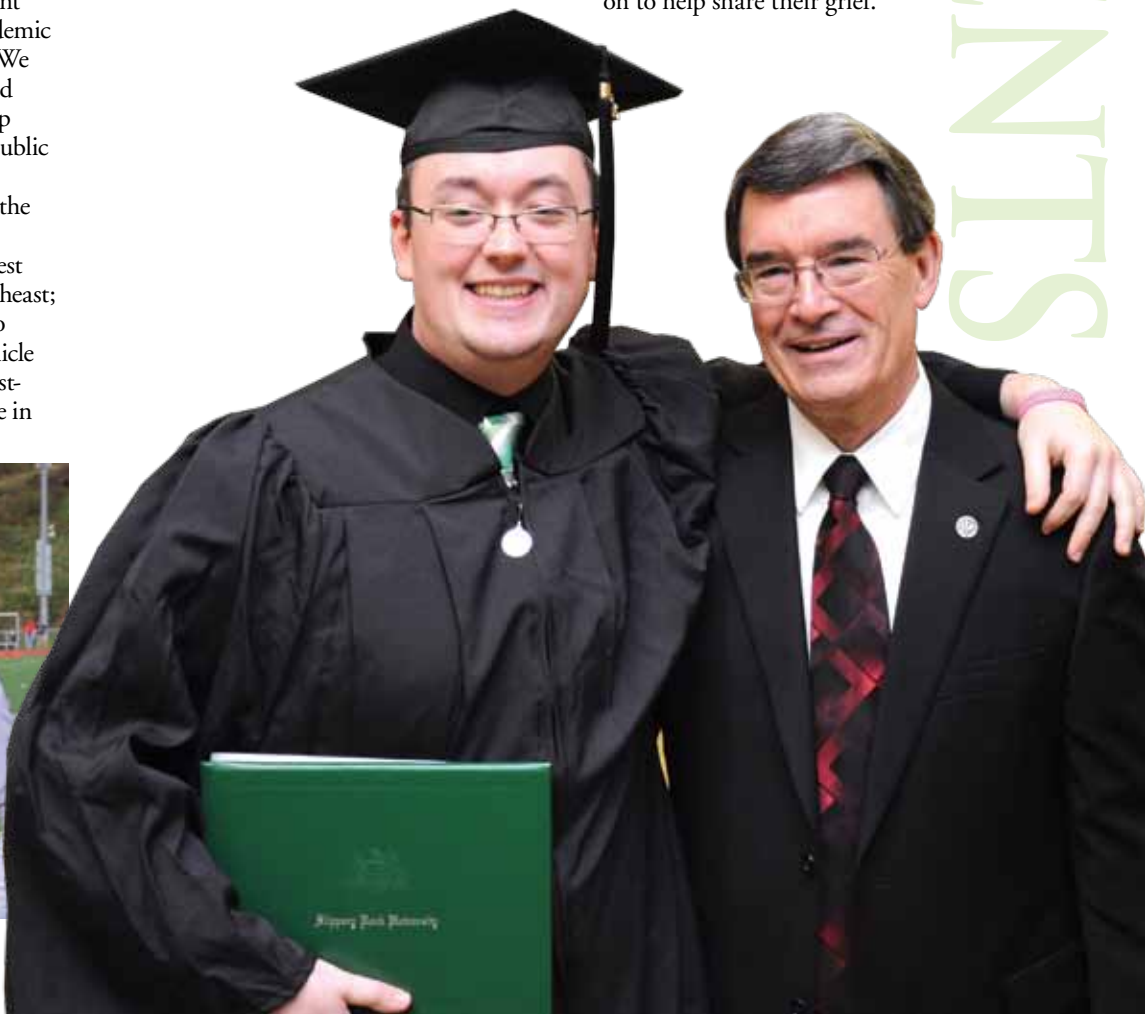
Best known to students as an accessible, caring, even “huggable” president, Smith was often seen eating with students at Boozel or the Flue, attending concerts, plays, dance recitals and lectures or just walking and talking with them on campus. He was the frequent recipient of shouted greetings and arm-extended waves as he traveled campus on his

famed Segway – his personal form of green transportation.

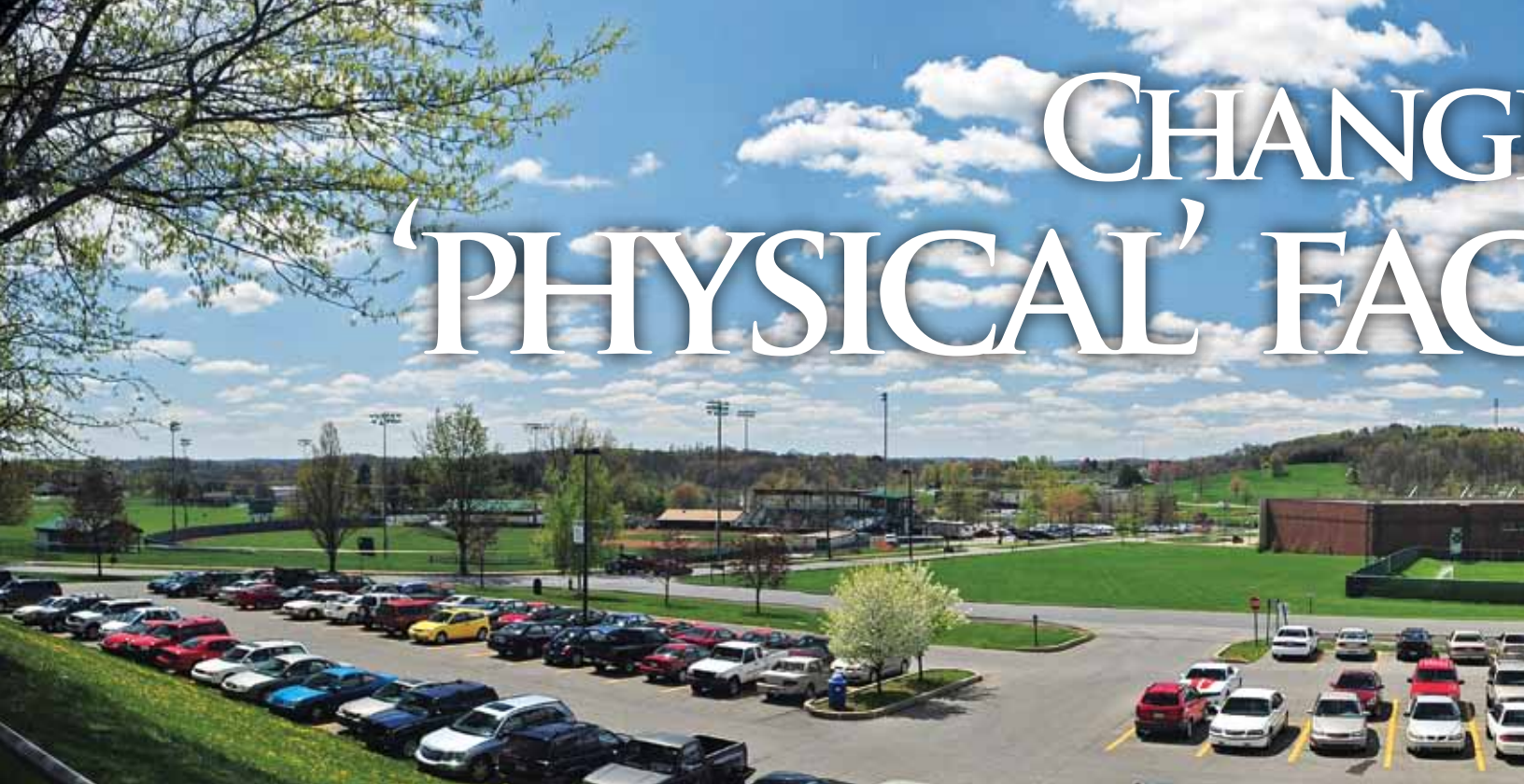
President Smith’s signature appears on more than 15,000 SRU diplomas. Those who know him recall that for Smith, commencement ceremonies were often bitter-sweet as he bid goodbye – in handshake or hug – to each graduate as they crossed the stage. He repeatedly told graduates to, “Go forth and do great things.”

He was a shoulder to cry on for many when the campus experienced tragedies that claimed a University family member’s life or for students or individuals who experienced personal family or friend losses. Students knew he understood and could be counted on to help share their grief.

STUDENTS



CHANGE 'PHYSICAL' FAC



Those on campus at the start of the 2000 decade remember that with Smith's arrival came backhoes, bulldozers, cranes, graders, earthmovers and other heavy construction equipment – all bent on reinventing the public face of Slippery Rock University.

The University has committed significant dollars to improve the physical and intellectual learning environment. Since 2000, SRU has invested more than \$250 million in new construction and renovation projects – the largest investment in the University's 123-year history.

