

President approves \$1 million for series of academic initiatives

President Smith reports SRU will spend an additional \$1 million to fund a series of academic initiatives designed to compliment the new university goals and immediate instructional needs of the university's colleges.

The president's announcement came as part of the regular quarterly meeting of the university's council of trustees. Smith said:

- \$500,000 would go for instructional equipment requests allocated across the colleges
- \$50,000 would be used to expand faculty-student research initiatives
- \$38,000 for assessment initiatives
- \$50,000 for technology/distance education program development
- \$155,000 for a computer laboratory and distance education classroom at a new site in Cranberry
- \$167,000 for a new bachelor of science in information technology approved by trustees.

The lease for the new Cranberry site, which is currently under review, calls for 5,000-square-foot of classroom and administration space. The new facility will make use of distance-learning classes where possible and will offer a state-of-the-art computer laboratory linked to SRU's Bailey Library — and the libraries of the 13 other State System of Higher Education universities.

Rick Comings, director of SRU's Off-Campus Programs, reports the new facility is expected to open in the fall.

Among the programs already slated for the new site are:

- Certificate in accounting
- Bachelor of science degree in applied science
- Bachelor of science degree in nursing
- Master of science in nursing
- Master of science in public administration

- Master of arts degree in English (professional writing track)
- A 15-credit, graduate certificate educational leadership program
- A 12-credit, undergraduate school nurse certification program.

Smith said the overall spending plan had been submitted by Dr. Anne Griffiths, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"It is my belief and the belief of our academic affairs council that these initiatives will have a significant impact on the learning environment for our faculty and students," Smith said, adding the funds would come from academic affairs resources and university reserves.

In addressing academic initiatives already under way, Smith said, "Not only is Slippery Rock University undergoing a thorough self-examination, we are reaching out to others as never before." As examples, he cited the newly approved Academic Passport Program, which makes it convenient to move from two-year campuses to SRU and other state system universities; and the Keystone Library Network, a collaborative venture combining resources of all system libraries. The network provides 24-hour access to library resources to all students with Internet capabilities.

Mystical music, dance of Tibet entertains, educates hundreds at SRU

"The Mystical Music and Dance of Tibet" offered sacred Tibetan music, dance and chant for healing, when a group of 16 Drikung Kagyu monks visited campus to entertain and educate hundreds with public performances on the SRU campus.

The three-day March visit was part of the group's "World Peace Tour" which began in December in an effort by the Council for Religious and Cultural Affairs of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, His Holiness the Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche, which is sponsoring the Drikung Kagyu monk troupe. The group was also accompanied by a senior Drikung Kagyu Bajra-master, a tantric master adept in esoteric tantric practice.

The group performed, lectured and offered workshops during their visit.

The public program demonstrated the application of sacred Tibetan monastic arts for healing. It also encompassed an authentic performance of some of the most sacred tantric music, dance, percussion, deity sign language and parts of very secret tantric practices of the Drikung Kagyu tradition of Tibetan Buddhism used for healing.

While at SRU, the visiting monks were housed with local host families.

A visiting group of 16 Drikung Kagyu monks from Tibet performed before a capacity crowd in Miller Auditorium as part of their three-day visit to SRU. In addition to the public performance, the group offered an all-day workshop detailing "Healing Traditions of Tibet: Body, Mind and Heart" in the University Union.



Dr. George P. Brown awarded summer Fulbright-Hays honor to East Asia

Dr. George P. Brown, assistant professor of government and public affairs at SRU, has received a U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Award to attend a six-week seminar in Malaysia and Singapore in August.

Brown has also received a Sasakawa Fellowship to attend a National Faculty Development Institute on "Incorporating Japanese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum," sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to be held at San Diego State University.

The Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad program, titled "West Meets East in Malaysia and Singapore," is being conducted for the department by the Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange.

At SRU, Brown teaches international relations, comparative politics and courses on Chinese, Japanese and East Asian politics, and politics of developing areas. He is also chair of the SRU Asian Studies Faculty Group and adviser to the Interdisciplinary East Asian studies minor.

National leader selected as new SRU College of Education dean

An education leader nationally recognized for his experience in the assessment of school teachers and administrators has accepted the position as dean of the College of Education at SRU.

Dr. C. J. Hertzog will join the university July 1, coming from the chairmanship of the department of clinical and professional studies at Augusta State University.

"We are exceptionally pleased that Dr. Hertzog has agreed to lead our teacher education program at this critical time," said Dr. Anne Griffiths, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

An interview with Dr. Hertzog will be included in an upcoming issue of *The Rock Magazine*.

Dr. Albert E. Maltby subject of doctoral dissertation for SRU psychology grad

SRU graduate Eugene Coleman Ney used his time at SRU not only to study for degrees, but to consider the university's history. That interest was used last year at the University of Pittsburgh to complete his doctoral dissertation titled "Slippery Rock State Normal School 1890-1916: The Maltby Era."

