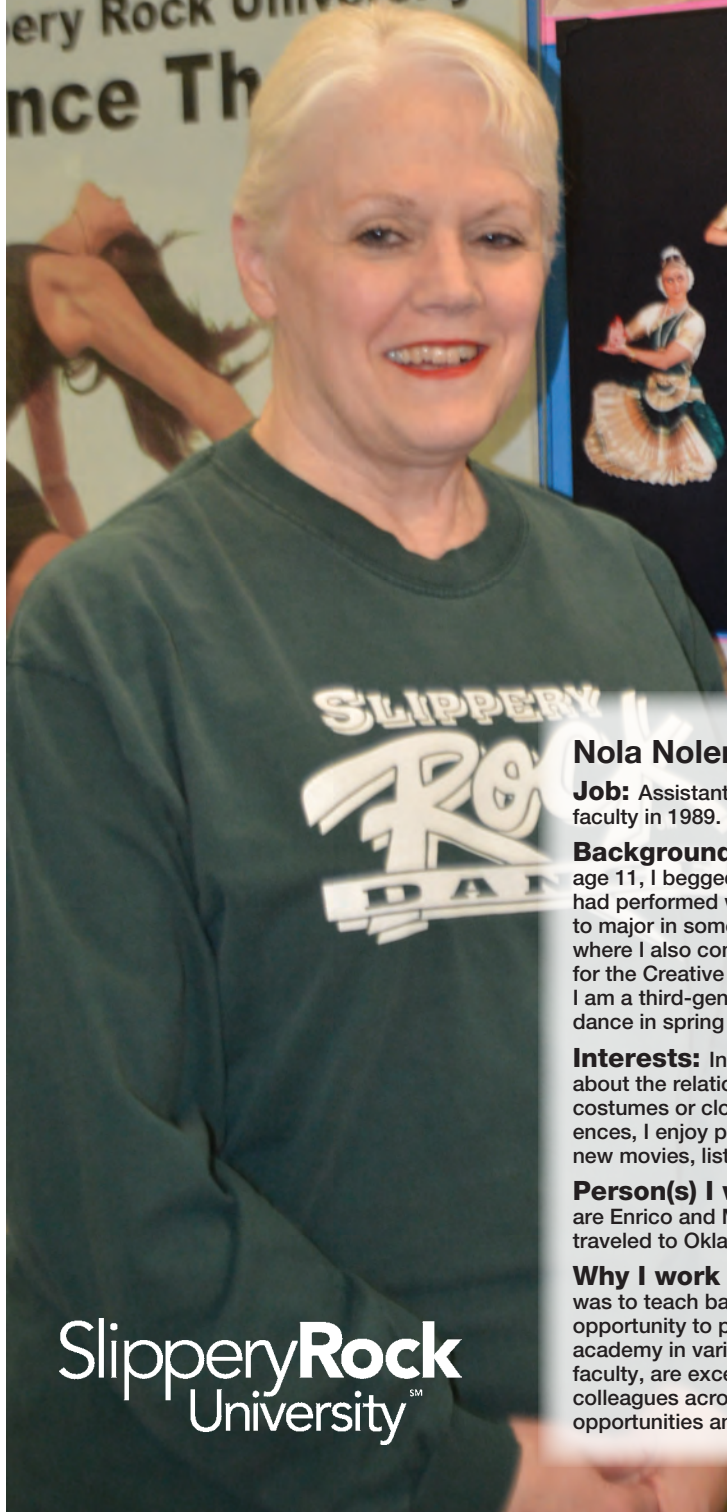


# I am The ROCK

Slippery Rock University  
Dance Th



## Nola Nolen Holland

**Job:** Assistant professor of dance who began as a quarter-time temporary faculty in 1989.

**Background:** My father took me to my first dance classes when I was 2. By age 11, I begged my parents to allow me to study ballet with professionals who had performed with the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo. My parents begged me to major in something other than ballet pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma, where I also completed a MFA. I taught seven years at the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts while I was simultaneously teaching at SRU. I am a third-generation educator who will complete my 35th year of teaching dance in spring 2013.

**Interests:** In addition to choreographic research, researching and writing about the relationship of music and dance, designing and constructing dance costumes or clothing and introducing students to international dance experiences, I enjoy playing the piano and singing, reading, swimming, sailing, seeing new movies, listening to new music and exploring the world at every chance.

**Person(s) I would like to have dinner with:** From a list of 50, four are Enrico and Mary Bernardo, my Cherokee great-great-great grandmother who traveled to Oklahoma via the Trail of Tears, and Barack Obama.

**Why I work at The Rock:** Originally, I began working at SRU thinking it was to teach ballet. But the job has become so much more. I have had the opportunity to practice being a lifelong learner and to be an active member of the academy in varied capacities. The SRU dance program, students, staff and faculty, are exceptional – and nationally and internationally recognized. My colleagues across the campus make Slippery Rock University a place of great opportunities and possibilities.

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