New buildings during Smith's tenure include:

- ◆ Advanced Technology Science Hall
- ◆ Robert A. Macoskey Center
- ◆ Storm Harbor Equestrian Center
- ◆ School of Physical Therapy Building
- ◆ Art Sculpture Building
- ◆ SRU Alumni Pavillion
- ◆ Leadership Development Center
- ◆ Women's Soccer/Softball Facility
- ◆ Field Hockey and Lacrosse Center
- ◆ Robert N. Aebersold Student Recreation Center
- ◆ The Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry
- ◆ Robert M. Smith Student Center

Building renovations and/or expansions include:

- ◆ Vincent Science Center
- ◆ Spotts World Culture Building
- ◆ Eisenberg Classroom Building
- ◆ The Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center
- ◆ North Hall
- ◆ Boozel Dining Hall
- ◆ Weisenfluh Dining Hall
- ◆ Patterson Hall

ING THE CE OF CAMPUS



The James P. McFarland Recreation Sports Complex, Jack Critchfield Park and Blasé S. Scarnati Marching Band Field were created during his watch.

Plans for renovation and expansion of Miller Auditorium, an 890-seat, proscenium theatre facility on campus, built in 1958, have been drawn and work will soon get under way.

Smith also oversaw the implementation of outdoor walkways, campus greening efforts and the addition of outdoor sculptures. A pedestrian corridor from North Hall was developed and features four large rocks, each more polished than the last. The rocks symbolize a student's growth from a rough form to a smooth, highly-polished graduate ready to meet the challenges of the modern world.

Smith will long be remembered for his work with the Slippery Rock University Foundation Inc., the fund-raising arm of the University, and its development of SRU's \$130-million suite-style, on-campus living facilities.

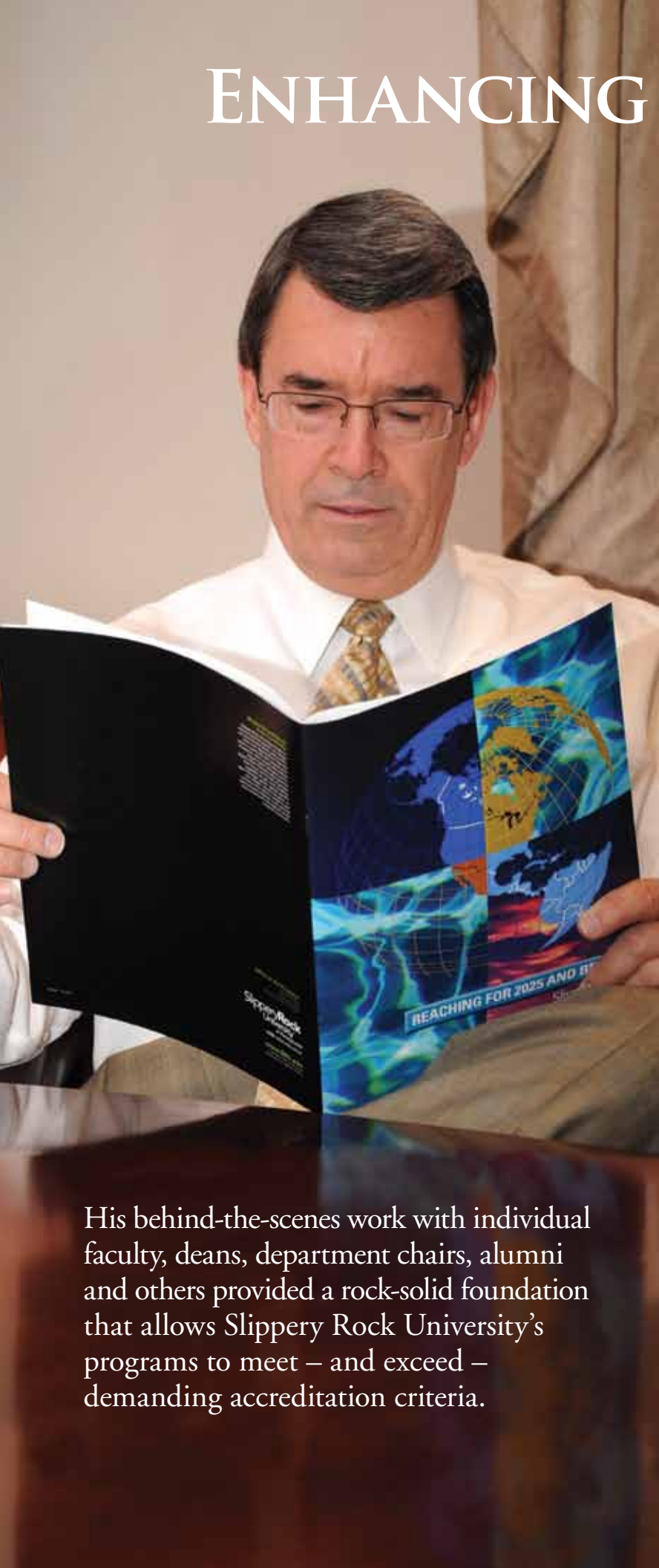
The new residence halls replaced aging, traditional brick-wall dormitories with bright, modern and inviting living/learning facilities that meet – and exceed – student expectations. The suites are credited with helping attract and retain students at SRU.

The Smith / SRU Foundation connection also spawned development of the Vincent property, which now houses a Butler Health Services facility.

Keeping the myriad of projects on time, on track and on budget were daunting tasks Smith accepted without complaint – and many say with “great enjoyment.”



ENHANCING THE ACADEMIC



His behind-the-scenes work with individual faculty, deans, department chairs, alumni and others provided a rock-solid foundation that allows Slippery Rock University's programs to meet – and exceed – demanding accreditation criteria.

Smith, long a leader, planner and strategist, combined his skills and talents to set a new course for Slippery Rock University, based on strategic planning, innovation, shared governance and an eye toward further improving the University's academic reputation, both statewide and across the nation.

As provost and president, Smith fought for accreditation of all SRU academic programs.

His behind-the-scenes work with individual faculty, deans, department chairs, alumni and others provided a rock-solid foundation that allows Slippery Rock University's programs to meet – and exceed – demanding accreditation criteria.

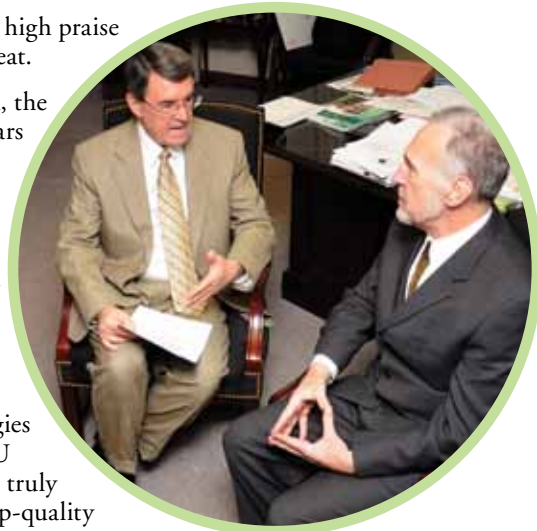
Eighty-four percent of SRU academic programs eligible for professional accreditation are now accredited, and 92 percent of the full-time, tenure or tenure track instructional faculty have earned a Ph.D. or other terminal degree. Zero classes at SRU are taught by teaching assistants. Sixty-two percent of the classes have fewer than 30 students, and 80 percent of all classes have fewer than 40 students.

While all academic program accreditations are important and integral to SRU's academic standing, the most sought-after approval comes from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. In 2011, the commission granted Slippery Rock University a full 10-year accreditation approval with no stipulations, no requirements and no recommendations – what accountants call a "clean audit."

SRU received full approval in all 14 Middle States' "Characteristics of Excellence." As part of the exhaustive review, the University earned nine commendations.

Earning such high praise was no easy feat.

Led by Smith, the work took years of strategic planning, program review, multiple program upgrades, improved communication and overall strategies to ensure SRU students were truly receiving a top-quality education, no matter their major – all while maintaining an affordable cost.



"Our self-study held a mirror up for us to see all the great things we were already doing and it reflected where we needed to make improvements," Smith said.

One of those areas of concern was campus diversity.

"We recognized that increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of our students, faculty and staff was essential to

PROFILE



creating an exceptional learning environment, so we had to develop programs that would help move us forward," he said.

In 2004, less than 8 percent of the entering class claimed minority status. In 2010, more than 9 percent had self-identified as minorities or multi-racial. During this same period, the number of minority faculty increased from 10 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2010.

Smith created four Presidential Commissions – a disability commission, a women's commission, an LGBTQI commission, and a race and ethnicity commission. Students, faculty and staff volunteered to serve, then created programs, workshops and symposia under his guidance to ensure all groups were represented and heard on major campus issues.

"One of the accomplishments of which I am really proud is our effort to build a more diverse community. That effort grew from the community and they continue to nurture it each day through thousands of individual acts of respect," he said.

LIFE ON THE 'NET'

Smith arrived at SRU just as the home/portable computer boom was breaking as part of everyday college life. That boom necessitated new, state-of-the-art computer labs across campus as well as substantial investment in computers for the University's then-budding computer science major. High-speed Internet connections were put in place, initially linked by miles of fiber-optic cable. Today the campus offers wireless Internet capabilities allowing students to seamlessly link their laptops and other portable, digital electronic devices to the world as part of standard classroom learning.

His latest major foray into computer upgrades for campus includes implementation of a \$10-million student information system, capable of tracking prospective students through enrollment, course registration and, ultimately, graduation. The massive online system, which became operational last year, provides students instant access to their personal University profile, academic progress, course registration and transcript information.

