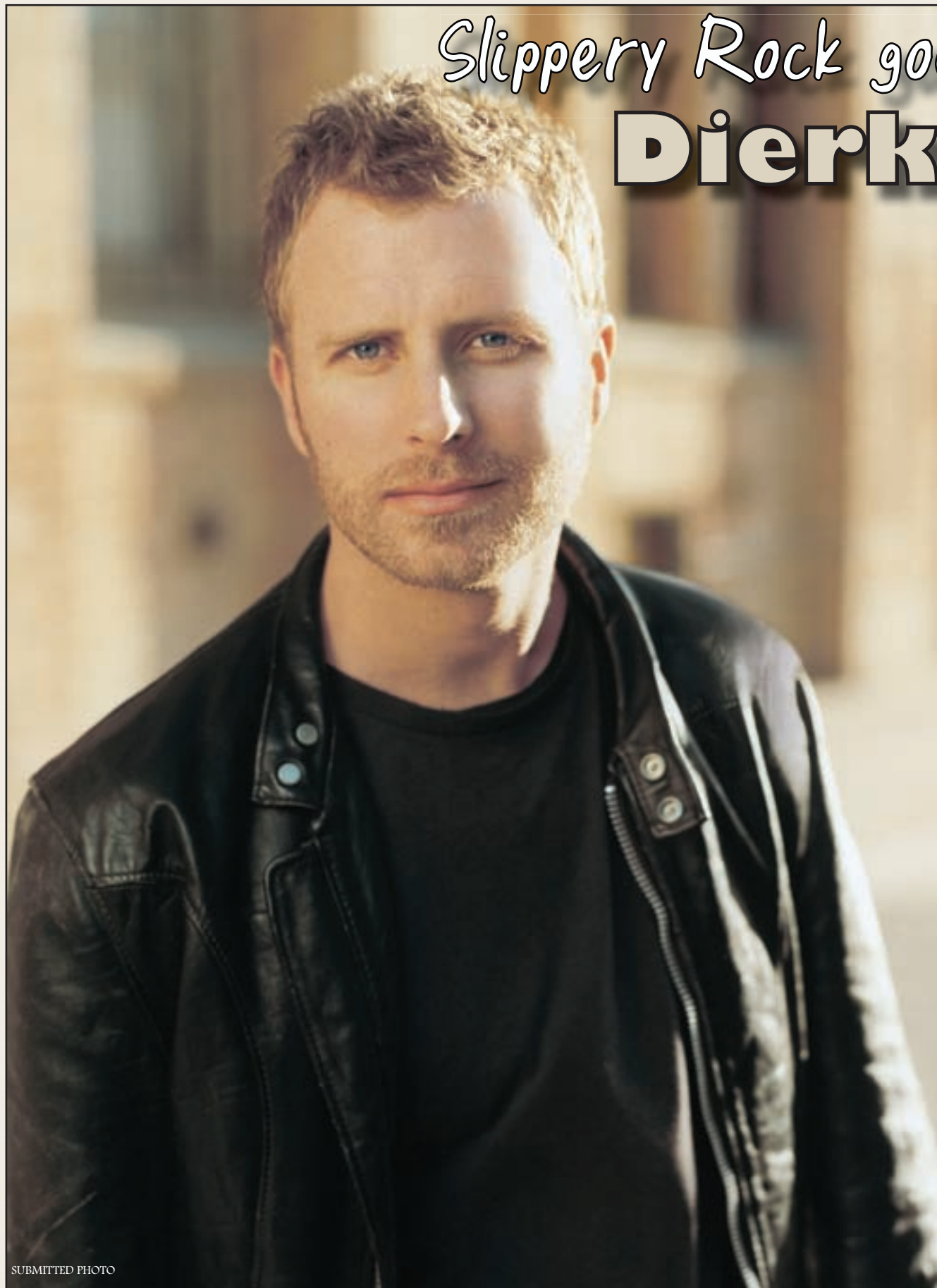


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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Slippery Rock goes country with... **Dierks Bentley**

By Amy Kelly
Rocket Staff

and

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Rocket Staff

It's time for a little bit of country, now that SRU's had a little bit of rock 'n' roll.

The University Program Board's first spring concert act, a performance from the band Mae, will be followed up this weekend with a show from country singer Dierks Bentley.

Bentley will be performing at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Aebersold Recreation Center. Tickets are \$20 for SRU students and \$30 for non-students.

"I feel so blessed to be doing what I do," the 32-year-old Bentley said. "Getting on stage and playing music is the biggest blast. Every night feels bigger than the one before."

Born in Phoenix on Nov. 20, 1975, Bentley said he found his love for country music at the age of 17 after a friend sang Hank Williams Jr.'s "Man to Man."

After years of performing songs in local bars, clubs and honkytonks (small country music clubs), Bentley was discovered and signed by the Capitol Nashville record label.

