

# I am The ROCK

## Deb Cohen

**JOB:** Professor of modern languages and cultures. I chair the department and like the challenge of organizing schedules, but my real joy comes from teaching. My theatre background helps with the performance strategies I use in the classroom.

**JOINED SRU:** 1993.

**BACKGROUND:** I grew up in Erie, so after living in New England, the Midwest and California, it was refreshing to come back to the region. I had worked in the travel industry out of college, but eventually I earned my doctorate in Latin American theatre in 1991 from the University of Kansas and learned that I love to teach.

**INTERESTS:** I am a life-long language learner. I speak five conversationally – English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and ‘Spanglish’ – and have studied Russian and German. My creative outlet in football season is to create weekly Steelers-themed desserts.

**PERSON I WOULD MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH:** I know I’m only supposed to pick one person, but I would like to have a seat at the Algonquin Round Table for an afternoon instead, and see if my wit matches up with Dorothy Parker.

**WHY I WORK AT THE ROCK:** What started out as a temporary position has turned into a serious commitment. Because SRU practices shared governance, I became active in the faculty and coaches’ union, including serving on the executive committee since 2006. I also like the atmosphere here, in that although we are a mid-sized state University, we provide the same individual attention often reserved for students of small private colleges.

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