To further demonstrate his dedication to advancing modern technology on campus, Smith led approval for Slippery Rock University to become a leader in the statewide \$30-million Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research, informally known as the KINBER Project. The initiative will soon bring affordable, enhanced broadband services to a variety of users by stringing some 4,000 miles of fiber-optic lines statewide. SRU was initially selected as a core node site, but has further increased its participation level to that of a service-node location.



GREENING SRU

SRU's history with self-sustainability can be traced to its early days when students helped out by farming the land, handling dairy and beef production and even mining coal used to heat the building. Smith made sure the University continued the "greening tradition," through a variety of programs, activities and services.

He provided leadership for the renovation of the Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems and Research and implemented policies to insure that SRU would buy green and use sustainable supplies and materials.

He oversaw projects that have saved the University \$16.5 million through sustainable development and energy conservation in the last five years.

Smith led the effort to require LEED certification for new building construction and adherence to LEED guidelines for building renovations on campus.

The University now has a robust recycling program and annually recycles more than 299.31 tons of materials that would have been sent to landfills.

The president helped to implement the "Green Fund," which is administered by a campuswide group charged with allocating funds for "green" projects.

Smith raised the bar for sustainability expectations when he signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment in 2009, pledging to reduce the University's carbon footprint and accelerate research and educational efforts to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate.



A longtime proponent of volunteer and community service, Smith proved his leadership in creating SRU's Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, a campus center that now organizes more than 12,000 hours of community service annually—locally, nationally and internationally. Smith's push for the center was based on offering students opportunities to develop their leadership skills through workshops and trial-by-fire, hands-on activities.

Smith is a model for civic engagement and regularly volunteered his time and talents in service to the community. He was a member of the board of trustees for Butler County Community College and Butler Health System. He served two years as chair of Leadership Pittsburgh Inc., and worked as an active member

of the Butler County Community Development Corp. He led the Butler Rotary Club as president and was a member of the Slippery Rock Economic Development Inc., which transformed downtown Slippery Rock with new shops, new storefronts and underground electric lines.

Smith almost single-handedly helped break down the psychological barrier between Slippery Rock and Pittsburgh.

"When I first started to attend Pittsburgh events there was almost a feeling among business leaders that you needed a passport if you were going to travel from Pittsburgh way up to Slippery Rock. People would want to know if I drove in the night before for early morning meetings. It took some time and effort to get folks out of Pittsburgh



and on our campus, but once that happened they loved this place and began to see the University in a different light.”

A couple of years ago the University commissioned an independent report to analyze the University’s economic impact on the regions.

“I think many people were surprised to hear that SRU and its alumni contribute approximately \$334.4 million each year to the regional economy – that’s the equivalent of 9,020 average-wage jobs,” he noted.

“We’re a great resource for the region economically. Plus, we have a pool of talented faculty and staff that can be used as resources, and certainly work to make sure that our students are graduating with the skills employers are demanding.”

“We also want to be a cultural leader. We need to get people in the region to campus to see how talented our students are in art, theatre, dance and music. We want to bring cultural opportunities to the greater community. That is one of the reasons we started the Performing Art Series and Kaleidoscope,” Smith said.

The president and Mrs. Smith were recognized for their community involvement commitments last November at “A Celebration of Leadership and Community Engagement” hosted at the Regional Learning Alliance.

Proceeds from the dinner, at the spacious and modern Cranberry facility, provided four additional scholarships for SRU students and a spotlight to publicly acknowledge the Smith’s commitments to bettering their community.

The RLA was the appropriate venue for the celebration, in large measure because Smith had been so instrumental in its creation.

“I think many people were surprised to hear that SRU and its alumni contribute approximately \$334.4 million each year to the regional economy – that’s the equivalent of 9,020 average wage jobs.”

Seeing SRU’s need to offer classes closer to Pittsburgh, Smith initially envisioned a facility that could be used by the University and sister higher education institutions in nearby Pittsburgh as a shared classroom building. He also saw a growing need for workforce training for those already employed in the region. Smith, joined by then-Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, embarked on a plan to create such a facility. Spearheaded by SRU, and making use of a substantial gift of land donated by Mine Safety Appliances Co., the facility became a reality.

Since its inception in 2004, the RLA has provided 1,529,542 people hours of professional development training to regional business. Westinghouse cited the RLA as one of eight reasons why it retained its world headquarters in Pennsylvania rather than moving out of state.

Many have said without President Smith’s vision, leadership, personal support and perseverance, the facility never would have been built.

FANTASTIC SUPPORTERS



President and Mrs. Smith were fixtures at SRU athletic events. While the president “loved winning,” he was most proud of the academic achievements of SRU’s student athletes.

During his tenure, 18 Rock student athletes earned Academic All-America honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America for their combination of athletic and academic prowess and community service; 21 Rock student athletes received a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference “Top Ten Award” for their combination of academic and athletic prowess and community service; and more than 1,500 Rock student athletes earned PSAC “Scholar-Athlete” status for their 3.25 or higher cumulative grade point averages.

The 2003 and 2005 women’s soccer teams won the PSAC championships; the 2003 baseball team won NCAA regional championship; the 2003, 2008 and 2010 women’s tennis teams won NCAA regional championships; the 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 women’s outdoor track and field teams won PSAC championships; the 2003 women’s tennis team won PSAC championship; the 2005 and 2009 men’s soccer teams won PSAC championships; the 2007, 2008 and 2009 women’s indoor track and field teams won PSAC championships.

SRU won the Dixon Trophy in 2007-08 as the top athletic program in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference for the first time. The 2008 men’s indoor and outdoor track and field teams won PSAC championships; the 2010 women’s tennis team earned a first-ever berth in NCAA national round-of-eight competition; the 2011 men’s basketball team earned its first NCAA postseason tournament berth since 1991; and in 2011, the SRU football team won its first PSAC-West championship since 2000.

President Smith used difficulties in meeting federal Title IX rules to benefit all athletes at SRU and set new standards for the entire state system for fair and equal treatment of men and women athletes. SRU remains the only state system university in full compliance with Title IX regulations.

A man in a suit and glasses is seen from the side, looking out a large window. The window shows a brick building with a white window, a green lawn, and a road. The man's hand is resting on the windowsill.

A LASTING IMPRESSION

"There is no doubt that Slippery Rock University is a better place today thanks to President Smith's leadership," remarked Josh Young, chair of the Council of Trustees.

"He really understood the link between the success of the University and the county," Dale Pinkerton, Butler County commissioner added. "He and Ramona will really be missed."

As Smith's tenure winds down, patches of blank walls, moving boxes and mailing-tape-scattered countertops at the President's Residence on Maltby hint at the big upcoming move and the next Slippery Rock University era.

"It's bittersweet to be sure," the president said. "But in my heart I know that we have done great work here, which will provide a rock-solid pathway to the many accomplishments yet to come."

SlipperyRock
UniversitySM
of Pennsylvania



Tag, she's it



Amanda Mator has a great strategy for beating the winter blahs. The Slippery Rock University biology major from Gibsonia takes respite in cultivating plants in the sauna-like campus greenhouse and gets her endorphin rush on weekends playing laser tag.

"I used to play just for fun, but have been playing competitively for about seven years," she said.

Laser tag, a sport in which players tag or "deactivate" opposing players using a phaser, is played in an arena designed like a maze, in a black-light fog. Players suit up wearing special vests and headsets and then seek, find and deactivate opponents for points.

Mator personifies the varied interests of Rock students; she has a passion for plant systematics – the biological classification of plants – and laser tag. Mator is a model student who hopes to become a researcher and has placed first in three national laser tag tournaments, including winning an individual title.

She captured "Top Gun" at the 2006 National Laser Tag Tournament, and she took home team firsts in 2010 and 2012 as a member of the Pittsburgh Storm and Nexus Ops teams.

"I love the team work and strategy that goes into the game," Mator said. "Laser tag puts you right in the heat of the action. There is loud, heart-pumping music and a glowing environment. Every time a person is deactivated, points are added to your team's score."

The team with the most points at the end of a 10-minute game wins. At the end of each game, players receive a personalized score card showing shots fired and hits.

"When compared to paintball, laser tag is painless because you don't use projectiles," Mator said. "A phaser fires harmless beams of infrared light that are detected by equipment worn by players. There is a laser pulse on firing, though it is for effect only."

Mator has been involved with the sport for 15 years. Her parents, John and Debbie Mator, own Laser Storm Pittsburgh, a family entertainment center that offers laser tag, an arcade and rock-

climbing simulator. Her brother Matt is an accomplished laser tag athlete, too.

"I have been involved with the family business since 1996 and love being around my family," Mator said. "Laser tag has evolved and grown into something fun and amazing for everyone to play, and I have seen and been a part of all the changes."

Mator has designed arenas for Laser Storm Pittsburgh, and her designs have been selected for use at nationals.

Teams advance and compete in leagues. Players get "drafted" by a team and play through two round robins and a double elimination round. The next level of play is monthly regional competitions, followed by nationals.

"Nationals are the highest level of play, and different stores around the country will host the tournament every year," she said. "Stores in Florida, Colorado, Kansas, California, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania send their best teams to compete."

Mator, who also enjoys playing volleyball with her family and friends, said she chose SRU because of the biology department and beautiful campus. She helped the biology department move from Patterson Hall back to Vincent Science Center after its major renovation. She appreciates working in the greenhouse.

