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THAT'S A WRAP!

Future holds new possibilities for grads

By Alyssa McCormick
Rocket Contributor

While the rest of the students are saying "see ya next year," graduating seniors are saying "so long" and "farewell" to the college lifestyle they been living for years, and "hello" to the real world as their final year at SRU comes to a close.

As students are preparing to leave SRU, some say they fondly look back on some of their most memorable moments throughout the years, and realize just how much they are going to miss.

"My most memorable moment was when I joined organizations on campus, for example SUMA and BAS, because it exposed me to things that I had not been a part of before," said senior social work major Jewelle Motley. "I am going to miss some of the people that I made acquaintances with, as well as my friends and some of my teachers."

Motley said she is excited about graduating because it's one step in her life that she can say is accomplished. She said she has an internship lined up for the summer and plans to go on to graduate school after she gets her undergraduate degree.

While new opportunities await seniors who have pushed through at least four years of undergraduate classes, some students are still hoping that their years at SRU will pay off in the form of a job in their major.

"I do not have a job in my major yet," said senior therapeutic recreation major Zach Hill. "I have to do an internship after graduation, but while doing my internship I will be working with my dad at his funeral home."

But undergraduates aren't the only ones graduating this month. Many graduate students, like the graduate assistant for residence hall environments,

William Yost, are also graduating and looking forward to starting a new chapter in their lives.

"I am excited to leave SRU because I have a great job and future plans lined up," Yost said. "However, I will miss SRU a lot, especially after living here for the past six years of my life (while completing) my undergraduate and graduate studies."

Yost said he plans to work as the coordinator of housing at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Others, like graduate student Heather Costello, who will be getting her MA in College Student Personnel, are not sure how they feel about leaving.

"I have mixed feelings about leaving SRU," Costello said. "I really value education and being able to focus on my own development, but now it is time for me to move from being a student to being a professional. Although taking on a new career and moving to a new location is an exciting adventure, I definitely

have concerns about putting it all together and taking on more responsibility. I am just going to cross my fingers and hope for the best."

Costello said she is searching for a job across the country for a position in student affairs.

And though graduation is a big deal for the students, it is also a big deal for professors who have watched their students grow and develop throughout their years at SRU.

"It's a very mixed feeling watching them go," said Jennifer Sanftner, an associate professor of psychology. "They grow and change so much over the four years they are here. It's wonderful to be able to be a part of that process, and it's very exciting seeing them accomplish so much. But then it is very sad to say goodbye. I (will) really miss some of them."

Though sometimes difficult, some professors said they feel proud knowing that they have played a role in helping the students reach their goals.

"I am amazed at the growth my students' experience," said Anne Slanina, an associate professor of elementary/early childhood education. "They come in looking like kids and leave as poised, confident educators. I am overjoyed for them when they have reached their goals and know that I had a small part to play in the realization of their dreams. I feel very proud of my students when they graduate."

Some students said they feel that they have really grown and have learned a lot, including how to do laundry, since they began as college freshmen.

"I think I have learned a lot about myself over the years," Costello said. "I think I am more independent than I used to be. I learned how to separate my goals from other influences.

I also learned to be persistent and not to brush long-term goals aside for short term goals."

Some students also said their years at SRU have helped them identify who they are by helping them to do things they otherwise would not have experienced.

"I think the most important thing I have learned was to step outside my comfort zone and to learn about all people, things, and ideas," Yost said. "Overall, this has helped me to identify who and what I am."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NATE DAYMUT/THE ROCKET

Textbook buy-back week brings high hopes for cash

By Liz Glazier
Rocket Contributor

To sell or not to sell? That seems to be the question these days.

Now that the semester is coming to an end, many students don't need their textbooks anymore.

Therefore, some students may start selling their books back to the bookstore, online or even to the "man in the van," all in the hopes of getting a good sum of money in return.

Ashley Smith, a 19 year-old art education major, said that she will only sell her books back in certain situations.

"If it's an older book I usually just wait to sell them online," Smith said. "But if I want some fast cash then I try to go to the bookstore and see if they will buy them back for a decent price."

Others, like Ryan Ambrose, don't wish to sell their books back anymore.

"I used to sell my books, but now they mostly deal directly with my major so I keep them all," said Ambrose, a 20 year-old junior political science major.

Others, like Brady Reichart, a 20-year-old sophomore secondary education major, were hoping to sell their books to the bookstore, but realized it may not happen.

"I'm trying to sell them back but they most likely won't take them because they are all edition books," Reichart said. "So I'll probably then just try to sell them to the man in the van."

So who is this man in the van that some people have heard of and do, in fact, sell their books to him and plan on continuing to do so?

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Summer classes give students chance to catch up in major

By Katie Kurylo
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When people think of summer, thoughts of beaches, road trips, sunglasses and pools normally come to mind. The one thing that is normally furthest from students' minds is classes. But this is exactly what some students have to think about as the current school year winds to a close.

Though it may seem burdensome for some, a number of students have had plans to take part in SRU's four summer sessions, Pre-session, Session 1, Session 2 and Post Session, for months.

Brian Turner, 20, a sophomore computer science and information technology major, said SRU was always in his summer plans.

"I'm taking my one art class that I need here," Turner said. "I was originally going to take it in the fall but then I saw that it was offered in the summer and decided to take it then."

SEE OFF-SEASON, PAGE C-4

Moving out: Hassle for some, relief for others

By Matt Georger
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For one reason or another, everyone looks forward to May in Slippery Rock.

SRU students and faculty get some time to rest and regroup before the fall semester. Some students graduate and move on to the next phase of their lives. For Slippery Rock residents, the town will be relatively quiet for the next three months.

Before this all happens, SRU students must complete one final task. It's not a presentation, it's not a final exam and it's not one last tuition payment. It's moving out, and some students look forward to it more than others.

Whether they live in a residence hall or an off-campus apartment, most

students have to vacate at the end of the school year. Many find themselves with rooms that are much fuller than they were when they moved in. These students are left asking themselves, "What do I do with all of this stuff?"

Some students plan for this question in advance.

Kyle Miller, a 22-year-old senior athletic training major, will be moving back to West Chester, Pa., at the end of the semester. He said his parents have visited a few times this semester and he has sent them home with vanloads of clutter from his Kiester Road apartment, which is now virtually empty.

"I've been sleeping on my mattress on the floor," Miller said. "I look like a hobo."

Gina Fanara is another student who has tried to



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

plan ahead for the year-end move. The 18-year-old freshman elementary education major came to SRU from Tallahassee, Fla., because she said she loves the cold weather. She said winter clothes were only a small percentage of possessions she brought with her to her Harner

Hall residence.

"I came up with 25 boxes, eight garbage bags and lots of containers," she said. "And I bought even more this year."

Fanara said her parents plan to bring a conversion van to help her move out. She said she is going to store her winter clothes

and some other things at her aunt's house in Buffalo so the trip back to Florida and next semester's move will be easier. Though troublesome now, she said she has learned a lot about living in a dorm room this year.

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