

I am The **ROCK**

Colleen Gray

Job: Associate professor of music.

Joined SRU: 1991.

Background: I was born in Natrona Heights and, except for a year in Colorado when I was 3, grew up in Sarver. After graduating from Knoch High School, I attended West Chester University for a degree in music education. I taught music for three years, first at Freeport High School and then Mars Elementary School, and then left public school work to perform and teach privately while raising my daughter, Rebecca, and son, Lee. I continued my voice studies earning a master's degree in vocal performance from Duquesne University, a performance certificate in Italy with Accademia Vocale di Lucca, and completing an apprenticeship with the Pittsburgh Opera. Since starting at SRU, I have earned a doctorate in vocal performance and literature from West Virginia University.

Interests: I love cooking and hosting events for family and friends. I grew up on horses, so horseback riding any chance I get, preferably bareback.

Person I would most like to have dinner with: Billy Graham. He has had a tremendous impact on my life.

Why I work at the Rock: I love working with the blend of voice students we get at The Rock. They are tremendously talented without the huge egos often found in the conservatories. I never tire of seeing the students grow as they explore their vocal capabilities and their art. It is so gratifying to know that I have helped to give them the tools for a lifetime of music that they can share to better their little piece of the world.

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