

Rock Calendar

Listings taken from the
SRU Master Calendar of Events.

Today, May 25

Pre-session withdrawal with "W"
grade deadline
4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 26

Drill-4-Skill Basketball Tournament
9 a.m., Aebersold Student Recreation Center
(court usage limited)
(Continues Sunday)

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day
University closed

Tuesday, May 29

Classes resume
8 a.m.

Thursday, May 31

SRU Alumni Association
board of director ballots due

rockpride

Volume 7 • Issue 14 • May 25, 2007

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

Chancellor visits advancement conference

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Chancellor Judy Hample was on campus early this week to address participants at the three-day state system Advancement Conference hosted by SRU.

Hample updated conference participants about state system budget issues. She also urged those involved with alumni relations, public relations and advancement work to involve alumni in legislative issues related to their alma maters. "We have more than 600,000 state system graduates living in Pennsylvania," Hample said. "The influence they can have on legislators is tremendous."

The conference drew more than 150 participants from the 14 system universities.



Judy Hample, chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, updated those attending this week's state system Advancement Conference hosted by SRU.

SRU names vice president for advancement

SRU President Robert Smith has named Barbara Ender as vice president for University advancement.

Ender is currently vice president for development and chief executive officer of the Morehead State University Foundation. While at MSU, Foundation assets doubled from \$15 million to \$30 million, annual gift income and alumni giving increased significantly and the planning stages for the university's first capital campaign were completed.

Prior to her seven years at Morehead, Ender served as executive director of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Foundation. In her 16 years at IUP, she was responsible for a number of key areas, including corporate and foundation relations, developing policies and practices for the foundation, and supervision of development professionals.

"Ms. Ender brings a wealth of talent to SRU at a most opportune time. Her experience and knowledge of western Pennsylvania, and the Pittsburgh market in particular, give us an immediate start on her arrival," Smith said.



Barbara Ender

(See Vice president page 3)

COMMENCEMENT CLASS

LARGEST EVER: Martha Smith, president of Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Md., and a 1970 SRU graduate, provided 1,130 graduates – the largest class ever – a seven-point plan for meeting life's challenges as part of her "Get A Life" address at spring commencement. The ceremony, in a packed N. Kerr Thompson Stadium, also saw the commissioning of nine Army second lieutenants from the SRU ROTC Program. (See related story on page 2.)



Council of Trustees

Noon, June 15

304 Old Main

NOTE: With this issue, **rockpride** will be published every two weeks. The next issue is June 8.

Art department earns accreditation – see page 4

SRU forms heart-to-heart bond with 10-year-old patient

Waiting and wondering defines the lives of children who need a life-saving organ transplant. But a Butler County family and Slippery Rock University have learned that the healing power of an organ donation reaches beyond the transplant itself.

A heart-to-heart relationship is developing between the SRU family and the family of John Paul May, a 10-year-old Harrisville boy who underwent heart transplant surgery May 5.

John Paul was attending the SRU Jazz Festival put together by Stephen Hawk, associate professor of music, at SRU with his mother when Pennsylvania State Police interrupted the concert to announce a heart was waiting for him.



The operation, at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, was a success, and John Paul, while heavily medicated, is able to take short walks – and is anticipating his discharge. The transplant is his second, the first coming at age 10 months.

SRU officials were so moved by John Paul's medical odyssey they sent a gift package to Children's Hospital last week.

Since John Paul wasn't able to enjoy the entire jazz concert, President Robert Smith sent him a note, and an SRU baseball cap and a CD of the SRU Jazz Ensemble's latest recording, "Crossing Borders."

Hawk sent a card and Jazz at the Rock T-shirts.

"This is such an incredible story," Hawk said, noting the audience of 500 jumped to its feet and applauded the boy as he left Swope Music Hall. "I've been in the entertainment business for 30 years and never had such an emotional, shocking event happen at something live. While we're sorry he missed some of the concert, when John Paul's well enough, we're going to invite him and his family to be our guest at another concert."

