

I am The ROCK

Kurt Pitluga

Job: Assistant professor of art.

Joined SRU: 1996.

Background: I grew up in upstate New York and western Pennsylvania. I earned my bachelor's degree in art history from Edinboro University and my master's degree and doctorate in art history at Pennsylvania State University. I taught for several years as a temporary faculty member at IUP, the University of Arkansas and Mesa State College before being hired at SRU. I am a fourth-generation university professor and this just seemed like the right career path for me.

Interests: I have a passion for painting, and wish I was better at it. I love to cook and have done so since I was 15. I have spent the last 17 years restoring a house on Normal Avenue in Slippery Rock that was built in 1896. Because of my interest in architectural restoration, I have become somewhat of a packrat, collecting everything from old windows to decorative doorknobs.

Person (s) I would like to have dinner with: Jeff Bridges and Jackson Pollock, an American abstract expressionist painter.

Why I work at The Rock: My father taught at Edinboro University for 30 years, and I was well-aware of the emphasis placed on teaching excellence at the state universities. Upon being hired into the art department at SRU, I felt part of the art community here on campus. I am now the senior faculty member in my department and the tradition of a caring and creative art community still survives at The Rock. Geographically, I have traveled to many places in the world and I still think western Pennsylvania is one of the most beautiful places I have been.

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