The Scope of RRE includes:

- Recent publications of faculty members and students (title, authors, and optional abstract)
- Recent research projects and grant acquisitions (title, authors, brief description)
- Recent conference presentations, performances, and exhibitions of faculty members and students
- Announcements of research related activities

The Policies of RRE are:

- Anyone can submit their information via email. Student submissions need to have a supporting letter or email from a faculty member
- The basic submission standards for the newsletter will be that the submitted material be legible, pertinent, and appropriate to present to the campus community
- Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their submissions. Newsletter editors and SRU will NOT be responsible for the verification of the submitted information

Contact Information:

rockresearchexpo@sru.edu
SRU is in the business of transforming people. Our recently reframed university-wide student learning outcomes announce our intent to ensure that, by the time students graduate, among other things they will be able to:

- communicate effectively
- think critically
- be scientifically literate
- reason quantitatively
- be creative

There are multiple ways to achieve these outcomes. Some involve research and creative activity. Of these, one is for students to learn from teacher-scholars in the classroom about the research or creative process, and how faculty members have gone about their craft. At a more engaged level, students act as apprentices, learning by doing on joint projects with professors. The ultimate experience is for students to conduct independent research or creative activity. Thereby, students learn to explore previous work, think critically about it, provide creative alternatives, and disseminate findings.

The Rock Research Expo (RRE) celebrates certain of the impressive research and creative accomplishments of our teacher-scholar faculty members. They enrich the education our students receive, in some cases serving as illustrations of the research and creative enterprise. Also featured are examples of the work generated through collaboration with students. Publications, presentations, performances and exhibitions to colleagues at SRU and to external audiences are all included.

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FEATURE STORY

Troops to Teachers:

College of Education Grant

Dr. Keith Dils, the Dean of the College of Education, wrote with Dr. David Bell, the Associate Dean of West Chester University, a grant to secure funds for the project on Troops to Teachers. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) awarded this grant for the amount of $272,000 to cover expenses for the duration of nine months. Dr. Dils is responsible for receiving and distributing the funds for the program activities. This allows former members of the US Armed Forces with a Bachelor's degree (in math, science, foreign languages, or related degree) to earn teacher certification through the College of Education at Slippery Rock University or West Chester University.

Dr. Monique Alexander (Elementary and Early Childhood Education Assistant Professor) is the director of the Troops to Teachers program. SRU student teacher supervisors will go out to the classroom field placement and supervise the student teachers in training with a cooperative teacher. Dr. Michael Vetere is recruiting service members (by visiting the army reserves and contacting appropriate personnel) for this program. Dr. Vetere is also the liaison for the schools, helping to secure student teaching placements.

Students in this program also receive sufficient training to successfully complete the Praxis and other CORE tests from Butler County Community College. The grant fund provides money for students to be able to take these courses. However, the grant fund does not cover the fees and books for these courses. This facet can be covered via the GI Bill, depending on veteran eligibility.

Program Highlights

• Students are provided with two instructional coaches, advisors, and other additional support throughout the
program.

- Tuition is paid via the GI Bill if the veteran is eligible. Stipends and signing bonuses are also available. Additional information and eligibility requirements are available from the Slippery Rock University College of Education website.
- Students will earn a teaching certificate through this program.
- Students will receive assistance in securing teaching jobs after completion of this program.

To send applications for this program:
1. Submit SRU application:
   https://mybanner.sru.edu/PROD/bwskalog.P_DispLog
2. Register by submitting the Proud to Serve Again application. http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/
3. For additional information, contact Dr. Edwin Christmann, SRU Chairperson Secondary and Foundation of Education Department at edwin.christmann@sru.edu

Course Schedule
The program will operate via two satellite university locations and will take one year to complete. The students will take a total of 39 credit hours. Classes will take place pre-session 2018 to spring 2019 with a full year student teaching placement. The program will have 4 weeks of pre-field experience (starting from May 2018). Then the students will take four courses online over the summer of 2018. In the fall, students will take their methods courses, and will also be student teaching simultaneously. The students will graduate in the spring semester of 2019, following full-time student teaching in the spring.

