

# Rock Calendar

Listings taken from the  
SRU Master Calendar of Events and other sources.

## Today, April 27

Summer/fall registration continues

Kaleidoscope arts festival  
continues (through April 29)

SRU baseball hosts Shippensburg  
1 p.m. (Seats sold for Sliders season)

John McCutcheon Family Concert  
6 p.m., Advanced Technology Science Hall

SGA movie series: Stomp the Yard  
7 p.m., McKay Education Building

Brave New Plays: "Hanging 10"  
8 p.m., Miller Auditorium  
(8 p.m., April 28; "Grow the F%#& Up!"  
repeats, 2 p.m., April 29)

Opera "Die Fledermaus"  
7:30 p.m., Butler County Community College  
Also 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Swope Music Hall

## Saturday, April 28

Praxis, 6 a.m., various campus buildings  
(Call Career Services: Ext. 2028)

American Cancer Society Relay for Life  
Old Thompson Field (all day)

Freshmen Orientation, 8 a.m., University Union

Kaleidoscope on Main: Campus and downtown

Army ROTC Military Ball, 6 p.m., University Club

SRU softball hosts Lock Haven, 1 p.m.

## Sunday, April 29

Brian's Ride Mini-Triathlon  
7:30 a.m., Aebersold Recreation Center

Kaleidoscope Arts Festival  
(Concluding day activities)

SRU Flute Choir Concert  
4 p.m., Swope Recital Hall

## Monday, April 30

UPB Spring Concert: Rapper TI  
7:30 p.m., Aebersold Recreation Center

## Tuesday, May 1

Rising Star Recognition Reception  
4 p.m., University Union

Topic Tuesday: Relationship 411  
7 p.m., Strain Behavioral Science Building

SRU Jazz Bands I & II  
7:30 p.m., Miller Auditorium

See additional events: [www.sru.edu](http://www.sru.edu)

# rockpride

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A publication from the Office of the President for faculty, staff, and friends of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

## Alumna will deliver address to SRU's largest graduating class

Martha A. Smith, president of Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland, and a 1970 Slippery Rock University graduate, will deliver the commencement address when the University awards more than 1,130 diplomas at May 12 ceremonies.

The 11 a.m. event will be in N. Kerr Thompson Stadium, weather permitting. No tickets are required. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will move to Morrow Field House. Tickets for field house entrance have been distributed to all graduates.

President Robert Smith will present 40 diplomas to students receiving doctor of physical therapy degrees, 100 diplomas to those receiving master's degrees and 990 diplomas to those receiving bachelor's degrees. This is the largest graduating class in SRU's history.

Martha Smith's address is titled "Get a Life."

"I am pleased to be asked to be the speaker at my alma mater. I have very fond memories of my college days, including the chance as an undergraduate to join and lead a number of

(See SRU commencement page 4)



Martha Smith

## Governor appoints John A. Hicks to SRU Council of Trustees

Slippery Rock University Professor Emeritus of Education John A. Hicks, a 1962 graduate, has been named to the University's Council of Trustees by Gov. Edward Rendell and confirmed by the state senate.

Hicks, who retired from SRU in 2002 after 29 years service as professor and assistant to the dean of SRU's College of Education, had twice served as interim dean. As assistant to the dean, he was certification officer, responsible for the placements of more than 400 student teachers per year and liaison to regional school districts. Other interim appointments included associate dean, director of continuing education, school improvement coordinator and department of administration and supervision chair. He has been a member of the SRU Sports Hall of Fame board of directors since 1985.

(See Trustee page 4)



John A. Hicks

## Art department draws NASAD approval

Slippery Rock University's art department has been granted associate status in the National Association of Schools of Art and Design following application and an on-site visit that resulted in high praise for the department's academic programs.

The first step toward full membership status was announced this week and is expected to follow after five years of monitoring and a second on-site program review.

NASAD, founded in 1944 and headquartered in Reston, Va., is an organization of schools, colleges and universities with approximately 248 accredited institutional members. It establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials.

