

# I am The ROCK

## Mark Shotwell

**Job:** Associate professor of biology.

**Joined SRU:** 1993.

**Background:** My educational odyssey took me from Ohio University, where I received my bachelor of science degree in botany, to the University of Michigan for my Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology, to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto for a postdoctoral fellowship, to Purdue University – another postdoctoral fellowship – and finally to the University of Arizona. It was there that I finally gained the teaching experience to be able to come to Slippery Rock University to be the biology department's geneticist.

**Interests:** Listening to music, mostly Celtic and English folk right now, reading about American history, especially the Civil War and the eugenics era, playing the drums, rooting for losing teams and above all else, learning to be a first-time father.

**Person(s) I would like to have dinner with:** Charles Darwin, Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, H.L. Mencken and Thomas Jefferson.

**Why I work at The Rock:** This is what I tell job applicants during their interviews here: SRU is an ideal place because it is small enough for the faculty to really get to know the students, both inside and outside the classroom, and to interact with other faculty across the campus. But at the same time, it's big enough that there is always something happening on campus, whether a sporting event, a musical recital, a dance concert or a theater performance. To top it off, many buildings have recently been renovated, including my beloved Vincent Science Center, almost all the residence halls are new and the phenomenal Smith Student Center has just opened.

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