In 2003, his self-titled album was released and his debut song "What Was I Thinkin'" went to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks for the year.

Although he has been performing at large venues since 2003, Bentley still likes to get back to the places he started singing at, he said.

"I love performing at college campuses because that is where we (the band) started from," he said. "Sometimes it's hard getting to smaller venues because we have four semi trucks and two buses, but when we can, we do."

Currently, Bentley is promoting his third album with Capitol Nashville, "Long Trip Alone."

"I love singing and writing my own songs because they are songs that you can relate to," Bentley said. "I just keep enjoying the journey."

UPB Vice President of Major Events Rusty Rocus said that around 1,200 tickets have already been sold for the

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English instructor has work selected for top-10 fantasy novel list

By David Rueda
Rocket Contributor

The work of one of SRU's own faculty members was recently named one of the top 10 fantasy novels of the year.

English department instructor Randall Silvis, who was hailed by The New York Times as a "masterful storyteller," has published 10 books, sold six projects to Hollywood and has two screenplays in development—one of which already has a Hollywood producer and director attached to it.

His new novel, "In a Town Called Mundomuerto," has received praise from sfsite.com, a well-regarded Web site that reviews science fiction and fantasy novels. The reviewers placed the novel among its 10 best fantasy novels of the year.

"Silvis conjures village life out of the air and laces it with sights and sounds, tastes and textures till it bewitches your senses," wrote Sandy Auden, a reviewer for sfsite.com. "His lyrical prose is smooth, vivid and surprisingly delicate at times, drawing you effortlessly from scene to scene, and even the smallest

moments become timeless."

The novel tells the story of a small, peaceful Central American village, Mundosuave, which is stricken with hysteria and panic. The village later comes to be known as Mundomuerto, which translates to "dead earth."

The magical realism of the book is based on Mexican folklore that tells of dolphins transforming themselves into men in order to dance with the prettiest girl in a village, Lucia Luna, in Mundosuave's case. Silvis explained that the dolphin and Luna allegedly do a little more than

dancing, which eventually sparks the town's downfall. The story is told through the narration of an old man, Alberto, who used to be in love with Luna. He is recounting the legend to his grandson, who interjects many times through the story, adding in his own spin on the tale.

It took Silvis nearly 15 years to complete the 160-page novel.

Silvis explained that the title, which he found rife with possibilities, came to him first. It took him a couple years until he was finally struck with his main character, Lucia Luna.

"I just envisioned her sitting on

a boulder by the sea in her white dress," Silvis said. "She had the hem of her dress pushed down between her brown sturdy legs. I could clearly see her. So I had all of my main characters, but I still had no story."

It was not until a few years that his story finally began to take off. He was busying himself around the house when a television in the background caught his attention. It was showing a documentary on Jacques Cousteau that mentioned

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Political science prof recognized for 50 years of service

By Liz Glazier
Rocket Assistant Focus Editor

From New York City to SRU, Walter Powell has had quite the journey during his law and teaching career for the past 50 years.

And for his efforts, he was recently honored by the Butler County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Born in New York City, Powell, 79, grew up during the Great Depression. While still in high school, Powell joined the New York Guard in 1944. Two years later, he joined the Army Air Force and served for three years.

Because of the G.I. Bill that had been enacted in 1944, veterans were able to attend college for four years on a scholarship. As a result, Powell went to the University of Connecticut. In 1950, he entered the ROTC program during the Korean War. He was never sent to war but went on to receive his degree in political

science and history from the University of Connecticut in 1954.

"After graduating, I was hired as a clerk for Senator Abraham Ribicoff's law firm in Connecticut," Powell said. "It was there that I began doing court work."

During this time, Powell also started teaching social science courses in high schools in Connecticut. He then returned to the University of Connecticut to teach and went on to teach at several other colleges, including Central Michigan University and Springfield College in Massachusetts. All the courses he taught dealt with law and government.

While traveling to different teaching jobs in several states, Powell was working towards earning his law degree. He attended the University of Richmond Law School, the University of Connecticut Law School, took courses at the Western Reserve Law School in Cleveland and finally earned his law degree

at the Western New England School of Law in Springfield.

In 1965, Powell came to SRU.

"At the time, the college was called Slippery Rock State College and it was the first year they had a political science department," Powell said. "They were looking for someone who could teach law and political science."

In 1974, Powell was admitted to the Pennsylvania state's local and federal courts, meaning that he was first permitted at that time to practice law at both the local and federal court levels. He is also eligible to present cases before the U.S. Supreme Court but hasn't done so in his career.

All lawyers who want to practice law in Pennsylvania must become members of the state bar association, Powell explained.

"This group is responsible for regulating the

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STEVE REED/THE ROCKET
Walter Powell, a political science professor, was recently honored for his 50 years of work in law by the Butler County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association.