- Pre-Session 2018 Semester: Field experience
- Summer 2018 Semester: Four online courses
- Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 Semesters: Full-year residency as a student teacher + one online course

To get more information on the Troops to Teachers program, former members of the US Armed Forces with a bachelor's degree in math, science, foreign languages or related degree can visit the Slippery Rock University website at:
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Ambrosio, N. (Department of Dance)


Abstract:
Red coloration is a conspicuous feature of many visual signals and can function to attract or deter its viewers. Among fishes, red is associated with specialized nuptial, territorial and aposmatic (warning) displays. Both sexes of the firemouth cichlid fish Thorichthys meeki develop red ventral coloration at sexual maturity, along with temporally variable black (melanic) elements. Isolated adult firemouth cichlids sequentially presented paired dummy and paired video conspecifics, both with and without red ventral coloration. Subjects interacted more with red-containing stimuli, but with a significant interaction: dummy presentations revealed a strong, positive red bias that video presentations did not. In addition, the melanic color pattern displayed by subjects at the initiation of each trial had a significant effect on subject responsiveness. These results reveal the potential for between-subject differences and experimental design parameters to interact critically in the study of animal color patterns.


Abstract:
Hedge Funds: Structure, Strategies, and Performance provides a synthesis of the theoretical and empirical literature on this intriguing, complex, and frequently misunderstood topic. The book dispels some common misconceptions of hedge funds, showing that they are not a monolithic asset class but pursue highly diverse strategies. Among the core issues addressed are how hedge funds are structured and how they work, hedge fund strategies, leading research issues in this investment, and the latest trends and developments.

Chapter 21 “Issues in Hedge Fund Research” presents various issues in hedge fund research: data issues, performance measurement biases, and challenges in hedge fund activism research. Finding information on hedge funds, their trading strategies, and their performance is one of the biggest challenges faced by financial economists in hedge fund research. Hedge funds are usually structured as private limited partnerships that are not regulated by the Investment Company Act of 1940 or mutual fund regulations. They also use complex trading strategies and financial instruments such as derivatives, short sales, investor activism, merger and statistical arbitrage, and computer automated algorithms. Such nontransparent and complex nature of hedge funds pose significant challenges for researchers and investors as discussed in details in this chapter.

Abstract:

This article provides concise documentation of the ongoing retreat of glaciers, along with the implications that the ice loss presents, as well as suggestions for geoscience educators to better convey this story to both students and citizens. We present the retreat of glaciers—the loss of ice—as emblematic of the recent, rapid contraction of the cryosphere. Satellites are useful for assessing the loss of ice across regions with the passage of time. Ground-based glaciology, particularly through the study of ice cores, can record the history of environmental conditions present during the existence of a glacier. Repeat photography vividly displays the rapid retreat of glaciers that is characteristic across the planet. This loss of ice has implications to rising sea level, greater susceptibility to dryness in places where people rely upon rivers delivering melt water resources, and to the destruction of natural environmental archives that were held within the ice. Warming of the atmosphere due to rising concentrations of greenhouse gases released by the combustion of fossil fuels is causing this retreat. We highlight multimedia productions that are useful for teaching this story effectively. As geoscience educators, we attempt to present the best scholarship as accurately and eloquently as we can, to address the core challenge of conveying the magnitude of anthropogenic impacts, while also encouraging optimistic determination on the part of students, coupled to an increasingly informed citizenry. We assert that understanding human perturbation of nature, then choosing to engage in thoughtful science-based decision-making, is a wise choice. This topic comprised “Savor the Cryosphere,” a Pardee Keynote Symposium at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, for which the GSA recorded supporting interviews and a webinar.


**Hadley, S. (Department of Music)**


**Loveland, J. (Department of Biology)** (2017) “Hands Down- upper extremity challenges that can occur in individuals with diabetes” (feature article), *OT Practice*, 22 (8), 8-13.

