

Rock Calendar

Listings taken from the
SRU Master Calendar of Events.

Today, Sept. 14

SRU Council of Trustees
1:30 p.m., Room 304 Old Main

Family and Friends Weekend
(Continues through Sunday)

SGA movie: Spiderman 3
7 p.m., McKay Education Building

SRU Performing Arts Series
Shanghai Circus Acrobats of China
7:30 p.m., Miller Auditorium. Sold out

Saturday, Sept. 15

VillageFest, downtown and on campus
Events in areas near Old Main
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 16

Heritage Festival
Outside Old Main, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SRU field hockey hosts Bellarmine
5 p.m., N. Kerr Thompson Stadium

Monday, Sept. 17

Men's soccer hosts Shippensburg
3 p.m., N. Kerr Thompson Stadium

Tuesday, Sept. 18

State of America
6 p.m., Advanced Technology and Science Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Field hockey hosts IUP
4 p.m., N. Kerr Thompson Stadium

Parliamentary Procedure Workshop
4 p.m., University Union

UPB: Slam Poet Carlos G
6 p.m., University Union

Jungle Escape, 6 p.m., University Union

SGA movie: Spiderman 3
7 p.m., McKay Education Building

Thursday, Sept. 20

Union Design open meeting
11:30 a.m., University Union

Memorial Service: Claudia Balach
7 p.m., University Union

Women's soccer hosts IUP
7 p.m., N. Kerr Thompson Stadium

Glenn Utsch piano recital
7:30 p.m., Swope Music Hall

rockpride

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A newsletter for faculty, staff and friends of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

President outlines SRU initiatives; welcomes new faculty for '07-08

In an Academic Assembly address filled with new initiatives and affirmations why "It's a great time to be at Slippery Rock University," President Robert Smith welcomed nearly 40 new faculty members to campus.



President Smith

The annual address, which formally opens the academic year, was Sept. 6 in Swope Music Hall.

Included in Smith's list of major initiatives was one of "using the year to encourage more course instruction about diversity within our curriculum."

Smith said, "We have given special attention to recruitment and retention of students of color and have significantly increased the presence of African-American and Latino students as well as faculty... The Office of the President will offer an instructional grant program to all faculty interested in increasing the course content they devote to diversity issues within their courses." Smith said

there would be a workshop on the issue during Professional Development Day set Oct. 9.

Herman Jones, associate professor of social work, criminology and criminal justice, is leading a committee designed to increase student preparedness for handling diversity issues. Smith said the program would give students with limited experiences with issues of diversity the skills necessary to succeed in a pluralistic world.

(See Academic Assembly page 4)

'Annie Mouse' back with new issue for parent, children discussion

Annie Mouse is back, and she's got parents and their children talking.

Annie Mouse is the lead character in what is now Slippery Rock University Professor Anne M. Slanina's two-book series designed to initiate discussion of sensitive family issues.

Slanina, an associate professor of elementary education and early childhood, wrote her first book in what she plans to be a multi-book series in 2005. Her latest edition, "Annie Mouse: Baby Brother Goes to the Hospital," is again intended to help young children deal with difficult situations and keep lines of communication with their parents open.

Slanina will sign copies of her books at Saturday's VillageFest in Slippery Rock.

The latest edition, primarily written for those ages 2 through 8, is illustrated by Alicia Agnew, an SRU elementary education major from New Castle. Students in Mark Chase's spring "Publication Production II" class at SRU handled layout for the book assembled at Mechling Book Bindery in Chicora.



Anne Slanina

(See Slanina page 4)

Disaster Mitigation Planning Committee meets Thursday

The Slippery Rock University Disaster Resistant University/Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday in the University Union to review current plans and accept public comment.

The committee began development of the plan in November 2006 to help guide the University toward greater disaster resistance in the event of a local or regional emergency. "The goal is to be better prepared to deal with hazards and disasters," said John Bonando, committee chair and assistant vice president for student life at SRU.

When completed, the plan will provide for efficient and rapid recovery efforts, thus restoring vital services following a disaster.

For a copy of the latest plan, contact Bonando at Ext. 2728. Those unable to attend are invited to submit comments in writing.

Musical memorial salutes faculty member's mother

The Slippery Rock University music department will offer a free "Bebop and Birds" concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday as a memorial to Velda Graham, mother of Stacey Steele, assistant professor of music.