The dissertation completion was part of the work required to earn his doctor of philosophy in education degree. He previously earned his undergraduate bachelor of science degree in psychology in 1985 and two master's degrees, one in counseling psychology ('88) and another in English ('90), at SRU.

LONGEST SERVING ADMINISTRATOR

The investigation chronicles the growth and development of Slippery Rock State Normal School under the administration of Albert Elias Maltby, Slippery Rock's second and longest serving administrator and who is the second longest tenured principal for any of the normal schools in Pennsylvania.

Ney, a son of Eugene and Dr. Diane Ney, SRU professor emeritus and founder of the university's nursing program, now living in Pittsburgh, explained he became interested in Dr. Maltby while a student at SRU. "Just about everyday I would walk from my residence hall to Isaly's downtown for lunch. I'd pass through Old Main and stop for a drink of water. Dr. Maltby's photograph hung right over the water fountain, and I thought he was a very interesting looking man. When I had to write a paper for a class, I wrote about Dr. Maltby — and my interest grew."

Before a recent remodeling project in Old Main's Lobby, photographs of all of SRU's presidents had hung there. The photos have been reframed and are included in the new Pennsylvania Room (former Alumni Room) of North Hall.

Ney recounts Maltby's life as a scientist, engineer, writer, teacher, poet and musician, and his 26 years of service as principal of what was then Slippery Rock State Normal School. The school that opened to train area students to be teachers and later became SRU opened

in 1889 with James E. Morrow as principal. Morrow, father of Anne Morrow who became the wife of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh, served only one year before Maltby took over the post.

USED NORMAL SCHOOL RECORDS

The research work uses a retrospective descriptive approach and makes extensive use of historical documents and normal school records from the Maltby era. In addition, data, reflecting existing trends and patterns of the day was collected and analyzed as the study sought to identify major determinants inherent in Maltby's administration of the school. It also examines the normal school milieu, which contributed to the growth and development of the normal school.

DR. WATSON'S BOOK

It also makes extensive use of SRU Dean of Academic Services Dr. Robert J. Watson's "Slippery Rock State College: The Legend Behind the Name," written in 1982, as well as newspaper clippings from the *Butler Eagle*. It also includes Maltby's initial letter of application for the principalship of the normal school. Ney found that under Maltby's leadership growth was reflected in student enrollment, the number of graduates, size of the faculty and in the number of campus buildings and the size of the campus. He found that Maltby oversaw the construction of more buildings on campus than any other SRU administrator.



Dr. Albert E. Maltby (center photo) was the subject of SRU graduate Dr. Eugene Coleman Ney's (left) doctoral dissertation at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Ney visited campus recently to present President Smith (right) with a copy of the work which details Maltby's 26 years of leadership of what was then Slippery Rock State Normal School.

SRU adds bikes to expand campus safety patrols

Three officers in the SRU police department make up the new volunteer “SRU Bike Force,” which is now providing campus patrols on 24-speed police mountain bikes, in addition to traditional cruiser patrols.

Following the arrival of equipment and new uniforms conducive to bike riding, the officers — John Shaffer, Chris Messina, and Roger Knight — began their campus patrols at the end of fall semester.

Eric Thomas, director of University Police, says officers are having more direct contact and interaction with those on campus. He says the bike officers are offering more visibility, and in many cases responding faster to emergency calls because they can take shortcuts and avoid traffic lights.

“In addition, since the officers will be more closely in contact and conversation with students, faculty, staff and campus visitors, we think we will be able to build an even better rapport with the community,” Thomas said.

The chief says similar bike patrols are being used in a number of big city communities for many of the same reasons. “We know that it is also being used on other college campuses, including West Chester, IUP, Clarion and California universities, where they have been very successful.

The chief says while the bike officers are being used, standard patrol car coverage of the campus is being retained. “There will be times when we need to have a patrol car handle emergencies that can’t be taken care of by the bike officers,” he said.

SRU police officers Christopher Messina and Roger Knight take a spin around SRU's Campus Loop as part of their new bike patrols. The officers are two of three who have volunteered for bike duty — a program designed to increase public contact with officers.



‘Teacher Job Fair’ brings teacher recruiter from 80 school districts

Recruiters from 80 school districts across the U.S. came to the SRU campus in April seeking teachers for next fall.

The all-day “Teacher Job Fair,” organized by SRU’s Office of Career Services, filled the University Union’s large Multi-Purpose Room.

A survey of recruiters found the vast majority pleased with the quality of students seeking jobs and offering such comments as, “Very impressed with the students,” “Slippery Rock University is doing a great job in preparing the students” and “Students were well prepared and presented a professional image.” Others urged the university to encourage more education majors to seek training in the teaching of math and science areas as well as social studies.