**Melago, K.A. (Department of Music)**


regional climate model under global warming scenarios of 1.5 °C and 2.0 °C in the Tarim River Basin, China,” *Atmospheric Research*, 196, 119-128.


**Ambrosio, N. (Department of Dance)**
- (2017) created *Cinco Canciones Populares Argentinas*, a quartet for four dance majors featuring music by composer Alberto Ginastera and performed by music professor Colleen Gray and professor emeritus Nanette Kaplan Solomon. It was performed at the Succop Theatre, Butler, PA, 2017.
- (2018) served as the rehearsal director for a year-long project featuring the work of internationally-known choreographer Bill T. Jones. *D-Man in the Waters*, a dance created in the 1980s in response to a dance company member who died of the AIDS virus, is a dynamically charged dance for nine dancers, restaged for SRU dancers by Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company member Jenna Reigel.


**Boerger, E. (Department of Psychology)**
- (2017) “Social adjustment in college among former bullies and non-bullies: Relations among social cognition, moral identity, and friendship...


Covey, W. (Department of English)


Abstract:
This workshop provided participants with the benefits of utilizing therapy dogs and crisis response dogs in their work with grieving children. Individual and group interventions were demonstrated utilizing certified crisis response dogs. Participants were also given practical strategies to utilize when incorporating therapy dogs into treatment with children.


Abstract:
This workshop provided participants with the physical, cognitive, emotional and behavioral benefits of using therapy dogs in their social work practice. Types of animal-assisted interventions were introduced and demonstrated. Applications to individual, group and crisis intervention were discussed.


Summary:
This qualitative study looked at sentencing hearings (n=54) held in either problem-solving or traditional courtrooms. The analyses revealed several important themes regarding differences in discourse, including areas such as subject matter, tone, and participation. This study suggests a multi-faceted approach to the quality of
discourse that may substantially influence the offender’s receptiveness and motivation to change.


Summary:
This qualitative research examines offenders’ (N=49) expression of relationships in the workplace. These perceptions are also compared to job outcomes, criminogenic thinking & behaviors, and offending. The findings support assertions that perceptions of workplace relationships are important to rehabilitative efforts, as well as imply the importance of effective cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) regarding workplace issues and prompt the consideration of the employer’s role.


Fleming, B., Zeltner, M. (Department of Communication), and Crichton, J. (2017) “To converge or not converge? That is the question,” presentation at the Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Association National Conference, October 25-29, Dallas, TX.


Hadley, S. (Department of Music)
- (2017) “Continuing the Conversations: Doing Race in Music Therapy,” CMTE with Demeko Freeman, MT-BC; Marisol Norris, MA, MT-BC; Michael Viegas, PhD, LCAT, MT-BC; Ming Yuan Low, MA, MT-BC; at the MAR-AMTA Conference, Rochester, NY, March 16.

Hartmann, H. (Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment)

Helmick, J. (Department of Music)

Helmick, J. and Melago, K. (Department of Music)


Kovacs, I., Liu, W., Hull, E. (Department of Physical and Health Education)

Krayesky, D.M. (Department of Biology)


http://www.sru.edu/academics/research/rock-research-expo


Liu, W., Hull, E., Kovacs, I. (Department of Physical and Health Education)

Liu, W., Kovacs, I., Hull, E. (Department of Physical and Health Education)


Loveland, J. (Department of Biology) (2017) “Student anxiety in health care professional programs: How to identify, address and assist learners who are uneasy and uncertain,” poster presentation at the American Occupational Therapy Association Mental Health Specialty Conference, Indianapolis, IN, September 15-16.