The greenhouse provides a home for plant species that thrive in tropical and desert environments, including ferns and the bird of paradise plant. Mator maintains the plants, watering them daily and using them to provide materials for laboratory experiments.

She wants to work with plants, either as a researcher or in the environmental field, for her career.

"SRU is a special place for me because I have spent the last four years of my life here," Mator said. "I have lived on campus with different roommates those four years, which added to the experience. Slippery Rock University has been the place where I have gone through many changes and have grown into the person I am today."



Safety management major adds training labs

Four new safety management laboratories will give students the opportunity for additional training in industrial hygiene, construction, general industry and fire and emergency safety, which includes ergonomics. All four labs are being constructed in Strain Behavioral Science Building, which houses safety management.

"The importance of applied laboratories is they are the most effective method to give students the hands-on experience needed to prepare them to enter the field of safety management," said Joseph Cali, professor of safety management. "Lab experiences form the basis for applying lessons to real-world problems."

Safety management prepares graduates for careers as industrial, commercial and workplace safety managers. The field involves protecting and preserving people, property, productivity and the environment.

SRU's safety program has doubled in 10 years, with a current enrollment of 268 students.

The labs, which are being created from former classrooms, will be set up with equipment to simulate employment sites. They are scheduled to be available by fall semester.

Cali said the industrial hygiene lab would include sampling pumps, dry calibrators, direct reading instruments for gas readings and nose dosimeters.

The construction lab will include scaffolding, a manhole application, fall protection area and a portable eyewash station.

The general industry lab will offer a welding curtain, wire rope lifting devices, a scale model of a forklift and an electrical safety station.

The fire and emergency preparedness lab will offer training with fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, water mains, fire pumps, fire detection systems and ergonomics. Ergonomics teaches people how to safely lift, bend, stretch and perform other tasks related to workplace safety.

The University applied for an Alcoa Foundation Grant to fund the labs, Cali said.

"Applied laboratory experiences for students majoring in environment, health and safety is no less important than an engineering student studying robotics or a chemical engineer studying the interaction of two chemicals," Cali said. "The lab experiences teach problem-solving skills, how to make predictions and how to think like a safety professional. Labs also expose students to the instruments, equipment and technologies they can use in a given situation."

The new industrial hygiene safety management laboratory in Strain Behavioral Science Building will be used to teach students how to use gas masks and noise dosimeters, among other safety tasks.

From the Dean:

We are excited to move forward with the labs and significantly enhance the students' education. Our safety management majors are highly sought after by industry, and this will make the students even better prepared. In fact, safety management is the most recruited major on campus in terms of on-campus recruiting.

— Kurt Schimmel



Science Center sleepovers boost learning

Education majors have a new rallying call: let's get the "slumber" party going. The future educators are leading science-themed sleepovers at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh with local elementary school students. The program gives children ages 6-12 a "Night at the Museum" experience bringing science alive.

"Our project involves students helping youngsters learn about science in a fun way," said Rob Snyder, associate professor of elementary education and early childhood. "I expect more than 100 SRU students to have been involved by the end of spring semester."

The teachers-in-waiting staff the science center learning stations after hours and teach science based on centralized themes such as "Polar Express" or "Crime Scene Investigation." For the CSI unit, students, led by a robot, learned about fingerprinting, gauge testing and other areas that apply to a crime scene investigation.

Participants arrive at 6 p.m. and visit the learning stations. They then are treated to an Omnimax movie, visit the planetarium and poke around for fun. Lights out is at midnight. Students each bring a sleeping bag and pillow from home and then camp out on the exhibit floor.

From the Dean:

Children learn a great deal outside of school buildings, and the students in the College of Education often take advantage of teaching opportunities in the community. Whether its through a museum, scouting, or a community center, learning to be a teacher means connecting kids with science, math or literacy in ways that are authentic and enjoyable.

— Kathleen Strickland

"The people at the science center have been impressed with our students and have asked us to take over more of the programming and station set up this spring," Snyder said. "It gives students a good opportunity to use their class planning and organizational skills."

SRU students, who are members of the National Science Teachers Association, said they enjoyed the experience.

"It was an exciting program, and I look forward to participating again," said Nicola Stuart, an elementary education major from Oakland. "It was all fun."

She said pupils really took to the exhibits. "The students got to see hydrogen bubbles float from the top floor then pop into a fog, like dry ice, when they hit their hands," she said. "There was a station to work with glow-in-the dark beads."

Jessica Sidman, an elementary education major from Lower Burrell, said the sleepover is an enriching way for children to learn science.

"All of the kids were very energetic and attentive the whole night. SRU students all volunteered and helped out in some way, most of us worked at a table doing a science experiment/project with the kids. It was really neat to see them so excited to work with us, and they love being at the science center."

FUN SCIENCE: SRU education majors have their picture taken in front of a heat simulator at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh during an overnight teacher-educator program.



Patterson addition adds high-tech classrooms, lab

It's a safe bet to call Patterson Hall a tech center for exercise science majors. A two-story addition to the academic building will give students and professors access to new classrooms and a fitness lab equipped with workout machines utilizing computer flash drive connections.

Bring on the technology expo. Students will log on to treadmills and elliptical machines, receive fitness instruction and save data on flash drives to track their progress in becoming more fit or devising a workout regimen for themselves or a client.

The added experience will give students an employment or graduate school advantage, professors said, because the field of fitness is becoming increasingly online savvy.

"Our students need to have a place to learn, train and practice on the most high-tech equipment to make them competitive," said Jeffrey Lynn, SRU associate professor of exercise and rehabilitative sciences. "As part of 'Exercise is Medicine,' 80 to 90 percent of our students will attend graduate school for some kind of clinical, health-related field. What they need to be able to do is understand this technology and use 'Exercise is Medicine' in their future practice."

"Exercise is Medicine," an international movement that SRU implemented a year ago, argues that physical activity helps prevent disease and chronic health problems such as hypertension and diabetes.

Patterson, a former residence hall that the University repurposed to save millions in new construction costs, will also

receive a new entrance, sidewalks, landscaping and miscellaneous interior modifications.

Construction should be completed this fall, with full occupancy of the 8,300-square-foot addition by spring 2013, said Patricia Pierce, professor of exercise and rehabilitative sciences. "The new generation likes technological 'apps,'" Pierce said. "And if we can make high technology part of their physical activity program, we are much better able to get them interested in physical activity in the first place."

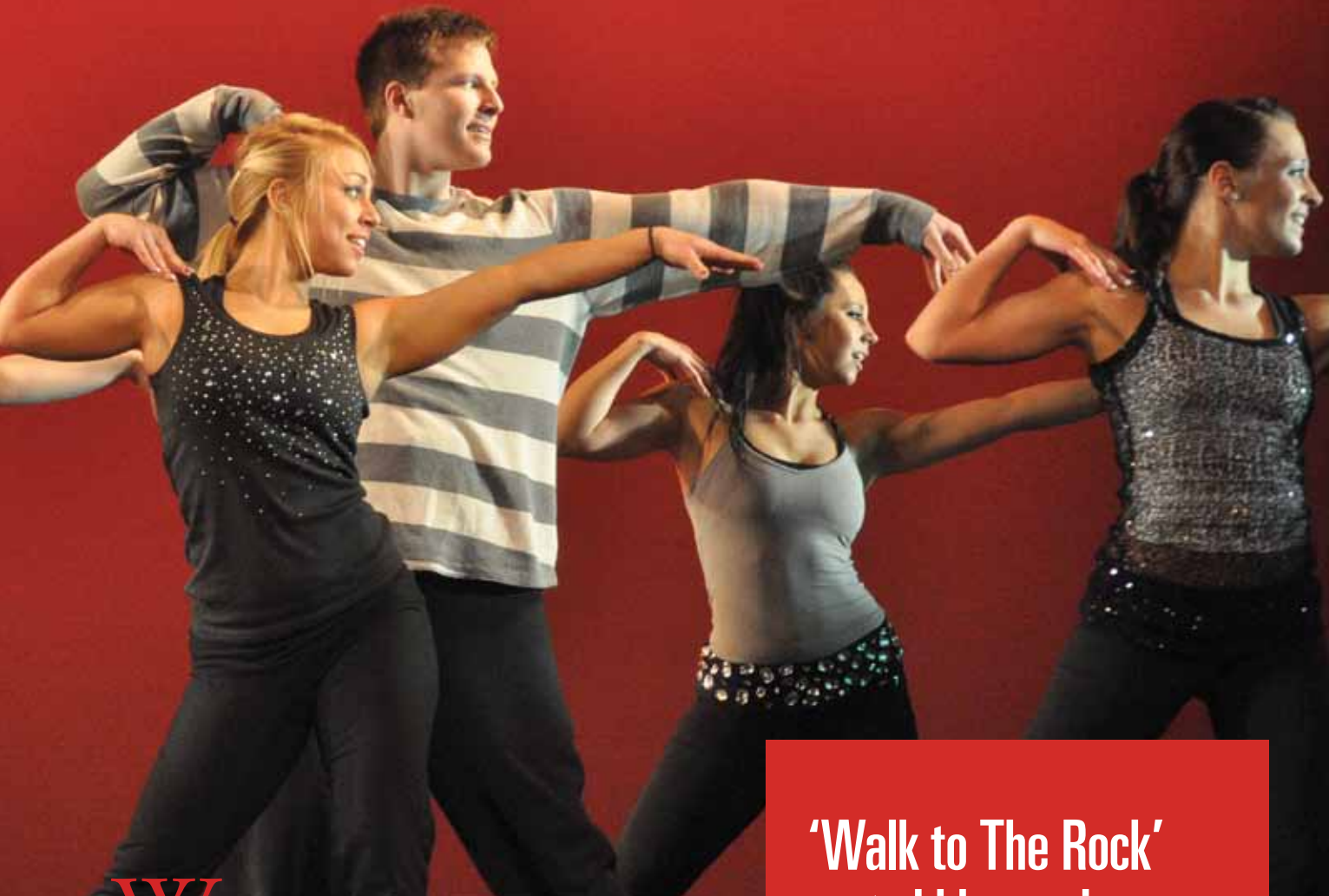
"It will look just like a place where you go in and do your fitness training, but it will be set apart by the high-tech equipment," Lynn said. "Students are very aware how important it is for them to learn by doing. This is going to give them the opportunity for hands-on learning right here in a newly dedicated lab."