Carla Hart, director of Career Services, reports the fair was open to SRU education students as well as those from Grove City, Westminster and Thiel colleges and those at Duquesne University and other regional colleges and universities.

Participants had the chance to distribute their resumes to officials of school districts they are interested in teaching at and had a chance to talk with school recruiters seeking teachers for next fall.

Hart also explains that students were able to make use of a new “teacher recruitment clearing house system” that allows those seeking teaching jobs to submit their application on line for electronic distribution to more than 40 school districts in western Pennsylvania. In addition to the on-line application, supporting materials may be centrally submitted for electronic scanning and distribution to participating schools. “It is an exciting system that will allow those seeking teaching jobs to get their applications seen by more districts,” says Hart.

States which participated in the SRU event included Ohio, Florida, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North and South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.



Nancy Thomas Mickle stands behind a computer screen showing the "PILOT" homepage she named.

SRU librarian wins online system naming contest

Nancy Thomas Mickle, evening supervisor at SRU's Bailey Library and an SRU graduate, has won the contest to name the State System of Higher Education's shared online catalog system with her entry suggestion "PILOT" — an acronym for "Pennsylvania Inter-Library Online Technology."

Her entry was sent to Harrisburg last year in a contest open to students, staff and faculty at the 14 universities that comprise the state system.

Access to the system now known as "PILOT" is free to the public via Bailey Library's Internet home page. To make use of the system, visit SRU's home page at "www.sru.edu"; click on "Library"; then select "Library Catalog."

The "PILOT" Web page gives users access to the "Keystone Library Network."

2 long-time supporters die

Elmer "Tuggles" Gross, a member of the 1939 undefeated SRU football team, and C. Douglas Clinger, Sr., a former SRU professor and football coach, have died. Both were long-time supporters of SRU's athletic programs.

Mr. Gross, a member of the class of 1941, helped in establishing the NKT Scholarship, which now stands at \$268,000. His obituary in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette cited his years as a successful football coach and his work in inspiring others at Pittsburgh area schools. He was 84.

Mr. Clinger, a 1960 SRU graduate, had been a football defensive coordinator and professor of health and physical education at SRU for 22 years. He later served as executive of the Grove City Area United Way, before retiring in 1988. He was 68.

SRU education majors help 'whole lot of learning' take place at Slippery Rock middle school

Put some 75 Slippery Rock Middle School students — grades six through eight — and some 50 SRU education majors in a cafeteria after school, and a whole lot of learning goes on.

That is just the case with Dr. Sharon S. Coben's SRU/Middle School Partnership with the Slippery Rock School District.

Coben, an assistant special education professor at SRU, and Mary Jo English, a guidance counselor with the school district, worked out program details, which include having members of Coben's "Strategies for Learners with Mild Disabilities" class meet with the middle school students twice each week to offer mentoring and special help with homework.

Coben says the project pays double dividends. "Not only do the middle school students get the help they need with their schoolwork, my students get the chance to try hand-on learning techniques."

"This project, which has been under way since 1998, gives everyone involved the chance to improve their skills," she adds.

In outlining the collaborate, Coben notes that in addition to their regular class work at SRU, her students are assigned to help specific middle school students who want and need to improve their grades. The work can range from math, to English to social studies.

Heather Hohman, an SRU elementary and special education major from Monroeville who plans to graduate next December, is one of the mentor-teachers. She says, "I've been involved for the entire semester and have been working with five, seventh-grade girls. We work on their homework, including math — fractions and percentages.

In social studies, they are learning about ancient Greece, so we've studied that, and in English we work on grammar and spelling. Right now the students are learning to write letters, so we are working on the various forms of letters."

"The students quickly adapt to the program. They know we are here to work, and we get things done."

"The project helps the students get their homework done and creates a positive learning environment. The added reinforcement of having a mentor, helps them understand the importance of completing tasks," she adds.

Coben says she has been especially pleased with the involvement of the middle school faculty. "Several teachers stay after school to help their students and mine," she says.

During spring semester the program involves 72 middle school students and 45 SRU students, and 12 volunteer teachers. Fall semester saw about the same number of middle school students along with 60 SRU students who were enrolled in Coben's class.

Coben says she uses the first few minutes of her class to discuss strategies that are working for students in her class and to help those who are having difficulties in getting points across to their pupils. "It seems to work for everyone. Next fall we hope to apply for a State System of Higher Education Initiative Grant to obtain additional funding."

SRU's Dr. Sharon S. Coben, second from left, and Mary Jo English, guidance counselor at Slippery Rock Middle School, second from right, join SRU students in discussing how to better help middle school students complete homework assignments.