Macmillan, S. (Department of Art)
- (2018) presented the Teaching on Tap Workshop “Project Based Learning with Sean Macmillan.” This workshop highlighted the traditional approach to a typical Art project assignment and gave examples on how each step of the creative learning process coincides with traditional Project-Based Learning techniques. February.
Melago, K.A., Eisenreich, C. (Department of Music), Johnston, M. (the owner of ALRY Publications), Johnson, R. (Eastern Illinois University), Torres, E. (Muskingham and Ohio Northern Universities), Hartsough, P. (SRU alumna), Smith, K. (music major at The Ohio State University), Meade, T. (alumni of University of Northern Iowa), Oberweiser, M. (music major at The Ohio State University), Goodman, K. (Otterbein University), and Brown, C. (Department of Music Major) (2017) “The Music of Stephen Barr” -- Performance of Stephen Barr’s “Prayer and Elegy” and “Sunburst Flight” (the first piece was performed by K.A. Melago, C. Eisenreich, C. and M. Johnston only), at the National Flute Association Annual Convention in Minneapolis, MN, August 9-12.


Shidemantine, G.I. (Biology Major), Falso M.S. (Department of Biology), Beeching, S.C. (Department of Biology), Pasquale, V.E. (Biology Major), Campbell, Z.I. (Biology Major), Falso, P.G. (Department of Biology) (2018) “Assessment of Exposure to the Pesticide Imidacloprid on Amphibian Development,” poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, San Francisco, California. January 3-7.


Sparrow, T. (Department of Philosophy)

Thomas, R. E. W. (Department of Parks, Conservation and Recreational Therapy)

- (2018) “Your piece of the puzzle. Keynote address,” presented at the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry’s Butler County Private Landowner’s Convention, Butler County Community College. (This was an invited keynote presentation.)


Westman, B. (Department of Art)

- (2018) Three students from the Advanced Printmaking class abstracts accepted for the National Council on Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Central Oklahoma, OK, April.
- (2018) Art Department Faculty exhibition, Martha Gault Art Gallery, SRU.
"Color on White," Barbara Westman's collages expressing her interest in the relationship between colors. Open to the public in the library's Third Floor Manderino Gallery, Mon-Fri, 8a-4p. An associate professor of printmaking and fiber art at Slippery Rock University, Westman's work consists of her recollections, memories and observations, brushed into radiant colors and offset by a signature white background. Drawing upon her environment for inspiration, Westman followed a process she calls "deconstructing and reconstructing" in order to record her images. "The deconstruction and then reconstruction allows me to create a new environment with no gravity and no limits of the physical world," said Westman. "The outcome is oftentimes just a far impression of the observed world."

- (2017) “Impressions in Red,” exhibitions, Old Stone House; This exhibition was a result of the 3th year of the International Fiber Art Studios Collaboration between SRU and Academy of Fine Arts, Gdańsk, Poland. Students and faculty in both Fiber Art Studios worked on one assignment. The results of their work were exhibited together at the exhibitions in Poland and U.S.


**RECENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND ACCOLADES**

Ambrosio, N. (Department of Dance) (2018) has been elected as Vice-President to the Board of Directors for the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School.

Cooklin, K. (Department of Philosophy)
- (2017) Invited to be a Session Chair at the Association of Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Conference: Decolonizing and Indigenizing Feminist Philosophy, Clearwater, FL. October 5-8.
- (2017) Attended sessions at the following conferences at the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, Toronto, ON. May 27-June 2.
  o The Canadian Philosophical Association Conference;
  o Women’s and Gender Studies et Recherche Féministes Conference;
  o Sexuality Studies Association Conference.
- (2017) Principal Investigator, “Slippery Rock University Deliberative Democracy Project on Economic Inequality,” received a $1,000 grant from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The event included SRU students and community experts on economic inequality in the region and was held on the SRU campus April, 2017.

Eaton-Stull, Y. (Department of Public Health & Social Work)
- (2017) along with Social Work majors/Animal-Assisted minors Cassandra Spirnok and Maura Vulakovich are conducting research entitled Animal-Assisted Stress/Anxiety Group for Incarcerated Males at the State Correctional Institute at Mercer. Weekly
educational group interventions include two therapy dogs. Goals of this intervention include decreasing anxiety and increasing coping. September, 2017-May, 2018.