The addition is the second time SRU has pumped new life into Patterson, which opened in 1958. In 2008, SRU converted the residence hall into an academic building. The project expanded Patterson by 2,700 square feet. Replacing Patterson with a new building would have cost the University \$16.4 million, said Herb Carlson, assistant vice president for construction design and management.

From the Dean:

The exercise science program has established itself as one of the best in the country. While we take pride in having cutting-edge equipment and facilities, it is the quality of our faculty, their total commitment to mentoring students and their passion for the profession that attracts outstanding students. This new facility was advocated for by the faculty. It will provide long overdue increased lab space, the most contemporary equipment, as well as increased opportunities for student-faculty research.

— Susan Hannam



'Walk to The Rock' gets kids moving

When The Rock Dance Co. took the stage awash in colored light, the 433 local elementary school children who had just walked to Slippery Rock University's Miller Auditorium thundered their approval with wild cheers. Students walked through the snow for a special concert emphasizing art appreciation and the positive message of being prompt, prepared, polite and productive.

The program underscores SRU and the College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts headway in establishing the University as a hub for art education and entertainment.

Rock dancers presented a concert of modern, hip-hop, tap, jazz and break dance.

"We are so happy to have you here, boys and girls," said Jennifer Keller, professor of dance, by way of introducing the dance company. "I want to tell you that I am a huge admirer of your program."

The children, from Slippery Rock Area Elementary School, took the "Starfish Pledge" at school promising to maintain a positive attitude and behavior as they prepare for the June Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Achievement tests.

From the Dean:

The College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts is very proud of the very significant service that Dance Professor Jennifer Keller offers to the community. She is thus introducing these children, in an entertaining manner, to the qualities necessary to become a disciplined and successful professional.

— Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio

"I find that this time of year students get 'closet fever,' and they have a tendency to act up," said Herb Basham Jr., principal. "I am challenging them to remain referral free, and I am encouraging them to come to school every day and do their very best every day."

This concert was one of several performances the SRU dancers will present to children this semester as they champion the arts. Keller obtained a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Joint Faculty and Student Public Services Grant that will enable the Rock Dance Co. to perform for more than 3,000 children in Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties this year.

Keller and the Rock Dance Co. will be working with the Slippery Rock Area fifth graders later in the spring to teach them several "stick dances."

"The stick dances are a fun way to reinforce listening skills and cooperation while being physical at the same time," she said. "We are lucky to enjoy a wonderful relationship with the elementary school principal and staff who value dance for both its creativity and its benefit for physical fitness."



Revered professor still making a splash



The Elmer B. Cottrell Memorial Endowed Scholarship has provided more than \$10,000 toward tuition costs for Slippery Rock University physical education majors since its founding in 2004. Eleanor Cottrell Hartzell, '39, and Edwin Cottrell, '43, Edwin Cottrell's children and proud SRU grads, established the scholarship as a tribute to their father, whose legacy continues to inspire their admiration, passion for physical fitness and commitment to helping SRU students achieve their goals.

It was important to the siblings and their spouses that Elmer Cottrell be honored and remembered for his contributions to SRU. It was equally important that current students be given opportunities when faced with today's financial challenges. "We put our heads together and realized that the state was not supporting the school like it used to," said Hartzell.

Only a handful of SRU professors and coaches achieve legend status. Cottrell qualifies. He taught anatomy, physiology, statistics, gymnastics and life saving from 1923 to 1948. He drew up plans for the first swimming pool on campus, started the competitive swim program and served as head swimming, diving, gymnastics and tennis coach. In his "spare" time, Cottrell coached football and basketball and taught canoeing to freshmen on Slippery Rock Creek. He called it "Camp Canawoska."

Hartzell said her father taught students how to swim in Slippery Rock Creek using a "crib" device. It was anchored so that students could practice their stroke without being swept away by the current. While in and around Slippery Rock Creek, Cottrell took advantage of the surroundings and required students to collect and catalog wildlife.

Only a handful of SRU professors and coaches achieve legend status. Cottrell qualifies. He taught anatomy, physiology, statistics, gymnastics and life saving from 1923 to 1948.

"Students also worked with botany, collected leaves and butterflies," she said.

Eventually, their father developed the idea for a swimming pool on campus when the University constructed East Gym in 1931. East Gym connected to West Gym, the round building with lion statuettes that opened in 1906.

"When they opened East Gym, he figured out how to put the pool between the two buildings and have access to the locker room," she said. "He drew up the specifications."

"I think he had chlorine in his blood," said Ed Cottrell, his son.

Once the East Gym pool opened, the swimming program was expanded. "Once the pool was constructed, every student was required to take swimming. Dad started the competitive swim program," Ed Cottrell said.

"He would use me to demonstrate," Hartzell recalled. "If he wanted to teach his students sidestroke, he would put me in the pool to do sidestroke, or backstroke. He taught me how to swim in Slippery Rock Creek, so I was the class demonstrator."

"He loved teaching," she said. "He liked organizing things. In those days, when they had to travel to swim meets, he made all the transportation, meal and housing plans.

Elmer Cottrell was born in South Bend, Ind. He graduated from Springfield College and served in the U.S. Army during World War I. After the war, he taught high school in Oklahoma City before joining what was then Slippery Rock State Normal School in 1923.

Elmer and his wife Emma raised their children in Slippery



Rock, at 339 Normal Avenue, a house that still stands today. Like their father, Eleanor and Ed became accomplished athletes. Ed Cottrell played four varsity sports at SRU and many considered Hartzell the best woman athlete on campus. She excelled at swimming, tennis, dancing and gymnastics.

“Back then, all we had were intramural sports for women,” she said. “I just did everything that was available.”

Ed and Eleanor both married SRU graduates. Ed is married to Millie Weed Cottrell, a 1943 graduate; Eleanor is married to Herbert Hartzell, a 1935 graduate and retired Army colonel. Together, these alumni have donated \$137,622 to the Elmer B. Cottrell Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

The Cottrell family knew many of the people and experienced the events that have become part of SRU lore. They had a friendship with head football coach N. Kerr Thompson and athletic director Archie Dodds, for whom a residence hall was named, and both recall the 1937 fire that felled the original North Hall. Hartzell was a Slippery Rock student at the time.

“Although I didn’t live in the dorm, I was there when North Hall burned,” she said. “I rounded up all the girls who were in my physical education class and brought them up to my house because all they had were night-clothes and bathrobes. There were 15 girls.”

Ed Cottrell, two years younger than his sister, said their father was a man of principle.

“Dad was student oriented as were most of the professors,” he said. “He believed in loyalty, respect and integrity. Good sportsmanship was part of his make-up. My father was an outstanding athlete in high school and college. This ability carried over to my sister and me.”

During Elmer Cottrell’s 25 years at SRU, he also was assistant

football coach, assistant basketball coach, and head gymnastic, tennis, golf and swimming coach. For two years he also coached the Slippery Rock High School basketball team.

Hartzell’s and Ed Cottrell’s mother, Emma Cottrell, died in 1943, and Elmer Cottrell retired from Slippery Rock in 1948 to become director of Health, Physical Education and Recreation for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He was one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Association for Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. He died in 1957.

“His influence in my life has never disappeared,” Ed Cottrell said.



Eleanor Cottrell Hartzell (second from left front row) and other members of the 1937 women’s swim team, competed in the East Gym swimming pool.



Alumni Association provides 'anchor point'

Becoming a member of the alumni association provides opportunities for personal growth, networking, building relationships, helping current students, participating in reunions, supporting scholarships and boosting University pride.

Even with the old textbooks collecting dust in the attic and the diploma darkening with age, alumni involvement looks like this: Volunteers giving of their time and treasures to advance their alma mater. The Slippery Rock University alumni spirit is embodied in graduates like Kimberly Jones, '96, who balances a management job at Westinghouse Electric Company with the presidency of the SRU Alumni Association.

"Each of us has been positively impacted by our time at Slippery Rock University," Jones said. "The academic and life lessons that we learn during our time here help to shape our future both personally and professionally. Although each of us has individual experiences to draw from, collectively, we all share the same foundation of an institution that genuinely cares about its students and alumni. It is from that fundamental feeling of support and inclusion that my Rock pride is derived, as I'm sure it is for many others."