"This is indeed an honor for the entire University and especially the art department and the College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts. As our faculty, staff and students know, Slippery Rock University continues to methodically increase its national accreditations as way of increasing the value of a Slippery Rock University education.

(See Art department page 3)

SRU finance majors earn honors – see page 3

# announcements

**Cathie Sadler**, coordinator of Family Connections, is seeking academic presentations and educational programs for the 2007 Friends and Family Weekend scheduled for Sept. 14-16. Departments interested in sponsoring a program during the weekend are asked to call her at Ext. 2719.

**The Slippery Rock University Disaster Resistant University/Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee** has scheduled a public meeting for 10 a.m. May 9 in Room 206 of the University Union. The meeting was called to solicit public comment on all aspects related to creating the plan. The DRU/HMPC began development of a plan in November 2006 to help guide the University toward greater disaster resistance. The committee is working under the premise that events at the University also affect the local and regional community. "The goal is to be better prepared to deal with hazards and disasters. When completed, the plan will provide for efficient and rapid recovery efforts, thus restoring vital services across the board. The plan will also help in reducing the impact of a hazard on the University and local and regional community," said John Bonando, assistant vice president for student life and committee chair. Since November, information has been collected through a campus and community survey on hazard vulnerability. This data has been evaluated by URS Corp., a professional planning firm, and is incorporated into development of the SRU plan. Once completed, the plan will be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for approval. Campus and community members are invited to join in planning a disaster-resistant university.

The Slippery Rock University Federal Credit Union will hold its **annual meeting** at 6:30 May 5 at the Slippery Rock Township Building.

## SRU, Sliders sponsor 'Select Your Seat' events

Slippery Rock University, in cooperation with the Slippery Rock Sliders of the Frontier Baseball League, will sponsor a pair of "Select Your Seat" events this weekend at Jack Critchfield Park.

Fans are invited to come to Critchfield Park between 12:30 and 5 p.m. today to watch The Rock baseball team host Shippensburg in a crucial Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference-Western Division twinbill. First pitch for the opening game of the twinbill is at 1 p.m.

While at Critchfield Park, fans will have the opportunity to move around the seating area and find the ideal location for season tickets to watch the Sliders in their inaugural season of competition. Sliders team officials will be on hand to sell season tickets and team apparel throughout the doubleheader between SRU and Shippensburg.

The same scenario will unfold Sunday, when The Rock hosts Salem International in a non-conference doubleheader starting at 1 p.m.

Sliders season tickets are \$160 for reserved seats, \$128 for general admission and \$96 for senior citizens (60 years of age and over) for 32 home games. A "Flex Pack" of general admission tickets for 12 home games is also available for \$50.

Single-game tickets will go on sale for the first time today and are \$6 for reserved seats, \$5 for general admission, \$4 for senior citizens and \$4 for lawn area seats.

For more information on the Sliders, call the team office at 724.738.4903 or go to [www.srprobbaseball@yahoo.com](mailto:www.srprobbaseball@yahoo.com).

## SRU Flute Choir, Chamber Flutes concert features seniors Sunday

The Slippery Rock University Flute Choir and Chamber Flutes present their final concert of the season at 4 p.m. Sunday in Swope Recital Hall. The concert features graduating seniors in a four-movement work titled "Stone Suite."

The composition showcases Sara Legin, alto flute, from Saxonburg; Cassandra Rondinelli, C flute, from West Mifflin; Sarah Kress, bass flute, from Pittsburgh; and Kim Heim, piccolo, from Rochester. The inspiration for the piece is the musical depiction of four natural rock formations around the world.

The concert also features pieces recently performed by the musicians at the state music education conference, including a work titled "Kaleidoscope" for flute choir and boomwhackers – small plastic pipes that vary in length offering various pitches when struck, – a contemporary composition by British composer Ian Clarke titled "Within," and the ever-popular "Flight of the Bumble Bee."

