



# I am The ROCK

## Dean Denicola

**Job:** Professor of biology.

**Joined SRU:** 1992.

**Background:** I grew up on Long Island, but also spent a lot of time in New England. I have a bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont, a master's degree from the University of Maine and obtained a doctorate in freshwater ecology from Oregon State University. Like many undergraduate biology majors, I thought I wanted to go to medical school, but then took a course in limnology, the study of inland waters. I have been interested in the ecology of streams and lakes ever since.

**Interests:** Mostly I try and keep up with my 7-year-old old son. Also, I have been an avid runner since I was 15. Other than that, I read books set in the 1920-30's and collect Myrna Loy movie posters.

**Person(s)I would like to have dinner with:** Lunch with writer Dorothy Parker and friends at the Algonquin Round Table.

**Why I work at The Rock:** Slippery Rock University has a good mix of teaching and research, with several strong environmental programs. I love the intellectual challenge of doing research that contributes to the understanding of freshwater ecosystems. My position at SRU also has allowed me to maintain an active research program involving undergraduates, in which I can be much more directly involved than someone at a research one university. Additionally, I greatly enjoy the many outdoor labs I teach, where students get hands-on experience doing field experiments in ecology.

SlipperyRock  
University<sup>SM</sup>