

## SEGUE

# SIUE's Rehg all settled in as CAS Associate Dean

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For the Intelligencer

EDWARDSVILLE — Each week on Segue, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's premier radio show discusses the issues and ideas on the SIUE campus and in its College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

On this week's episode, co-host Greg Budzban, PhD, CAS dean, welcomes Jennifer Rehg, PhD, associate dean of instruction, faculty development and academic programs. This episode will air at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 27, on WSIE 88.7 The Sound and [siue.edu/wsie](http://siue.edu/wsie).

"It is great to have you on the show," Budzban mentions. "You've been serving in your role for about six months now, but before we dive too deeply into that, I would like to hear about your background, what brought you to SIUE, and the work you have done in your particular discipline."



Rehg

"I often joke that the Midwest is sort of like a black hole—A good black hole!" Rehg mentions. "I was born in St. Louis and grew up in the south, but came back to pursue my undergraduate degree in anthropology at Washington University. I received both my master's and doctorate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. When I was finishing my dissertation research, I had the opportunity to teach as a lecturer, as call-staff, in SIUE's anthro-

pology department.

"I loved it. Serendipity benefited me and there was a tenure-track job that was coming available at the time. I applied for the job, began teaching full-time in 2004 and have been here ever since."

Now a tenured faculty member, Rehg became chair of the Department of Anthropology in 2012 and was re-elected in 2015. In 2017, she was selected by Budzban for the position as associate dean for instruction, faculty development and academic programs. She assumed the position in 2018.

"Last year, you began your transition into the position working with Wendy Shaw, the previous associate dean," Budzban mentions. "I asked you to begin thinking about how we could update the strategic plan for the College. It had been as far as 2010 when the old strategic plan had been written, and it

needed updating.

"You took on that task, and I want to thank you for that! Pulling that together seemed like an interesting task that you embraced. Talk about how that happened."

"Strategic plans can be dynamic, useful products if they are fully developed and skillfully utilized," Rehg says. "What I appreciated with this project was getting the opportunity to see where the College of Arts and Sciences is going, as well as what its opportunities and challenges are. It was a wonderful way for me to learn

more about the College and interact with its different parts. I found it extremely beneficial in terms of preparing for this role.

"I was also privileged to work with the team of people we have on board. The committee included great representatives from groups who work within the Col-

lege, including alumni, non-tenure and tenure-track faculty from the main discipline areas, junior-level faculty, senior faculty, and staff."

"You did an excellent job and congratulations on that again," Budzban says. "I know how strategic planning can be, and I was pleased with the level of engagement you had in that committee."

Under Rehg's guidance, the strategic planning committee began its task of drafting the College's new plan. The committee conducted a SWOT analysis, a planning technique that allowed the group to understand the College's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Next, the group surveyed SIUE students, alumni, faculty and staff.

"We received over 250 responses simply from our alumni, some who graduated in the last five years, others who graduated in the

last 20 to 30 years," Rehg mentioned. "It was impressive!"

When the draft of the new strategic plan was completed and submitted to Budzban last fall, he began meeting with the various departments within the College to ask for input. This spring, Budzban and his team will be working on a revised draft based on that input.

"We hope to have the new strategic plan in place next year, because it represents the 25th anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences, and to have a new plan in place for that 25th year would be a great milestone for us," Budzban says. "We can look at the past, see where we came from, and also have a vision for the future."

To hear Rehg and Budzban's entire conversation, tune in to Segue at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 27, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound or [siue.edu/wsie](http://siue.edu/wsie).