

I am The **ROCK**

Patrick Burkhart

Job: Associate professor of geography, geology and the environment.

Joined University: January 1998.

Background: I'm an outdoor enthusiast, who cut my teeth teaching as a cross-country ski instructor, whitewater river guide and rock-climbing guide in the 1980's. Then, I transferred my passion for the earth into a career as a professor, throttling students to better understand planet earth with the hope that they might develop a reverence for nature and an ethical commitment to the future. I love to teach tolerance for diversity – including people, thoughts and behaviors – excepting laziness and underachievement.

Interests: Fun with the family, wilderness travel, hiking, climbing, skiing, paddling, natural and human history, splitting wood and rocking in front of the wood stove while toasting hand-crafted brew with friends.

Last book read: 'Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment,' by Sandra Steingraber.

Why I work at The Rock: I have a unique opportunity to work, learn, teach, travel, recreate, and serve in a great job, whose description I would rate as 10 of 10. I travel around the world and learn its secrets, taking pretty photos, often leading students on these expeditions. Then, the photos and stories are used to inspire other folks to engage in a similar manner. SRU has a stellar combination of green curricula, undergraduate research, outdoor adventures, and a great academic department – geography, geology, and the environment. I am lucky to have a job that I love; one which is inspiring and fun, most of the time.

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