"We are so grateful to Slippery Rock University, the state police and doctors at Children's Hospital," his mother Sue May said from her son's hospital room. "He has more energy, and his color is better."

Phillip May, John Paul's father, said he wasn't surprised that SRU would reach out to the family. As a food service manager at SRU from 1989 to 1995, he knows first hand that people care about one another at SRU.

John Paul's story has appeared in newspapers across the U.S. and around the world as well as on television, radio and Internet stations. He recently had a visit from People Magazine.



TAKING THE OATH: Nine Army ROTC cadets in the SRU military science program were sworn in as second lieutenants shortly before commencement. The new officers are, from left, Noah Robert Benson, Ian William Black, Brian James Cianchetti, Joseph Stephen Lustick, III, Christopher Raymond Mathis, Andrew Michael Sharp, Jessica Beth Shimko, Nathaniel James Thomson and Vincenzo Tucciarone, Jr.

Army ROTC commissions nine as second lieutenants

The spring semester Army ROTC cadet class at Slippery Rock University saw nine second lieutenants commissioned at pre-commencement ceremonies in the Advanced Science and Technology Hall. All nine have received their duty assignments.

The ceremony was led by Lt. Col. William Bialozor, coordinator of the Army ROTC program at SRU, who commended the class on its leadership development, stamina and ability to work and excel as a unit. He praised the group for its numerous training exercise awards.

Eight of the cadets were presented their undergraduate diplomas at SRU's commencement, and the ninth cadet will receive his diploma from Grove City College as part of the joint SRU-GCC ROTC program.

Receiving commissions were:

- Noah Robert Benson, a political science major from Johnstown, now assigned to the quartermaster corps at Fort Lee, Va.;
- Brian James Cianchetti, a safety and environmental management major with a minor in leadership from Butler, who joins the corps of engineers at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.;
- Joseph Stephen Lustick, III, a history major with a minor in leadership from Waynesboro, joining the airborne division at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.;
- Christopher Raymond Mathis, an international business major with minors in leadership and Spanish from Altoona, now assigned to the military intelligence corps at Fort Benning, Ga.;
- Andrew Michael Sharp, a parks and recreation management major with a minor in leadership from Etters, who joins the military intelligence corps at Fort Hood, Texas;
- Jessica Beth Shimko, an exercise science major with a minor in leadership from Indiana, Pa., who will now attend graduate school for physical therapy at Thomas Jefferson University before joining the medical service corps;
- Nathaniel James Thomson, a parks and resource management major with a minor in leadership from New Castle, who reports to the Ordnance corps at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.;
- Vincenzo Tucciarone, Jr., a history major with a minor in leadership from Sellersville, who joins the infantry division at Ft. Benning, Ga.; and
- Ian William Black, a history major at Grove City College from Franklin, who assumes active duty in the quartermaster corp at Fort Lee.

Each second lieutenant's bars were pinned on by family members attending the ceremony following the oath of office administered by Bialozor.

'Lost boy of Sudan' finds home, earns diploma from SRU

Gabriel Ajang walked 1,000 miles across Sudan to escape the hostility and violence of civil war. Two weeks ago, he walked across the stage with 1,130 fellow graduates to receive his Slippery Rock University diploma.

By age 9, Ajang had already witnessed his parents being butchered and his village being uprooted by violence beyond belief – citizen against citizen. “Even playful childhood life was cut off,” said Ajang, one of the “Lost Boys of Sudan” who were forced from their homes in the 1980s due to ethnic conflict.

Ajang, 28, received his degree in community health. As a student he had a 3.3 grade-point average, 3.7 in his major.

“Both mental and physical scars remain as permanent marks and are unforgettable,” he said of his ordeal, “but Slippery Rock University has prepared me to the point where I ask myself, ‘What will I return to the community here and in southern Sudan?’”

