

Department of Biology Advisory Board



[Christopher F. Cuff Ph.D.](#)

Professor

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Education Background:

B.S. Medical Technology (1982), Slippery Rock State College, Slippery Rock, PA.

MT(ASCP) Medical Technologist (1982), School of Medical Technology, The Bryn Mawr Hospital, Bryn Mawr, PA.

Ph.D. (1988) Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA.

My experience at Slippery Rock was formative both personally and professionally. My degree in Medical Technology enabled me to enter the workforce immediately after college and gain practical experience in medicine. This work experience, along with my strong training in medical microbiology and immunology, gave me a competitive edge for gaining entry into graduate school, and then being successful in my doctoral and postdoctoral training. My college experience at SRU directly impacted my ability to realize my core professional goal, which was to rise to the rank of a tenured professor on the faculty of a medical school.



[Rebekah M. Detrick Ph.D.](#)

Post Doc – Hatfull Lab

Department of Biological Sciences
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Education Background:

B.S. Biology (2004), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA.

Ph.D. (2009) Department of Biology, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

Slippery Rock University's Department of Biology offered courses that peaked my interest in microbiology and molecular biology, without which I would have never chosen my career path. My undergraduate research project further improved my ability to ask scientific questions and seek their answers in a laboratory setting. I was also able to sharpen my leadership skills by serving as the President of *Beta Beta Beta* the Biology Honorary.



Sonam Ruit DPM
Managing Partner
Martin Foot and Ankle
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Education Background:

B.S. Biology (2000), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA.

Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine (2004), Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

Residency (2007) - Hahnemann University Hospital/Drexel University School of Medicine, Foot and Ankle Surgery, Philadelphia, PA.

My life in the United States began as an SRU Biology Major in the Spring of 1996. I was fresh from Nepal as an International Student, lost in the American Culture. I remember my early struggles, asking more questions than having answers. I relied on the Department of Biology frequently when I had difficulties. The department and faculty members were always there when I needed them. As I look back now, I contribute most of my academic and professional successes to the SRU Department of Biology. They laid the foundation for me, not just to become academically sound but taught me the ropes of a strong work ethic, mentorship, discipline and above all caring and compassionate attitude. I am to this day; still indebted to all my Biology Professors at SRU in helping to shape me into who I am today. For that I am forever thankful.



Katie Graham-Roberts MPAS, PA-C
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Education Background:

B.S. Biology (2004), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA.

Masters in Physician Assistant Studies (2006), Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA.

My time with the Department of Biology at SRU was a stepping stone to great things. Not only was I well-prepared for graduate school, but I also made some great connections and met some lifelong friends.



Corina Wack Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Biology
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Education Background:

B.S. Biology (2002), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA.

M.S., Wildlife and Fisheries Ecology (2006), Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

Ph.D. Biological Sciences (2011), Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

The Department of Biology at SRU played a huge role in my academic success. The challenging coursework prepared me well for graduate school. I had a firm and broad foundation in biology and was well-prepared for my graduate-level courses at Oklahoma State University. Many of my fellow graduate students and graduate school professors were impressed with the level of statistical knowledge I attained while an undergraduate. I would recommend anyone considering a career in biology to seriously consider Slippery Rock University. The faculty are truly helpful and supportive. Their doors were never closed to me when I needed help. You have research opportunities at Slippery Rock University, similar to those found at larger institutions. However, unlike larger institutions, you are a person with a name, not just a face with a number. Your classes and laboratories will be taught by professors, not by teaching assistants. Your professors will know your name and truly care how well you succeed in their classes. Being a graduate of SRU certainly made the difference in my life.



Robert Felix MD

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Education Background:

B.S. Biology (1998), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA.

MD (2004), Drexel University, College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA.

USAF – Flight Surgeon

The greatest satisfaction I had in medical school was the look on some of my Ivy-League classmates' faces when I told them where I went for undergrad -a tenth of the price and yet we ended up at the same place. SRU gave me an excellent education, and I am eternally grateful to all of my professors. My second favorite satisfying moment, being the only student in class that could identify and provide the Latin names for the plants/fungi in a toxicology lecture. I owe a lot to the biology faculty at SRU. I am very satisfied with the education I received, your advice along the way and of course your friendship.



Shelby Ross, SPT

Doctor of Physical Therapy Student
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Education background:

B.S. Biology (2014), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA.

DPT Candidate (2nd year) Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

The curriculum of Slippery Rocks biology program well-prepared me for the challenging courses I have faced in Physical Therapy School. I was already accustomed to studying for lengthy, detailed essay tests and practicals, whereas my fellow classmates were experiencing these for the first time. Slippery Rocks 3+3 program allowed me to receive a thorough, well balanced undergraduate education, all the while accelerating my education to get to my end goal faster. I owe a large part of my success to the Biology departments' faculty and staff, who were always a strong support system for me. They always had my best interest in mind and pushed me to my fullest potential.



Kristin Bosiljevac (nee Adam)

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Educational Background:

B.S. Biology (2010), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

M.S. Secondary Education: Biology (2011), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

R.N. Diploma (2015), Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing, Pittsburgh, PA

Obtaining a biology degree from Slippery Rock University was a great educational path to take and has led me to the bright future I have today. Slippery Rock Biology provided me with the framework and knowledge to conquer any obstacle that has come my way.