The concert is under direction of Stacey Steele, assistant professor of music.

## sports round-up

Five Rock student-athletes received Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference "Athlete of the Week" honors in the past two weeks. The recipients are: **Lacey Cochran and Jennifer Hansen**, both for women's track and field, **Dan Hudeck**, baseball, **Stacey Rhoades**, softball, and **Jeff Weiss**, men's track and field.

- The women's tennis team earned a berth in the NCAA Division II tournament, starting May 3. The Rock set a school record for single-season wins this spring and will take a 22-5 record into first-round action vs. Bentley in Bloomsburg. The former school record for single-season wins was 21 set in 2003.

- **Jennifer Hansen** set a new school record in the women's pole vault when she cleared 12,9 1/2 inches Saturday at the Elete IUP Open. She also earned an automatic berth in the NCAA Division II national championship meet with that vault.

- The SRU softball team has set a school record for single-season wins with 26 this spring, breaking the old mark of 24 set in 2005. The Rock owns a 26-18 overall record and an 8-8 mark in PSAC-Western Division play, good for fourth place. SRU is also ranked sixth in this week's NCAA Division II Mid-Atlantic Regional poll.

- The baseball team will take a 28-12 overall record and an 11-5 PSAC-West mark into this weekend's action vs. Shippensburg. SRU is tied with California University of Pennsylvania for second place in the PSAC-West, one game behind Shippensburg. The Rock is ranked second in this week's National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association national poll, fifth in the NCAA Division II North Atlantic Regional poll, 21st in the NCBWA national poll and received votes in the American Baseball Coaches Association/Collegiate Baseball Newspaper national poll.

- The women's water polo team placed fourth in last weekend's Collegiate Water Polo Association Western Division Championships at the University of Michigan. The Rock finished the season with a 7-15 record.

- Nine members of the outdoor track and field team will compete in the prestigious Penn Relays this weekend at historic Franklin Field in Philadelphia. The group includes **Matt Bluman, Chris Geddis, Nate Hardic, Jennifer Harpp, Jake Moore, Pat Reagan, Jeff Weiss, Raissa Weiss and Holly Whoolery**.

## Finance majors win national Ameriprise case competition

Three Slippery Rock University finance majors captured first place in the case component of the national Ameriprise Financial Planning Invitation competition in Minneapolis for developing a comprehensive financial plan for a fictitious couple. Judges lauded the team's entry for its strong, clear language and detail.

Jeff Geibel of Prospect, Troy Sharbaugh of Altoona and Craig Stokan of Hollidaysburg competed against teams from seven other finalist universities, including Texas Tech and Virginia Tech. The SRU students won the case stage of the competition.



Sharbaugh, Stokan and Geibel

Stage two consisted of a presentation of the team's case, and the concluding stage was a game show quiz competition dealing with financial planning topics. Points were awarded to teams relating to their performance in all three areas.

"These three gentlemen proved once again that our students have talent, ability and can compete at any level," said John Misner, SRU professor of finance and the team's adviser.

The case competition required teams to develop and present a financial plan for a couple planning to retire when they reached the age of 62 in 2014. It stipulated that the man and woman, a company vice president and pharmacist, wanted financial security and the ability to help a grandchild and to be able to support the cultural arts.

The SRU team re-arranged the couple's cash flow and investments to meet these goals and included sufficient life, long-term care and disability insurance, Misner said. They created a college fund for their grandchild.

According to Misner, judges described the students' work as "very strong" and praised their "excellent and clear language that easily leads clients to action."

The Ameriprise Planning Invitational is open to all schools with undergraduate financial planning programs. This year, 22 schools entered teams for Phase 1; eight teams competed in Minneapolis.

The overall winner was Virginia Tech. "There wasn't a dry eye in the house when their names were announced," Misner said.

## Senior dance majors take 'Last Call at the Barre' Saturday

"Last Call at the Barre," a production of the Slippery Rock University dance department, showcases the work of senior dance majors in their last campus concert Saturday. Performances are at 5 and 8 p.m. in Swope Music Hall.