The concert is set for Swope Music Hall. Family members, including Stacey Steele, on flute, Terry Steele, retired associate professor of music, on saxophone and clarinet, and their son, Andy, on percussion, will be joined by additional family members and friends.

Performing will be Nanette Solomon, professor of music, on piano, Warren Davidson, music instructor, David Glover, assistant professor of music, and SRU alumni Nicole Steele, on percussion, and Kim Heim, on piccolo. Therese Fetter, from the University of Northern Iowa, John Fetter, of the Eastman School of Music, Kathy Judd, of Washington, D.C., will play violin. Jack Graham, of the University of Northern Iowa, will conduct.

To register for emergency alerts
visit: www.sru.edu
Click: "Emergency Alerts"



PROMOTING SRU SAFETY: President Robert Smith was interviewed by Amber Nicotra, anchor for WKBN-TV, Channel 27's, "First News This Morning," Labor Day morning about Slippery Rock University's new Emergency Alert System. Smith explained the need and advantages of the system and the University's continued expansion of safety measures. Faculty, staff and students can sign up for the cell phone alerts by visiting the SRU homepage.

Rock Dollars program records robust launch

If the first eight days are any indication, Slippery Rock University students, faculty and staff are giving the new Rock Dollars program a big "thumbs up."

Rock Dollars is a declining balance program the University has operated for years. Users deposit money in an account and then draw against the balance to purchase goods and services. Using Rock Dollars eliminates the need to carry cash, a feature today's tech-savvy students say fits their lifestyle.

Working with Heartland Payment Systems, SRU expanded the program this year to allow the use of Rock Dollars both on and off campus via the campus ID card or a contactless chip that can be attached to a cell phone.

"In the first eight days of the program, we processed just under \$100,000 in Rock Dollars sales and around 9,200 transactions at merchants (on and off campus). Our biggest day thus far was 1,347 transactions," said Barry Welsch of Heartland Payment Systems who headed up the project implementation. "The transaction volumes have been growing, and we expect them to grow even faster as more merchants come on line."

On campus Rock Dollars may be used at the bookstore, dining halls, vending machines, resident laundry services and library copy machines. Off-campus merchants accepting Rock Dollars include: Luigi's Restaurant; B&J Coney Island; North Country Brewery; Subway of Slippery Rock; Ya Ya Nails; Domino's Pizza – Slippery Rock; Giant Eagle; Ginger Hill; Fox's Pizza Den; The Hair Studio; Slippery Rock Sportswear; En Lai Chinese Buffet; Sheetz – Slippery Rock; Tattoo U. Body Art Studio; Coffaro's Pizza Inc.; R&S Sevins Tire Service; Keights Koffee and Allied Dental Group. Vendors in the process of adding the program include: Rite Aid – Slippery Rock; Brickhouse Restaurant – Butler; and Campadres Mexican Restaurant.

Women's soccer team retains national ranking

The women's soccer team earned a No. 5 ranking in this week's National Soccer Coaches Association of America national poll. The Rock team, owners of a 6-1 overall record and division-leading 4-0 mark in PSAC-Western Division action, is ranked fifth in the NSCAA's Northeast Regional poll.

Other sport highlights include:

- The men's cross country team is ranked eighth in the latest U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Division II national poll, while the women's team is ranked 20th;
- The football team is 2-0;
- The men's soccer team (4-2-1 overall, 3-1-1 PSAC) has won four straight games and is unbeaten in its last five games;
- The women's volleyball team has an 8-4 overall record and is 0-1 in PSAC-West action.

'Tallgrass Gothic' opens student theater season

The first show of the Slippery Rock University theater department's 2007-2008 season is Minnesota playwright Melanie Marnich's romantic tragedy "Tallgrass Gothic," a haunting story of obsessive love. The play is based, in part, on the brutal British Jacobean tragedy "The Changeling."

David Skeele, professor of theater, directs the production which is set in the Great Plains where a young wife develops a crush on her neighbor, then is trapped by lust and vengeance.



The play has been described as, "Part gothic romance, part horror story and part 'Macbeth,'" a brutal drama that exposes the intoxication of new love and the consequences of desire."

