

I am The **ROCK**

Sam Thangiah

Job: Teaching introductory, intermediate and advanced computer science courses in the Slippery Rock University department of computer science. The courses range from 'Introduction to Computer Literacy' to 'Artificial Intelligence' and 'Robotics.'

Joined University: 1991.

Background: I obtained my Ph.D. in computer science with a specialization in artificial intelligence and operations research. Worked for a year with a company in developing biologically inspired intelligent algorithms for routing Tomahawk missiles. After joining SRU in 1991, I obtained a grant from the National Science Foundation to create an Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory for SRU undergraduates. In addition to providing a venue for teaching courses in artificial intelligence, robotics and machine learning and other advanced computer science courses, more than 50 undergraduate students have conducted research in the labs and presented and published in national and international conference proceedings and academic journals. Two SRU students have continued on to complete their Ph.D. in operations research.

Interests: Spending time with my five month old, listening to Pink Floyd and Jethro Tull, scuba diving and development of intelligent heuristics to solve complex school bus routing problems.

Last book read: 'The Matarese Circle' by Robert Ludlum

Why I work at The Rock: I like to work at The Rock because I get to work with highly motivated students who are excited about learning and conducting research into robotics, artificial intelligence and operations research.

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