

I am The ROCK

Junko Yamamoto

Job: Assistant professor secondary education/foundations of education.

Joined SRU: August 2005.

Background: I grew up in Kyoto, Japan. When I was in high school, I thought I wanted to get a job immediately after graduating high school. Therefore I took a vocational track to study accounting. However, I ended up taking a scholarship to study business at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto. My husband, Jeff, was an offensive line coach for Ritsumeikan's football team, and I immigrated to the U.S. after marrying him. Jeff and I both attended the University of Pittsburgh for a teaching certificate in Japanese language. I taught Japanese at Shady Side Academy Junior School and Mt. Lebanon High School. Since my doctorate from Duquesne University was in instructional technologies, SRU originally hired me to teach instructional technologies. Eventually, the job description widened for the fields of world languages and English language learners.

Interests: Studying languages and testing them out is fun. I've been to China, Singapore, Korea, Italy, Romania, Austria and Portugal. I also research sacred music. I am a member of Church Music Association of America and sing for St. Peter Parish in Slippery Rock.

Person(s) I would most like to have dinner with: Josh Groban and David Foster – music performance for dessert.

Why I work at The Rock: Students make it rewarding for me. They are ready as soon as I walk into the classroom. They complete homework so the class activities are meaningful. Students help each other here so everyone will be successful. Also, it is very rewarding to see teacher candidates making an impact on their students' learning during field practicum and student teaching.

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