At the play's center is Laura, played by Deanna Brookens of Slippery Rock, whose drive, passion and instincts are awakened when her love for one man is threatened by her fear of another. The rules of this isolated place make reason impossible. Her solution is found in a person who provides a violent resolution, Skeele said.

"Tallgrass Gothic," intended for mature audiences, premiered at the 2004 Humana Festival.

Others cast members are Erin Berger of Beaver, Nicholas Ciesielski of Bridgeville, Dan Cummins and B.A. Vahabzadeh, both of Pittsburgh, and Dennis Whalen of Evans City.

Gordon Phetteplace, associate professor of theater, is scenic and lighting designer; Rebecca Morrice, assistant professor of theater, is costume designer; and John Pivetz is technical director. Aaron Thurston of Homer City is properties master; Brookens is makeup designer; and Alex McNeill of New Castle is stage manager, with Andrea Carlin of Montrose and Lisbeth Wells-Pratt of Slippery Rock as assistants.

Curtains are at 8 p.m. Sept. 28-29 and Oct. 1-3, with a 2 p.m. matinee Sept. 30 in Miller Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for SRU students and \$10 for the general public. Reservations for the 90-minute show may be made in person from 1-2 p.m. weekdays beginning Sept. 17 at the Miller Auditorium Box Office, or by calling Ext. 2645.



MTV COMES TO SRU: Several Slippery Rock University students experienced a fantasy come true recently – the chance to be in a music video. The students worked with the North Carolina pop band Farewell which shot its video on campus. Director Danny Yourd (center) of Pittsburgh-based Endeavor Media, used the students as extras in a classroom scene shot in Strain Behavioral Science Building. "First One On the Blog" is scheduled to be released in early October to correspond with Farewell's new album.

Nursing Academy selects SRU professor as national fellow; induction set Sept. 26-29

Ramona Nelson, SRU professor of nursing, has been named a fellow in the Academy of Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing. In selecting Nelson, the 115-year-old professional association cited her "sustained and significant contribution to nursing education."

Nelson, a pioneer in the use of technology in nursing education, will be inducted during the League's Sept. 26-29 summit in Phoenix. She joins the ranks of other fellows from New York University, the University of North Carolina and the University of Cincinnati.

The League, headquartered in New York City, champions the pursuit of excellence in nursing education. As the voice of nursing education, it has 23,000 individual and 1,100 institutional members.

"I am pleased to be honored by my peers," said Nelson, who also serves as SRU's nursing department chair. "I am proud of our department and believe we have impacted healthcare by preparing highly skilled nurses who are prepared to implement the latest developments in the field."

Nelson, a professor at SRU since 1994, was a nursing informatics innovator. Nursing informatics combines concepts from computer, information and nursing science to create innovative approaches to the delivery of healthcare education.

She developed one of the first courses in nursing informatics at the undergraduate level, which began as an elective at the University of Pittsburgh in 1988 and continues today as a required course. As Web-based distance education began to evolve, Nelson took a leadership role in developing and promoting best practices in online learning.

"She recognized the importance of technology at a time when computers in clinical and educational settings were in their infancy," said Robert Smith, president of the University.

Nelson, who has a master's of nursing and Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Pittsburgh, began her own informatics studies in 1988 by earning a master's degree in information science. She then pursued post-doctoral work in nursing informatics at the University of Utah. With this solid foundation, Nelson then began a tireless campaign to educate others about the importance of informatics in education and service.

She has presented at national and international conferences, including the Rutgers International Computer Conference and the International Medical Informatics Conference. She also published a practical book "Introduction to Computers for Health Care Professionals," now in its fourth edition, and a comprehensive book "Healthcare Informatics: An Interdisciplinary Approach." In addition to being used at SRU, this book has been adopted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of South Florida and Duke University Medical Center, among others.

TAKING THE OATH: Windy Stafford, a 10-year veteran of University Police and a 2000 SRU graduate, took the oath of office Thursday and was sworn in as assistant chief by President Robert Smith. Stafford joined the 16-member department as a police officer in 1997 and has been promoted to lieutenant and captain before reaching the assistant chief's post.



Academic Assembly (Continued from page 1)

In outlining the initiative, Jones said, “I want to do this; I have to do this; we have to do this. We will have a series of small group conversations about the issues that inhibit our efforts to have open discussion of sensitive issues.”