One of the questions at the heart of getting involved with an organization is; How will it help my family, others and me? Becoming a member of the alumni association provides opportunities for personal growth, networking, building relationships, helping current students, participating in reunions, supporting scholarships and boosting University pride.

Kelly Bailey, the new director of alumni engagement, is building upon the proud history of SRU to foster lifelong involvement of alumni. She and association volunteers are committed to engaging the community of 55,000 graduates and celebrating alumni success through programs such as the Young Alumni, Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Senior Man and Woman awards.

"It isn't just about the years you're here as a student," Bailey said. "Involvement in the association can really serve as that anchor point in your life. There is always something you can do to be involved."

Bailey said graduates are SRU's greatest ambassadors. Close to 20 gave of their professional expertise by participating in a recent summer job and internship fair offered by the Office of Career Services.



Alumni also participate in the Green and White Society's annual Backpacks to Briefcases program providing job mentoring to SRU students.

"Alumni come back to offer these opportunities to current students; I think that is just a wonderful thing that you can do as an alumni," Bailey said. "Alumni remember the quality of their education and recognize SRU students are prepared for the workforce and want to help."

Bailey said SRU is a special place and deserving of a lifetime commitment.

"When you decide to go to college, you make this huge decision about where to get your education. You have a lot of choices, but for a great many reasons you select Slippery Rock University," she said. "You're a student for such a short period of time, but you're an alumni forever. That is how we look at it. It is a lifelong relationship."

Along those lines, the Office of Alumni Engagement, in collaboration with the Office of Career Services will be offering an online webinar series focusing on career development topics specific to alumni. Online sessions include:

- **May 3: Moving on (Academically)** – Applying to graduate school after you have been away from college for a while.
- **May 8: Making the Most of your Volunteerism** – How to make the most of volunteer work on resumes and during interviews.
- **May 22: Socially Employable** – Using social networking tool LinkedIn to position yourself for employment

Membership in the association provides benefits, including discounted rentals for private events at SRU's Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center; a 10 percent discount at the Student

Government Association Bookstore; and special corporate discounts with travel partners such as Choice Hotels and car rental companies. Membership dues support year-round alumni programming, Bailey said.

Bailey said she and the association board have set goals for 2012. They include offering more local and out-of-state alumni events, redesigning the association website and expanding the online directory and e-newsletter. During homecoming, the association will host a golden celebration for the Class of 1962, introduce campus tours highlighting historical sites and host the popular pre-game tailgate party.

Bailey said the Homecoming planning committee, comprised of representatives from across campus, recently selected the theme for the Oct. 20 homecoming: RetroRock. The idea is for alumni to reminisce about what homecoming celebrations were like when they were students. The theme will be incorporated into the parade and homecoming activities.

"We'll be looking at SRU through the decades – how it has changed from its beginnings to now," Bailey said.

Bailey pointed out that homecoming is family friendly. The fun includes balloon animals, face painting and candy.

"The original line of thinking when it came to public universities is they are the cultural and activity hub of the community. Slippery Rock University really exemplifies that," Bailey said. "There are so many cultural and athletic opportunities that alumni can come to – cultural events, children's events, all of these things come together.

Like many SRU employees, Bailey has ties to SRU beyond her job. Bruce Turcic, her father, graduated in 1987. Jonathan Bailey, her husband, graduated in 1996.

Jones said her ties run deep. Her mother, Janice Hudak, is a retired physical education and dance professor. Her eldest daughter, Emilie Webb, is a sophomore student.

"I have a strong commitment to the University and promoting SRU as a premier University," Jones said. Serving as president is an honor, and I am thankful to work with a talented group of volunteer board members."

For more information about the association, go to <http://www.rockalumnicafe.com>



Homecoming 2012 Celebrating SRU through the Decades

Friday, Oct. 19

6 a.m. to 9 p.m.	Rock the ARC, (Aebersold Student Recreation Center)
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	SGA Bookstore – 20% off all SRU merchandise
8 – 9:30 a.m.	On Campus Alumni Breakfast
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Registration – Golden Graduate Class of 1962, Alumni House
2:30 p.m.	Campus tours. Depart from the Alumni House
5 p.m.	Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, Alumni House
7 p.m.	Radio Station reunion, Smith Student Center
7 p.m.	Women's Volleyball vs. Edinboro, Morrow Field House
7 – 8:30 p.m.	Homecoming Pep Rally, Quad (Rain location – ARC)
8:45 p.m.	Homecoming Fireworks Display, Quad
8:45 p.m.	Homecoming Bonfire, Old Thompson Field
9 p.m.	Homecoming Concert, TBA

Saturday, Oct. 20

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	Rock the ARC, (Aebersold Student Recreation Center)
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	SGA Bookstore – 20% off all SRU merchandise
10 a.m.	Homecoming Parade – Main Street, Slippery Rock
11 a.m.	Annual Pre-Game Alumni Tailgate Tent, Scarnati Field
1 p.m.	Blue & White Homecoming BBQ, University Union patio
2 p.m.	Women's Volleyball vs. Gannon, Morrow Field House
2 p.m.	SRU Football vs. Edinboro, Mihalik-Thompson Stadium
Post game	The Fifth Quarter, Radio Station Reunion, Alumni Tent, Scarnati Band Field
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Class of '62 Reception, TBA
6 p.m.	Golden Graduate Club Dinner, Alumni House
7 p.m.	Class of '62 Dinner, Smith Student Center
10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.	BAS Homecoming Party, TBA

Sunday, Oct. 21

Noon to 7 p.m.	Rock the ARC, (Aebersold Student Recreation Center)
1 p.m.	Polish the Rock. Campus / community clean up. Main Street, Slippery Rock
8 p.m.	Movie: TBA, ATS Auditorium

HOMECOMING 2012 SCHEDULE

Class Notes

Editorial Information

Please note that "Class Notes" lists the year alumni received their undergraduate degree from Slippery Rock University. To submit "Class Notes," simply email us at alumni@sru.edu or go to <http://rockalumni.cafe.com> with your information. You can also call 1.800.GET.ROCK or fax us at 724.738.4784. We do not publish engagements or pregnancies, but we do publish marriages and births.

(M) – Denotes master's degree, (F) – Denotes faculty member, (FR) – Denotes friend of Slippery Rock University

Please note that the editorial staff makes every effort to publish the information given to us by alumni as it is received. Due to space restrictions in the magazine we sometimes have to edit the information. We are proud of all our alumni and regret having to make any revisions.

1960s



Reunion (from left): Sherry Shaw Stambaugh, '65, Joyce Dresch Sadlon, '65, Roberta McNees Geyer, '65, and Linda McAninch, '65, recently reunited for their 50th high school reunion from Grove City High School. They reminisced fondly about their days at SRU, where all four earned degrees in elementary education.

Don Orwald, '66, an award-winning playwright, had one of his scripts staged in New York City at the Roy Arias Studios, on West 43rd St. in Times Square as part of the Short Play Lab produced by John Chatterton. "The Dying of the Light" was part of a two-day event made of up 20 short plays. Orwald has also had his work staged in Iowa, by the Dubuque Fine Arts Players, in Ligonier by the Ligonier Players and at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. A Butler native, Orwald is retired from the English department of Knoch High School and lives in Granbury, Texas.

1970s

Bill Thomas, '77, after 23 years in Alaska, has moved to Charlotte, N.C., for a job as a medical flight dispatcher at Carolinas Medical Center. He also is president of the Charlotte Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

1980s

Sandra Reidmiller, '81, joined the faculty at Saint Vincent College, teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses in education, library science, instructional technology and school administration and supervision. Her research and methodology regarding the teaching of multisensory vocabulary will be presented as a Best Practice in Literacy 2012 Conference this spring at Robert Morris University.

Cynthia Blackwell, '86, has been named the 2011 Outstanding Middle Level Art Educator by the Pennsylvania Art Education Association. Blackwell, the visual arts educator for middle school students at the Pittsburgh Gifted Center, received the award for her networking abilities and commitment to enhancing art education for Pittsburgh area school children. She frequently

participates in workshops at the Andy Warhol Museum and leads student field trips to art museums.

Anthony Zarella, '87, owner of The Zarella Law Office, was selected in 2010 and 2011 by Super Lawyers magazine placing him in the top 5 percent of Pennsylvania's 36,000 experienced attorneys. He was also recently appointed to the executive board of Temple University's Law School Alumni Association. Zarella concentrates his practice in the area of plaintiff personal injury. Although his office is in Philadelphia, he routinely handles personal injury cases throughout the entire state of Pennsylvania.



Lois Bowers, '86, is acting editor-in-chief and managing editor of Medical Economics, which has been named 2012 Media Brand of the Year by Medical Marketing & Media. Medical Economics is a media brand that includes a twice-monthly print magazine, weekly e-newsletter, website and social media. The brand, based in Cleveland, aims to help office-based primary care physicians manage their practices.



David Rapp, '87, recently graduated from Appalachian State University with a master's degree in instructional media/educational technology. He lives with his wife, Laree, son Keegan, and daughter Kayleigh in Belmont, N.C.

1990s

Lieutenant Colonel John Zuluaga, '91, has taken command of the 325th Military Intelligence Battalion, United States Army Reserve, in East Windsor, Conn. Zuluaga is a Distinguished Military Graduate of the ROTC program at SRU.

