

Kyle Moore – More than a university fundraiser

Segue • SIUE

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On this week's episode of Segue, Southern Illinois University's premier radio show outlining the ideas and issues within the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Greg Budzban, PhD, CAS dean, sits down with Kyle Moore, director of development, to discuss his journey to the University and current fundraising projects.

Moore received his associate's degree from Florissant Valley Community College before heading to Bowling Green State University. He received a bachelor's in sports management with an emphasis in marketing. While serving as philanthropy chair in his fraternity, Phi Sigma Kappa, he had the opportunity to facilitate events for the Special Olympics.

"I remembered thinking of how the people we had helped were so appreciative," Moore said.

Upon graduation, Moore interned with the Wood County Special Olympics and helped execute a large fundraiser that ultimately tripled the organization's revenue from its previous year. He then went on to serve as an area director for the Special Olympics in Bloomington, Ill. After four years in that position, the organization created the central region manager of development position for him. For the next two years, Moore spent most of his time on the road, helping seven different area directors with fundraising, working to secure major gifts from private individuals, corporations and other foundations.

"The southern regional manager of development, who worked closely with me, ended up accepting a job as a director of development in the SIUE School of Pharmacy," he said. "She told me that they were looking to hire a fundraiser for the Lovejoy Library."

For the next nine and a half years, Moore worked diligently to organize and initiate fundraising activities for Lovejoy Library, including over \$1 million in endowments. He also worked on fundraising projects as needed in areas throughout the University.

"Most of the libraries within the state of Illinois are able to interchange content and collections with one another," he said. "The things that set your library apart from the others are the unique and rare source materials that you acquire."

The Eugene B. Redmond Learning Center, named in honor of the author, editor and professor emeritus in the Department of English Language and Literature, was born in 2015. The Center, which is part of the Louisa H. Bowen University Archives and Special Collections, fosters creativity, encourages scholarship, promotes diversity, and exposes the region to multicultural poetry and the black arts movement.

"His collection is massive and contains about four to five decades worth of content created in the civil rights movement," Budzban said. "It is one of the largest repositories of post-civil rights work, marking the advancement of the cause in the United States."

One of the projects that both Budzban and Moore are quite proud of is the University's large collection of Louis Sullivan architectural ornaments.

“In a recent event that we had on campus, folks in the arts and sciences, museum studies, and other disciplines came together for a number of events that showcased the extent of our collection,” Budzban said.

“It was well-received,” Moore said. “In fact, some parts of it sold out. It was very interesting to hear the perspective of people, specifically scholars like John Vinci, who use the word ‘sacred’ to describe Sullivan’s work in areas like Chicago.

“It was amazing to see how important the work of Louis Sullivan is to people in the Chicago area.”

Bringing Sullivan’s work back to life in the form of a new, fine and performing arts center is a dream that both CAS and the Lovejoy Library would love to see come to fruition.

“The idea of creating a performing arts center that can allow us to showcase the material in a fundamental way, by actually building it into the architectural design, can really make this building a destination,” Budzban said.

“Anytime you can advance the educational aspirations of our students, and tie in legacy and history, all the while preserving it for others to enjoy down the road, is a wonderful concept,” Moore said.

Those interested in supporting CAS programs and initiatives can contact Moore at (618) 650-5048 or kymoore@siue.edu.

Catch the entire conversation at 9 a.m. this Sunday by tuning in to Segue on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound.

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