The Lost Boys of Sudan are a group of refugees who walked across Sudan to Ethiopia to escape one of the worst civil wars in history. Ajang, who began the passage in 1987, said more than 30,000 boys and girls fled. Thousands died or were killed.

The group clung together and trekked through the sub-Saharan heat and wilderness, forced to fend for themselves to obtain basic needs such as water and safety.

“The walk was roughly two to three months,” Ajang recalled. “We covered hundreds of miles and faced gunfire, lion and crocodile attacks and disease.”

Ajang spent three years in Ethiopian refugee camps before being forced in 1991 to flee yet more gunfire. Chased by tanks and armed militia, “We frantically tried to cross the River Gilo between Sudan and Ethiopia, where thousands drowned, were eaten by crocodiles or shot,” he said.

Those who survived the crossing, including Ajang, settled in a refugee camp in northern Kenya in 1992. “Some 10,000 survived this journey,” he said. “The majority of us were between the ages of 8 and 18, and I was within that age range.”



His parents and five siblings perished; two siblings survived.

In 1998, the U.S. government and the United Nations moved to give the lost boys refugee residency status in the U.S., he said. Ajang relocated to Pittsburgh in 2001 and enrolled at the Community College of Allegheny County.

Fluent in Dinka and knowing a little Arabic, he persevered with his studies and transferred to SRU in 2006. He lived in Kraus Hall, where he listened to music and read the Bible in his native language, although he reads and speaks English as well.

“A year ago, when I decided to come to Slippery Rock, I was uncertain of how things would be but having a friendly learning environment, small classes, friendly classmates and faculty members who care let me appreciate my decision to chose SRU,” he said.

“He has lived the very essence of community health – learning of the absolute necessity for clean water, shelter and food during a disaster,” said Wendy Stuhldreher, SRU professor of health and safety. “He has seen the ravages that result from lack of adequate public health - malaria, TB, AIDS, parasitic diseases and more. All of those maladies we study in international health, Gabriel has lived.”

“Graduation marks the next stage of my journey,” Ajang said. “It was not easy and it will never be easy to stay for days without food, or not knowing where one will be for the days to come. It is horrible to be separate from friends, relative and parents whether alive or dead. It was painful to see a relative and friend dying. Now I move on.”

Ajang said he wants to attend graduate school, perhaps Arcadia University, and plans to work in health care. He puts it at 50-50 as to whether he'll return to the Sudan.

Vice president (Continued from page 1)

“I’m very excited about coming back to Pennsylvania to join the Slippery Rock University family. There are so many great things happening at SRU. I can’t wait to get started. I’m really looking forward to working with President Smith, my colleagues on the cabinet and the University advancement staff to achieve even greater successes for the University,” Ender said.

Smith said he was grateful to the search committee and the many members of the campus community, including the SRU Alumni Association and SRU Foundation which helped with the search.

“We needed everyone’s work as the choice of candidates was extensive and very competitive. I want to especially single out Dr. Amanda Yale and Ms. Carolyn Colosimo for their amazing work in managing this search. Good committee work makes candidates want to come to SRU and gives us great choices of who we want to join us,” Smith said.

At SRU, Ender will provide leadership for all aspects of the University’s advancement efforts. She will join SRU July 1.



SAYING THANKS: President Robert Smith, left, congratulated four, 35-year service award recipients at the recent Staff Appreciation picnic. Recipients, from left, were Vicki Liston, facilities and planning, Jean Richardson, Academic Affairs, Debra Moors (recently retired), sociology/anthropology/social work, and Mary Beth Keffalas, Academic Advisement Center.

SRU salutes dedicated staff with service pins, awards

Slippery Rock University President Robert Smith thanked members of the University staff for their dedication and service to the University and presented service pins and awards in various categories at last week's annual Staff Appreciation picnic.

The service pins and awards were presented in five-year increments to those achieving 10- to 35-year milestones.