Anthony Cialella, '92, was profiled recently by the Pittsburgh Business Times for succeeding in business and as a non-traditional SRU student who continues to give back to his alma mater.

He enrolled at SRU at 33 and in 2002 bought a company called Castle Environmental. Cialella returns to campus, either guest lecturing at environmental economics classes or interviewing candidates for a scholarship

program he funds called "The Forgotten Man." The scholarship provides tuition assistance to students from working, middle-class families.

Pamela Golubski, '93, '97, has another book coming out this year, "Pedagogical and Andragogical Teaching and Learning with Information Communication Technologies." This is the eighth book she has co-authored since 2007.

Angela (Shughart) Ragan, '98, obtained her master's degree in biotechnology, with a concentration in biodefense, from Johns Hopkins University in May. She works as a biosafety manager for the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda Md., and lives with her husband in Frederick, Md.

Kelly Austin '98, '01, has been

appointed chancellor of Penn State Schuylkill effective June 1, 2012. Austin received his bachelor's degree in business and master's degree in counseling and educational psychology from SRU. He continued his education with a master's degree in business administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in '04. He received his doctorate in administrative and policy studies from the University of Pittsburgh in May.



2000s

William Buchanan, M, '07, professor in the Department of Library Science at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, has published "St. Jerome and the Vulgate Bible," in the December 2012 issue of Catholic Library World, one of the major professional journals in the field of librarianship.

Tanya Jones, '08, recently coauthored a selection of essays and examinations into the works of author Neil Gaiman. The book is titled "The Mythological Dimensions of Neil Gaiman." Jones serves as chairperson for the English department at Lincoln Charter High School in Denver, N.C., and writes chapters for various scholarly journals.

Mallory Neubert Kercher, '08, received her bachelor's degree in nursing and master's degree in nursing from Thomas Jefferson University in 2010 and 2011. She works as an obstetrics nurse/nurse practitioner at The Reading Hospital and Medical Center.

Lisa Magilson, '09 graduated in June with her master's degree in occupational therapy from Chatham University. She is currently an occupational therapist with the ProStep Company.

Chad Green, '09, was hired as a full-time police officer for the West View Police Department in suburban Pittsburgh. He works traffic enforcement and is involved in community outreach such as crime watch meetings.

SRU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS:



Executive Committee

- Kimberly Hudak Jones, '96, president
- Bonnie McElhaney Lukasic, '63, immediate past president
- Richard Manning, '75, acting president elect
- Don Huddart, '87, treasurer
- Lisa McCullough Holmes, '88, secretary

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Brian Cashman, '71
Susan Whelpley Greaves, '80

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David Haddad, '88
Marce Pancio, '96
Marcie Popek, '96
L. Michael Ross, '77
Bruce Russell, '72
Jason Wagner, '93
H. Keith Warcup, '75
Dominic Williams, '88
Linda Gordon Williamson, '73
Larry Young, '66
Sam Zyrrol, '78

Ex-Officio

Charles Curry, acting president
Kelly Bailey, Director of Alumni Engagement

Births and Adoptions

2000s

Michael Balawejder, '01, and **Megan Smego Balawejder, '01,** announce the birth of their first child, Benjamin Michael

Balawejder, born Oct. 6, 2011. He weighed 5 lbs 4 oz and was 18.5 inches long.



Phillip Giliberto, '04, and **Sarah Giliberto, '04,** announce the birth of their first child, Evan Samuel, born Oct. 8, 2011. He weighed 7 lbs 1 oz and was 19.5 inches long. The family lives in South Park.



Cynthia (Jones) Golightly, '01, and Tim Golightly announce the birth of their daughter, Brooke Madison Golightly, born Oct. 14, 2011. She joins her big sister, Hannah, 3. They family lives in York Haven.



Jennifer Sherman Navickas, '06, and Justin Navickas announce the birth of their son, Noah Gabriel Navickas, born Oct. 26, 2011. He weighed 5 lbs 12 oz. The family lives in Danville.



Becky Newhouse Horazuk, '02, and Joel Horazuk announce the birth of their first child, Allison Elsie Horazuk, born Sept. 21, 2011. Becky Horazuk works as an occupational therapy assistant at North Ridge Care Center in New Hope, Minn. The family lives in St. Paul, Minn.

Michael Zendarski, '90 and **Megan Cajka-Zendarski, '98** welcomed Michael Thomas Zendarski on 11-1-11. He is their second child and joins his sister Mallory at home. Michael and Megan are both teachers in the Highlands School District.

Weddings

Jason Kortz, '06, and **Carrie Kadunce, '04,** were married Nov. 6, 2011, in Miami. They met and fell in love at Slippery Rock University. Kortz is an operations and maintenance leader at ATI Allegheny Ludlum. Kadunce works as a general manager for Pearle Vision.



Mallory Neubert, '08, and Glenn Kercher were married Aug. 13, 2011, in Negril, Jamaica. Rock graduates in the wedding party included Sarah Lacy, '09, and Shelly Regner, '09. The couple lives in Reading.



training from SRU. She works as an athletic trainer at Crawford County Sports Medicine in Meadville. The couple lives in Meadville.



Sarah Lawlor, '09, and **Tyson Johnston, '10,** were married Aug. 27, 2011 in Cambridge Springs, at the Riverside Inn. Lawlor earned her bachelor's degree in geography and environmental studies from SRU and her master's degree in geography from Miami University in 2011. She works for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Johnston earned his bachelor's degree in geography and environmental studies from SRU and works for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.



Whitney Graham Catalano, '08, and Justin Catalano were married July 23, 2011 in Guys Mills. Lindsay Bullis, '08, served as maid of honor. The bride received her bachelor's degree in athletic

In Memory

Helen Bricker Gaiser, '31
Clara Minnick Gochmour, '32
Gladys Ellis Shaw, '32
Alberta Margaret Nolan Hilderbrand, '33
Anna Stickel Snyder, '34
Dale Anderson, '36
Jean Wadsworth Trunick, '37
Merle Smith Kuznik, '40
Alberta McElroy, '42
Louise Wilson Ranieri, '44
Anita Jane Davis, '48
Robert Frederick Flick, '49
Alice Kinzer Groves, '49
Virginia Miller, '49
Dom Maiello, '50
Raymond Pantuso, '50
Helen Cousins Bishop, '51
Evelyn Tennis Clifton, '51
David Alexander, '52
Hugh Crocker, '52
June Cooper Reid, '53
Marilyn Ruth Nicolson, '54
Cleve Oliver, '54
John Kennedy, '55
Jesse Guy Bowers, '56
Albert Ithen, '56
Dorothy Winslow Hogan, '57
David Clarkson, '58
Jacque Peters, '58
Raymond Keffer, '59
Beverly Jean Corll Lewis, '59
James Walters, '61
Reba McCreary Bender, '62
Peter Reft, '62
Angelo Gioiosa, '63
Joseph Daniels, '64
John Kennedy Ohl, '64
William Oesterling, '65
Nancy Ireland, '70
Theodore Janosik, '70
John McLaren, '70

Susan Schneider Conley, '73
Carol Lynn Kotuby, '73
Patricia Ann Reddinger, '73
Paul Richard Seeman, '73
William McClintick, '74
Richard Caringola, '75
Deborah Ellen Adams Hall, '75
Leon Riley, '75
Robert Gerard Rauch, '76
Mary Molczan, '76
James Vescio, '79
Russell Laing, '80
Raymond Homan, '81
Sheila Lynn Peters Smock, '81
Thomas Venskus, '85
Diane Altieri Henry, '86
Robert Humes, '86
Russell Ross, '87
Dianne Carol Willard Stroth, '90
Judith Ann Boyd, '91
Salvatore John Oliverio, '91
Scott Michael Jamison, '93
Daniel Foulk, '94
Doris Lyon Rose, '94
Christina Whelan, '06
James Barnes, '09

Former faculty and staff (time at SRU)

M. Katherin 'M. Kate' Brennan, professor emeriti, 1963-1996
David Labor, assistant track and field coach, 2001-2008
Emelie McFarland, clerk typist, 1967-2004
Lois Fay Montest, custodian, 1988-1999
Anthony Pagano, professor emeriti, 1959-1986
Wallace Rose, professor emeriti, 1955-1985
David Shaw, professor emeriti, 1968-1993
Hassell Sledd, professor emeriti, 1969-1996
Donald Watson, professor emeriti, 1968-1995
Carolyn Williams, professor emeriti, 1967-1986



*Mercer County alumni recently gathered at Montana's Rib and Chop House in Hermitage, Pa. for a networking night. Restaurant owners and SRU alumni Tom Ristvey '88, Tanya Ristvey '95 and Charlie Bish '88 hosted the Alumni Association event. Taking part in the festivities were: **Front row** (from left) Jennie Travaglini Kather '97, Kateri Maille Linn '01, Lisa Holmes '88, Patricia McBride '80, Jonathan Bailey '96, Sue Miller Riley '84, Chelsea Jones '10, Chris Douglas '10, Meagan Reed '09, Alexis Bender '09, Deb Baker and Elliott Baker. **Back row** (from left) Michael Muha '06, Autumn Johnson '02, Tom Ristvey '98, Nathan Jones '10, Dan Hayne '97.*

For more information on upcoming alumni events visit
www.rockalumnicafe.com

Stabile does a Super job



Tom Stabile remembers the first football game for which he got paid to officiate like it took place only yesterday.