Angela Hollis MD

Area Medical Director (July 2014)

MedExpress Urgent Care

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Educational Background:

B.S. Biology (1999), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

MD (2003), University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA

Residency (2003-2006) – Chief Resident (last year), Washington Hospital, Washington, PA

While living in Cheraw, SC, I spent 3 years working in a traditional family medicine role seeing patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings. After leaving the primary care position in 2009 I worked in an Urgent Care center and part time in a Community Mental Health Center practicing psychiatry in 2008. I moved back to Pennsylvania in 2012 and continue to see patients while handling provider issues in eight clinics in the surrounding area. I opted to go back to school in 2013 and plan to graduate with my Master's in Exercise Science and Health Promotion in the spring of 2015. I currently live in the Cranberry Township area with my two daughters. We enjoy camping, hiking, and various road trips. I remember my time at Slippery Rock very fondly. Having grown up in rural Western PA, the class sizes were ideal. Also, I had plans to go to medical school, which I knew was going to be rather costly. Slippery Rock provided the opportunity for an affordable quality education that put me at the same level as my med school colleagues that had graduated from great private universities such as Yale, Harvard, and Cornell. The professors at SRU are outstanding as well. They provide this quality education while still being approachable. I always had a great feeling of camaraderie at SRU and still refer to my Biology Department Family.



Tyler Bintrim

Wetland Biologist

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Educational Background:

B.S. Biology (2007), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

My education at SRU set the ball in motion for my professional career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Biology classes provided me with a breadth of knowledge and experience in wetlands which filled my resume and ultimately got me into Federal Clean Water Act permitting. Field application in the studies of ecology and wetland delineation peaked my interest and gave me an alternative to the medical professions frequently associated with biology degrees.



Nicole C. Mincin
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Education Background:

B.S. Biology (2009), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

M.S. Secondary Education: Biology (2010), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

R.N. Diploma (2015), Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing, Pittsburgh, PA

Slippery Rock University's Biology Department offered courses that really let my interest in the sciences flourish. I was able to explore areas of the sciences that I never even realized that I enjoyed such as Plant Physiology and Biometry. The Biology Department offered many experiences that I will never forget, such as traveling to Churchill, Canada and studying Field Botany and Field Entomology there. SRU really laid down the foundation of my science background which continues to grow as I am currently in nursing school. The Biology Department taught me the value of a good work ethic, strong research skills, discipline, and an overall great attitude and outlook on life. Their challenging workload helped me be more organized and prepared me for furthering my education. Many of my instructors and previous lab supervisor since graduating compliment me on my strong drive for success and yearning for knowledge and experience, which I owe to the SRU Biology Department. I really enjoyed my time spent with the Biology Department at SRU. All the professors were always there to help me when needed and were very interested in the success of the students. They were more like a family to me than my professors. I felt that I really mattered to them and I just wasn't a number, but I was a face with a name that they all knew. They take the time to teach and be sure that you understand. I never felt uncomfortable going to them with any questions that I had. I have gained a lot of friendships throughout my time spent with the SRU Biology Department that I am forever grateful for.



Richard Andrews
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Education Background:

B.A. Biology (1997), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

M.S. Secondary Education: Biology (1998), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

I found no gaps in my preparation for teaching secondary education biology.



Evan J. Legenzoff PharmD
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Staff Pharmacist
Associate Professor
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Education Background:

B.S. Biology (2003), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

Pharm.D. (2006), Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
(LECOM) School of Pharmacy

The education I received from Slippery Rock and the Department of Biology gave me the background and core knowledge for the steps that I was preparing to take in the future. There isn't any part of my career that hasn't reflected a portion of my learning at the Rock.



Nathaniel Kapaldo
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Candidate
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Education Background:

B.S. Biology (2013), Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA.

DVM candidate, KSU-CVM, Manhattan, KS

My educational experience at Slippery Rock University (SRU) is one of the more pivotal time periods in my academic career. There are two aspects of the program that are of direct influence to my success. First, the curriculum and faculty are not only focused on specific learning objectives but more importantly, they gear their focus towards teaching students how to critically think and assimilate information. This is of significant importance and separates those who superficially learn and those who can integrate and understand concepts to a degree that far exceeds the former. Secondly, the faculty are more student oriented than just about any other program I have had interactions with, this making a significantly positive impact on myself during my time at SRU.



Alishia A. Hepak D.C.
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Education Background:

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Doctor of Chiropractic (2013), Sherman College of Chiropractic,
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The education and experience I obtained from Slippery Rock University as a biology major fully prepared me in all areas that I needed and more for graduate school. The challenging curriculum gave me a strong work ethic and taught me how to manage my time in order to be successful both inside and outside of school. After graduating from SRU, I was very confident and felt extremely prepared for graduate school. Being a biology student, I had a very solid background in many different areas of biology and chemistry, which helped me excel when I furthered my education. Throughout chiropractic school I had to take a great deal of very challenging science classes, but being that I was already accustomed and familiar with these types of classes I excelled graduating *Magna Cum Laude*. The staff and faculty of SRU's Biology Department are very committed to their students and were more like a family to me and the other students. They were always very willing to help in any way they could even if it meant taking extra time out of their day to explain things more thoroughly so that we understood the material completely. With the smaller class sizes, faculty knew each student by their first name and it also enabled students to get more one-on-one attention if they ever had questions or needed help. After graduating from SRU, I was able to stay in contact with much of the Biology Department who are always excited and interested to hear how their alumni are doing and still there to offer any advice if ever needed.