"Your hard work, dedication and attention to detail are what help make Slippery Rock University great. The appearance of our campus, its buildings, residence halls and related facilities make an impression on current and potential students, as well as their parents. The appearance of our campus and the service provided our students are crucial. Your hard work on behalf of our University, and in particular our students, can clearly be seen. Thank you," Smith said.

He used the event to outline the University's strategic plan through 2012, including calls for new facilities, upgrades of existing facilities and plans for enrollment increases.

35-year plaques were presented to: Mary Beth Keffalas, Academic Advisement Center, Vicki Liston, facilities and planning, Debra Moors (recently retired), sociology/anthropology/social work, and Jean Richardson, Academic Affairs.

30-year plaques were presented to: Carol Dickey, Counseling Center, Dixie Hogue, elementary education/early childhood, and Marsha McKnight, Academic Services.

25-year plates were presented to: Cinda Taggart, Contracts Office.

20-year service pins were presented to: Anthony Caldarelli, Lifelong Learning, Dennis Colosimo, Larry Gargas, Daniel Wolfe and Chester Glenn, all facilities and planning, Laurel Dagnon, Institute for Community Service, Lifelong Learning and Non-profit Leadership, Karen Hogg, modern languages and cultures, Leigh McGuiirk, College of Business, Information and Social Science, Patti Pink, health and safety, Robert Rhoads and Steven Roberts, both campus recreation, Joseph Walton, Athletic Office, and Dixie Wolfe, University Police.

15-year service pins were presented to: Diane Carion, School of Physical Therapy, Robert Hesselgesser, Doran Keeley, Joyce Martin, Donna Peters, Calvin Rippey and A. Pauline Kelly, all facilities and planning, Marion Kennedy, art department, Mark McGarvey, printing services, Kimberley Tissue, Admissions Office, and Evelyn Weiss, Student Accounts.

10-year service pins were presented to: Earl Collins, Anthony Colosimo, Donald Martin, John Resek (recently retired) and Donald Green, all facilities and planning, Bette Hutchison and Elizabeth Stevens, both Admissions Office, Anthony Linnan, Career Services, Lori Kay Ludwig, Residence Life/Education, Lawrence McFeely, central receiving, Brian Rutter, Campus Recreation, Jodi Ann Solito, Health Services.

SRU Student Health Services earns reaccreditation

Kristina Benkeser Chiprean, director of Student Health Services at Slippery Rock University's McLachlan Student Health Center, has announced that Student Health Services has earned another accreditation from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care.

Status as an accredited organization means the student health services program has passed a series of rigorous and nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care set by the association.

SRU's Student Health Services, the first accredited health service in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, has maintained its accreditation status for more than 10 years. Only 10 Pennsylvania university health centers have met the rigorous standards to achieve accreditation.

"Accreditation underscores our long-standing commitment to providing the highest possible levels of quality care to the community we serve," Chiprean said. "We are pleased and proud to have our efforts recognized with this accreditation."

Ambulatory health care organizations seeking accreditation by the AAAHC undergo an extensive on-site, peer-based survey of its facilities and services. Not all ambulatory health care organizations seek accreditation; not all undergoing the on-site survey are granted accreditation.

Among the types of ambulatory health care organizations permitted to seek AAAHC accreditation are ambulatory and office-based surgery centers, single and multi-specialty group practices, college health centers, dental group practices, community health centers, occupational health centers and managed care organizations.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: Guthy Renker Fitness Flyer. Excellent condition, \$85. Square display case coffee table, \$45. Call 724-735-2911 after 5 p.m.

FOR SALE: 2004 Softail Standard Harley Davidson with lots of chrome, Vance & Hines exhaust pipes, detachable windshield and extra seat. 3,500 miles/excellent condition, must see to appreciate. \$15,000. Call 724-794-1161 after 5 p.m.

SlipperyRock
University™

www.SRU.edu
for a rock solid education

rockpride is produced by the Office of University Public Relations, 201 Old Main, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 724-738-2091

Slippery Rock University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution
A member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education