"It was a junior-varsity game at George Junior Republic," he recalled. "I wore white football practice pants, football cleats, long black socks I had borrowed from the Dance Department and a plain black baseball cap. I borrowed a whistle from the officiating class.

"Back then, instead of yellow penalty flags, we used red and white striped flags, which just happened to be the same colors of the cloth napkins used in Weisenfluh Dining Hall," Stabile added. "So I 'borrowed' two of those, sewed them together and wrapped them around a steel ball and I was ready to go."

"I was the happiest guy in the world," he said. "I was a football official and I made \$5 a game. Back then, that was enough to take your girl on a date, buy a couple sodas and still have money left over."

Forty five years later, Stabile is still an official, a darned good one, and it's fair to say he makes a lot more than \$5 per game.

You and millions of your closest friends may have watched the most recent game in which Stabile officiated. It was a Sunday night, Feb. 5 game between the New York Giants and New England Patriots billed as Super Bowl XLVI.

Yes, our very own Tom Stabile. Proud owner of both an undergraduate (1968) and graduate (1972) degree from Slippery Rock and a 1997 SRU Athletic Hall of Fame inductee.

He was the head linesman on the all-star officiating crew for this year's National Football League championship game at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind.

Two weeks after the big game, it was apparent the "wow" factor had not yet worn off.

"When the game was over, I was the last official to leave the field," Stabile said in a Feb. 7 Valley News Dispatch story written by Bill Beckner Jr. "I watched the confetti fall and the players jumping around. It was great to savor all of that."

"I've always known the Super Bowl was a big event, the crowning glory of an NFL season," Stabile told The ROCK. "But now that I have been a part of it I really understand the magnitude of the event. It could be a little overwhelming if you aren't careful. But it was a great experience, everything went well, and I am proud to have been selected to be a part of it," he



said. “The whole Super Bowl experience was everything I expected it to be and more.”

Normally, “I hate Sunday and Monday night games because you have to sit around all day waiting,” added Stabile, who officiated in two Sunday Night Football games and one Monday Night Football regular-season game broadcast nationwide in prime time. “But Super Bowl Sunday went very quickly with all our pregame meetings and the festivities. The time for the opening kickoff seemed like it came a lot earlier than for other Sunday night games.”

A resident of Natrona Heights and retired teacher, coach and administrator, Stabile said he found out he had been selected to officiate in this year’s Super Bowl three weeks before the game, and in a manner only possible thanks to modern technology.

“I had the ringer on my cell phone muted because I was somewhere I didn’t want it going off and distracting everyone,” he recalled. “Then I started getting a bunch of text messages. ‘Congratulations!’ That’s when I knew I had been selected.”

“At first, I was numb when I realized I had been selected,” Stabile said. “Then, I felt relieved because the pressure was off.

bumps,” Stabile said. “I was like a little kid with a glass jar I was scared to drop. I didn’t want to be remembered as an official who missed a call in the Super Bowl.”

It was at that point, Stabile said, he reverted back to the mindset that ultimately earned him the prestigious honor.

“I had a change in attitude this season,” he explained. “Instead of being aggressive in my calls, I made my mind up I was going to prepare the best I could, not get rattled or excited, and let things happen.”

“I put it in God’s hands,” Stabile said. “I said, ‘If it happens, it’s His plan. If not, I’ll just go on being a pretty good official.’”

Ultimately, Stabile had what he feels was his best season as an official, one in which he was deemed to be the best at his job, the top-ranked NFL head linesman.

Six years earlier, Stabile was one step away from officiating Super Bowl XL between the Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks in Detroit. He served as the alternate head linesman for that game.

Aside from that, and prior to working this year’s Super Bowl, the highlight of Stabile’s NFL officiating career was his assignment to work the 2011 Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii.

“It was more of an honor, a perk, than an assignment,” he said. “You really don’t want to call any penalties in that game because

everyone’s there to just have a good time and the atmosphere is a lot more relaxed.”

“We had so much fun there,” Stabile said with a chuckle, “my girlfriend asked

me this year if I could trade in my Super Bowl assignment and work the Pro Bowl instead. She didn’t understand it’s not really the same magnitude of a game.”

Stabile has enjoyed several perks as part of his job. In his first season as an NFL official, he worked NFL Europe games. He later also drew assignments for a 2010 midseason game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Denver Broncos in London, England, a 2010 Buffalo Bills preseason game vs. the Washington Redskins in Toronto, Canada, and the 1996 American Bowl game between the Steelers and San Diego Chargers in Tokyo.

And, of course, he’s visited every NFL city. At each stop along the way, Stabile and his family had the opportunity to spend some time seeing the sights in the host city.

From that humble start as a junior varsity official in his junior year at Slippery Rock, Stabile eventually also earned certification as a collegiate and high school basketball and baseball official. He has also worked three Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) state championship basketball games and umpires approximately a dozen games a year during the NFL offseason.

Stabile’s long history of involvement with athletics as a student-athlete, coach, teacher, administrator and official earned him induction in 2010 into the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) Hall of Fame.

Stabile applied for membership in the NFL officiating fraternity in 1990 and was accepted five seasons later after, unbeknownst to him at the time, being scouted and evaluated by pro supervisors while working collegiate games.

Once in the professional ranks, Stabile quickly carved out an impressive niche for himself. In only his second year as an NFL official, he was assigned to work an NFC wild card playoff game.

Seventeen seasons later, his resume includes one Super Bowl, one Pro Bowl, one NFL conference championship game, three divisional playoff games and five wild-card playoff games.

“People have asked me, now that I’ve worked a Super Bowl, if I am going to retire,” the 65-year-old Stabile said. “Right now, I don’t have any plans to do that.”

“But, if I do retire, and that was my last game as an NFL official, it was a pretty good way to end my career,” he said. “I could hang up the whistle with pride. I’ve had a pretty nice run.”

You and millions of your closest friends may have watched the most recent game in which Stabile officiated. It was a Sunday night, Feb. 5 game between the New York Giants and New England Patriots billed as Super Bowl XLVI.

But then I realized the magnitude of the assignment and I got nervous again.”

“[The Super Bowl] is the biggest event in professional sports, so I had goose

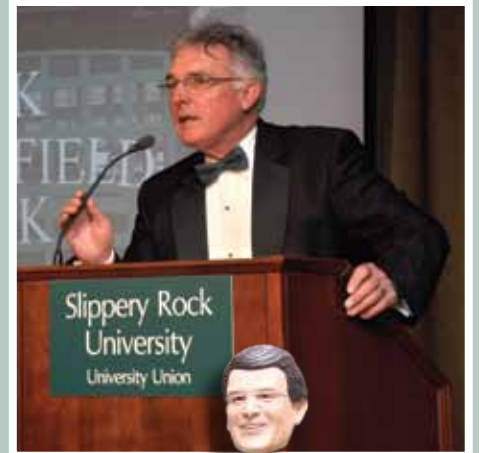


A FAREWELL *Gala*

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

With more than 375 people in attendance, the President's Gala in the University Union paid tribute to retired Slippery Rock University President Robert Smith and his wife Ramona and raised more than \$200,000 for SRU student scholarships. Current and former SRU employees offered tributes and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett sent a letter recognizing Smith's contributions. John Cavanaugh, chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, made laudatory remarks via video. More than 120 participants toured the new Robert M. Smith Student Center before dinner. Student tour guides led the way through the Smith Center and explained the building's configuration and features. (See page 14)







I am The **ROCK**

William Sonntag, '70, economics

Retired

DAY JOB: I am an active volunteer in the Slippery Rock community, primarily with the Slippery Rock Downtown Revitalization Corporation, the group that revitalized the downtown into the "The Village at Slippery Rock," and the Slippery Rock University Foundation.

BACKGROUND: My grandmother, Margaret Book Elliott, graduated from Slippery Rock Normal School in 1898 and my mother, Mary Kate Elliott Sonntag, graduated from Slippery Rock State Teachers College in 1941. After I graduated, I spent two and a half years in the U.S. Army concluding with a 13-month tour in Korea. My entire working career was in community banking with the last 15 years as president and chief executive officer of the First National Bank of Slippery Rock. As a community banker, I have served on numerous non-profit and civic boards.

INFLUENCE OF SRU: I came to Slippery Rock State College as a 17-year-old freshman from New Wilmington High School and received a tremendous education. I was in the first group of students to take an accounting class as prior to that there were no accounting professors. The lessons learned at Slippery Rock State College gave me a solid background for my banking career. I have served on the Slippery Rock University Foundation Board for 26 years, most recently as secretary and as chair of the finance committee. I was fortunate to serve on organizing and executive committees for two comprehensive campaigns that cumulatively generated \$39.3 million to help meet the priority needs of SRU. In addition, I was in the right place at the right time and lead the oversight committee for financing and developing the \$130 million residence suites complex on campus. The project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget providing SRU students with a LEED-certified complex that features a living-learning environment. During my tenure with the SRU Foundation board of directors, I experienced the importance scholarship dollars play in a student's education. I encourage my fellow graduates to give back to Slippery Rock University so that deserving students can have the same excellent opportunity I experienced at SRU.