

A woman with long, wavy brown hair and glasses is looking slightly to the left. She is wearing a light pink top. Behind her is a black bookshelf filled with various books. The text 'I am The ROCK' is overlaid on the top left of the image. 'I am' is in a white script font, 'The' is in a blue block font, and 'ROCK' is in a large, bold, pink block font.

# I am The ROCK

## Deborah Wells

**Job:** professor elementary education/early childhood development.

**Joined SRU:** 1987.

**Background:** I grew up in Alabama and taught for several years in a rural school district. One of my greatest accomplishments is teaching so many children how to read. I earned a doctorate from Arizona State University. For many years, I lived in a house in Slippery Rock that was ordered from a catalog and arrived as a kit – ready for assembly. I currently live in a house not far from campus near a creek. I am married, with a daughter, two cats, a collie dog and a cockatiel.

**Interests:** I enjoy reading, and I'm lucky enough in my job that I can even read children's books as part of my classes. I like to spend time with family, and I'm fortunate that my father lives on the Florida Gulf Coast, and my mother lives near the Outer Banks. I like to keep my hands busy so I dabble in making quilts, beadwork and playing piano.

**Person I would most like to have dinner with:**

Emma Guffey Miller. She was such a forward-looking woman – she founded the Democratic Women's Club, spoke out against religious and racial intolerance, and even worked for prohibition reform. Plus, I would like to find out if Miller Auditorium is really haunted by her ghost.

**Why I work at the Rock:** This is the only university job I've had, and it's always interesting. I've been here long enough that I am starting to have the children of my former students enrolled in my classes. I guess their grandchildren will be next. There's so much history and so much yet to come – I like the continuity and community we all share.

SlipperyRock  
University<sup>SM</sup>