- (2017) was awarded a $1,000 Community Engagement Partnership grant. This grant is a collaboration with a community agency, the Human Service Center (HSC) in New Castle, PA. This grant is being utilized to provide educational group materials and resources which the agency will be able to utilize to assist the clients served. Additionally, Social Work students learning about group intervention will benefit by being able to utilize these materials and gain valuable firsthand experience providing groups with the assistance of the HSC staff.

Forbes, W.M., Strain, J. (Department of Biology), and Moye, D. (Department of Biology Major) (2017) “An Investigation of the Anti-Neospora caninum Activity of Eryngial, In Vitro,” awarded by SRU Grants for Student Research, Scholarly or Creative Achievement Program for the amount of $500.00 on Dec. 7, 2017. This award will go towards the purchase of consumables. Forbes, W.M. and Strain, J. (Department of Biology) are the collaborating Biology faculty.

- (2017) received the Norton Undergraduate Research Scholarship award on Dec. 8, 2017 in the amount of $500.00 (as the undergraduate student who will be working on the research project entitled, “The Effect of Eryngial on Neosporum caninum In Vitro”). The $500 scholarship will be applied to Ms. Moye’s student account toward her educational costs. Ms. Moye will be working on this project with the faculty members Forbes, W.M. and Strain, J. (Department of Biology). As a recipient of the Norton Undergraduate Research Scholarship, Ms. Moye will be recognized at the Academic Honors and Student Leadership Convocation on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Westman, B. (Department of Art)
- (2018) selected by the Art Department faculty members for the President’s Award for Scholarly and Creative Achievement.
- (2017) “Book-Not-Book,” Organized and co-curated 4th International Fiber Art Studios Collaborative Project exhibition. This collaboration involves students and art faculty in the Fiber Art Studios at Slippery Rock University and Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk, Poland.
The First exhibition took place in Poland at Station Culture in Rumia, June 21 – June 30, 2017. The SRU student participants: Ashli Barron, Anna Custer, Marion Kennedy, Chloe Matrascia, Travis Sallack, Kaitlin Cliber, David Gordon, Alyssa Pauletich, Nicolette Wakefield, Alexis Walker, Caitlin Guillot, Julia Rismiller and Barbara Westman.


• (2017) Completed the Elena Ulyanova Natural Dyeing & Printing Course, July 17 – 18, 2017. This two day intensive course covered natural dying processes on textiles and paper.


• (2017) Juror for The Scholastic Art Awards for the Pittsburgh Region. Invited to be the speaker at the Awards Ceremony at La Roche College, Pittsburgh. Over 1,800 artworks submitted.

• (2017) selected by the students and the Art Department faculty members for the Excellence in Teaching Award.
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the Rock Research Expo?**
   The Rock Research Expo (RRE) is an annual newsletter that keeps our campus informed of the scholarly endeavors and potential research opportunities for faculty and students.

2. **Why is it important to participate?**
   The RRE shares, across disciplines throughout campus, new knowledge being gained through both faculty and student research. Additionally, the RRE serves to promote academic communication, collaboration, and a success-driven environment of learning for faculty and students.

3. **What types of submissions are appropriate?**
   - Recent publications by faculty members and students
   - Research projects and grant acquisition information (title, authors, brief description)
   - Recent presentations, performances, and exhibitions by faculty and students

4. **How do I submit my information?**
   Faculty and students (with faculty letter of support) may submit their information via email to: rockresearchexpo@sru.edu.

5. **When is the deadline to submit?**
   Submission deadline for the newsletter is February 28.

6. **When will the next issue be published?**
   The newsletter is published annually after spring break.

7. **How should I cite my submission?**
   Use whatever citation format is standard for your field of study. A short abstract may be included, if desired.

Please make sure to include the name of your department. See the example below.