The senior synthesis concert includes dances developed during months of research and exploration by the choreographers. Senior dance major Rachel Renock of New Kensington will perform a solo choreographed by SRU alumnus Meredith Koloski, a member of the class of 1999.

Renock's work culminates her research on professional soloists. Technology will be used in Lauren Plesko's piece to represent her research into the philosophy and creative process of famous choreographers such as Merce Cunningham and Alwin Nikolai. Plesko is from Lower Burrell.

Tickets are \$2 for students and the general public.

## New partnership sends student teachers to N.C. schools

Slippery Rock University secondary and physical education majors will have the opportunity to student teach in North Carolina following the approval of a partnership with the Wake County Public School System in Raleigh.

The schools formed an alliance because Wake County grew by 7,000 students last year and needs teachers and SRU has a reputation for teacher-education excellence, said Herbert Hunt, SRU assistant to the dean for the College of Education.

"They need teachers and have been sending recruiters to our job fairs to recruit our graduates," he said. "This partnership is a nice opportunity for our students to find out what it's like there without having to sign a contract. If it works out, it will help them line up jobs right out of college."

"We are looking to provide our students with options for their student teaching experience and the Wake County connection provides them with high-quality schools in a diverse setting," Jay Hertzog, dean of the College of Education, said.

SRU Provost William Williams approved the program. Wake County officials said, "The presence of high quality Slippery Rock student teachers and field students in WCPSS classrooms will have a positive impact on student learning and increase opportunities for individualized instruction and co-teaching."

Ten SRU students have signed up to teach in the district for 12 weeks this summer. Wake County is a year-round district because of its exploding growth. "They'll be able to live and work in the community and find out if it's a good match," Hunt said.

SRU has more than 4,000 education majors, Hunt said. The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires a minimum of 12 weeks of student teaching.

## Art department (Continued from page 1)

This accreditation is another feather in our cap. It points to the dedication and expertise of our faculty. All are to be congratulated," said SRU President Robert Smith.

"I too congratulate the faculty and those involved in preparing our peer-review report. Congratulations certainly go to Tom Como, department chair, and his colleagues. With this latest accreditation milestone achieved, all four arts programs in our college – theater, dance, music and now art – are nationally accredited. This achievement shows the dedication to our mission," said William McKinney, dean of SRU's College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts.

Como said the peer-review process in his nine-member department began more than a year ago and included a complete evaluation of each program offered by the department. "The overall peer evaluation report found our programs, instruction, facilities, students and quality of student work for those involved in the bachelors of fine arts and the bachelors of art degrees to be comprehensive and high quality," he said. In addition, the report recommended additional, permanent gallery space, a plan already being considered as part of a new fine and performing arts center.

Other Pennsylvania higher institutions with NASAD membership include Carnegie Mellon University's School of Art and its School of Design, Philadelphia University, Drexel University, Pennsylvania State University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Clarion, Millersville and Kutztown universities.

## SRU commencement (Continued from page 1)

student organizations. I also credit SRU with setting my path in life, in large measure through my relationship with John Marshall, then dean of men, who served as my mentor," Martha Smith said.

An undergraduate chemistry major, Smith said, "Being involved in a number of campus organizations, I had numerous opportunities to work with John. Following graduation, I continued my chemistry studies at the University of Hawaii while serving as a teaching assistant. I soon realized that, like my mentor, I wanted to be a dean of students. Fortunately, the University of Hawaii had a master of educational psychology program with a concentration in student personnel. After earning my doctorate, I began work in student services. In 1982, I was named dean of students at Anne Arundel Community College and was later recommended to fill the presidency."

### Involved in student activities

"I am where I am today because of my involvement in student activities and the influence of John Marshall at Slippery Rock University," she said.

