Quarterly Report  
To the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees  
December 3, 2010  
By Robert M. Smith, President

The eight weeks since our last meeting have been notable as we continue to refine the University Strategic Plan and prepare for our Middle States Commission on Higher Education review.

Dr. John Ettling, SUNY Plattsburg, visited campus October 17-19 to assess our preparation for the scheduled visit of March 20-23, 2011. Our assessment from his visit is that the campus is fully engaged and will be ready for the visit. Members of the Council need to stay abreast of our preparation for the review at: http://www.sru.edu/administration/middleStates/Pages/default.aspx. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress. You will receive a copy of the self-study report sometime in the next month.

We continue to receive recognitions in testimony to the expanding reputation of the University on the national scene. Here are some representative achievements:

- Slippery Rock University ranked tenth nationally among masters-degree granting institutions for the number of students participating in short-term study abroad programs and ranked 25th nationally for overall international experiences for undergraduates.

- Slippery Rock University was accepted as a founding member of the Presidents' Alliance, a 70-member organization working to improve student learning on U.S. campuses. The Alliance provides a national venue for model programs and effective strategies that promise positive change. One immediate result of our recognition was a feature on our web-based institutional accountability site that was distributed as an exceptional example of transparency to aid students and parents in making a college decision.

- Dr. Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio, Slippery Rock University dean of the College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts, received the Minority Achievement Award at the 35th Annual Minority Achiever's reception sponsored by Minority Opinion/Talk Magazine.

- Dr. Stephen Hawk was nominated for two Grammy awards, one for Best Jazz Instrumental Album, Individual or Group category for his work on the album "A New Promise," featuring Sheryl Bailey with the Three Rivers Jazz Orchestra in which he is co-leader. His second nomination came in the Jazz Category, Best Large Jazz Ensemble category for his work on "Pittsburgh Jazz Legacy - 21st Century Swing Band," on which he is a featured soloist and lead trumpeter.

- In athletics, several notable season performances culminated in the past eight weeks:
  - Jen Harpp placed third to earn All-Region honors and a trip to the National Championships and Crystal Burnick finished 11th to earn All-Region honors as The Rock placed third in the Atlantic Regional Championships, missing a team berth in the national meet by just six points. In the men's division, Brian Ulrich...
and Jason Leonard placed 26th and 27th to lead The Rock to a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Atlantic Regional Championships.

- Brandon Fusco, senior offensive center, was named as a national finalist for the eighth annual Gene Upshaw Division II Lineman of the Year Award. Brandon is ranked fourth among NFL Draft-eligible centers in the nation by CBSSports.com and is the only Division II player ranked in the top five draft prospects at any position. He is projected to be a fifth-round NFL draft pick.

- Slippery Rock University men’s soccer team had four players named to All-Region honors. Tom Pool and Patrick Conley were named to first team honors as defenders, while Greg Blum was named second team goalkeeper and Toby Bowser was named to the second team midfield.

- The women’s soccer team advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division II Tournament.

The University continues its commitment to diversify the campus and create an inclusive environment. This past month, we collected from an online community survey from faculty, staff and student to establish a baseline for campus climates related to the working, living and learning environment at Slippery Rock University. Under the direction of Jessamine Montero, Senior Diversity Officer, the survey will help us set a direction that will allow us to become an even more caring and supportive community. As of this report, 25% of the entire campus community responded, including 49% of the faculty and 46% of the staff. We hope to have preliminary results to you by our next Council meeting.

In mid-November we received the resignation of Trustee Nick DeRosa. Mr. DeRosa served the Council in two different eras for a total of 24 years. I was privileged to work with him for these past many years and will miss his dedication, counsel, and friendship. On behalf of the University administration, we wish Nick the best and thank him for his service to Slippery Rock University.