Smith told the assembly of SRU’s recent recognition as No. 5 in the Consumers Digest “Best Value” rankings and inclusion as a “Best College in the Northeast” by the Princeton Review. The review gathers its information directly from students. “This is testimony to how our students report to the nation their experience at Slippery Rock University.”

He thanked those involved in making the Slippery Rock University experience favorable to students, including the recent Week of Welcome move in.

Included in the University’s accolades were the facts that enrollment is up, retention is up and diversity and inclusiveness are at 10-year highs. Official enrollment figures will be available next week.

Smith said the University would continue its aggressive pursuit of three, key strategic objectives: Increasing the value of the SRU degree, including expansion of the undergraduate research program; continued progress in establishing SRU as Pennsylvania’s premier, undergraduate residential university; and expanding resource development.

Specific plans for meeting those goals include a new series of retiring faculty seminars, an academic poster competition Oct. 4 and initiating what Smith called “Angel Funding” for entrepreneurial faculty and faculty/student team projects. As part of the Angel Funding plan, Smith said \$25,000 is available to aspiring entrepreneurial ventures. The project is being undertaken in collaboration with SRU’s School of Business.

In building the residential community, Smith outlined plans for the deconstruction of Bard and Harner halls as well as refurbishing of Patterson for faculty offices while Vincent Science Hall is renovated. He pointed to the new Compass Program for students which is tied to SRU’s FYRST program. Compass events will involve leadership development, Greek life expansion and increased student involvement in the campus and community.

As part of resource development, Smith said, “Advancement, like enrollment, is everyone’s job. How we present this University to all of our constituents shapes the success we have in asking for their support. Your confidence as expressed by your support of the University convinces others that this is a worthy place for them to also invest their philanthropy.”

Noting that campus safety is an issue on every campus in the nation, Smith introduced Eric Holmes, the new, interim director of campus safety and security and urged faculty and students to join the newly instituted “Emergency Alert System.” Smith explained the new system allows for the near instantaneous dispatch of text messages to cell phones for those who have registered. Sign up can be quickly completed by visiting the SRU homepage, then clicking “Sign Up for Emergency Alerts.”

“Keeping people informed is the key to safety on campus. Armed with the right information, people can act in prudent ways to protect themselves,” he said. He added, “Of course, my hope is that we will never have to use this system, but should we need it, it is available.”

Also addressing the assembly was Jace Condrary, SRU professor of English and president of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculty. William Williams, provost and vice president for academic affairs, served as master of ceremonies.

Slanina (Continued from page 1)

In the Mouse family, when Baby Brother is taken to the hospital for an operation, his brothers and sisters, jump to the conclusion he is being banished from the family and is being sent away as punishment.

“They go so far as to think the hospital crib is a cage and that the term ‘better’ means he will be ‘better behaved,’” said Slanina as she talks of how children often misinterpret overheard adult conversations.

“A major point in the book is suggesting to parents the importance of keeping their children, even very young children, informed during a family crisis,” Slanina said. She said children are usually aware of family situations, even when they don’t appear to be involved. She said they will “often make up their own version of events, in part, because they don’t have all the facts and don’t know how to get them.”

“My series is designed to open communication between children and their parents,” Slanina said. The first book, “Annie Mouse meets her Guardian Angel,” introduces Annie to young readers, and their parents, and the troubles Annie is experiencing with her mother who frequently yells at her. As a way of coping, Annie creates imaginary friends.

“Once I saw the success of the first book, I realized parents were looking for ways to open discussions and that was just what I had in mind. This book looks at another common family problem and allows readers and listeners to begin talking about it. My books are intended to be used as tools to help young children develop coping skills before a crisis emerges, develop empathy for others and guide young children through difficult situations. Hopefully, by using my books as ways to open discussion and seizing other opportunities, the lines of communication will become stronger between parents and their children,” Slanina said.

Slanina hopes the second book is as successful as the first. “Once I have had success with a few books, I hope a major publisher sees opportunities and makes the series available for national distribution.” Currently, Slanina is handling publishing under Annie Mouse Books Publishing. Copies are available at the SGA Bookstore in the University Union on campus, the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, and on the Web at www.anniemousebooks.com.