At SRU Smith was vice president of the Student Government Association, president of the residence hall government and a member of Kappa Delta, social sorority. "I remember the studies and the exams, but I also remember homecoming, and staying up all night building floats. The campus was truly my extended family," Smith said.

Smith's SRU experiences have helped shape her presidency. Upon becoming the fifth president of AACC in 1994, Smith immediately focused her administration on putting students first. She has been recognized for her leadership, vision and commitment to students and to the community.

### Active in community

A member of the board of directors of the League for Innovation in the Community College, she recently began a three-year term on the board of directors of the American Council on Education.

Smith was appointed by former Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich to serve on the Maryland Education Council and as Maryland's representative to the Education Commission of the States. She serves on the Governor's Work Force Investment Board, the Institute for Community College Development board, the board of directors for Leadership Anne Arundel, and on the board for the Greater Baltimore Committee.

Her honors include the 2006 District Pacesetter of the Year Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations and the Anne Arundel County Tech Council's 2005 Good Apple Award. The Daily Record named Smith one of Maryland's Top 100 Women in 1998, 2000 and 2002. She was named one of Anne Arundel County's First Women of Education by the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, and in 2001 received the Community Trustee Award from Leadership Anne Arundel.

### Academic degrees

After earning her bachelors of art degree in chemistry from Slippery Rock University, she earned a masters of education in educational psychology from the University of Hawaii and a doctor of philosophy degree in higher education administration from the University of Northern Colorado. Prior to becoming president at AACC, Smith was president of Dundalk Community College in Maryland for seven years.

The ceremony will include administration of the oath of office to nine graduating Army ROTC seniors receiving their commissions as second lieutenants.

Suzanne Vessela, chair of the SRU Council of Trustees, will deliver greetings on behalf of the trustees and Eric L. Holmes, a 1993 SRU graduate and president of the SRU Alumni Association, will induct graduates as association members.

## Classified Ads

**YARD SALE:** May 4-5. 154 Bradman Estates, Slippery Rock. Reasonable prices, something for everyone. In case of rain, event is canceled.

**FOR RENT:** Two-bedroom, second floor duplex, living room, dining room, side porch at 615 E Brady St., Butler. \$530 per month, plus utilities. Call 724-679-5067.

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## Trustee (Continued from page 1)

Hicks has been a member of the board and held many leadership positions as a member of the Association of Teacher Educators, in which he was honored as a distinguished member. He represented the U.S. and was a guest speaker at a meeting of the Association of Teacher Educators, Europe, in Burge, Belgium. He was also a member of the advisory council of state representatives for the Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. He served as vice president, president and member of the board for the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators, an organization he helped found.

### Local baseball coach

He served as a graduate teaching assistant at The Pennsylvania State University and as professor and baseball coach at Millersville University. He worked closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Education on many state certification issues. As a Slippery Rock resident, he coached in the pony, colt and American Legion baseball programs for several years.

Hicks earned his doctorate in academic curriculum and instruction at Penn State, where he was a member of Phi Kappa Phi honor society. At John Carroll University, he completed his master's of arts degree. He earned credits leading to a certificate in public school administration at Kent State University. His undergraduate work was completed at Brandeis University and SRU, with majors in biological sciences and social studies comprehensive. He competed in football at the varsity level at both schools and played and coached at both. He served three years in the U.S. Army Security Agency, earning the rank of sergeant.

### Former East Cleveland teacher

Following graduation from SRU, Hicks was a teacher, coach and administrator in the East Cleveland City Schools system. He was honored by the Wahoo Club and named "Coach of the Year" by the Plain Dealer, Cleveland's major daily newspaper, following Shaw High's win of the state baseball championship.

"It is truly exciting to be named a trustee at a University where I once studied and later taught. I know the University like the back of my hand; I know its strengths and its areas where we can continue to improve. I will use my tenure as a trustee to continue to work in the best interests of Slippery Rock University students, faculty and staff," Hicks said. His six-year term runs until 2013. He is expected to attend his first meeting when the council meets June 15.