

# I am The ROCK

## Ursula Payne

**Job:** Professor of dance.

**Joined SRU:** August 1996.

**Background:** I was born in Charlotte, N.C., to educators James and Octavia Payne. My father is deceased. After completing my master of fine arts at The Ohio State University, I moved to New York City and co-founded Mills and Payne Dance Co. and worked at the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies. I received advanced training and certification from the institute. Since 2002, I have been on faculty at the American Dance Festival hosted by Duke University.

**Interests:** Traveling, writing, reading, watching scary movies and fine dining.

**Person(s) I'd like to have dinner:** President Obama and Condoleezza Rice.

**Why I work at Slippery Rock University:** Slippery Rock University and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enthusiastically support the preservation and optimal maintenance of the dance program at SRU. Our program is highly regarded in the country for attracting, educating and graduating excellent undergraduates. The passion that students observe in my teaching and mentorship of their creative work is genuine and reflects my own commitment to research and professional development. Throughout my career, I have traveled to more than 20 countries in addition to successfully completing numerous guest artist residencies, master classes, workshops and commissions of original choreography.

SlipperyRock  
University<sup>SM</sup>