

Shaw reflects on 15-year career

Each week, *Segue*, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's premier radio show, co-hosts Randy Pembroke, PhD, SIUE chancellor, and Greg Budzhan, PhD, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) dean, take the opportunity to interview various members of the University community to explore the ideas and issues occurring on campus and beyond.

On this week's episode, Budzhan speaks with Wendy Shaw, PhD, outgoing CAS associate dean, about her 15-year administrative role within the College of Arts and Sciences and her journey into academia. Shaw will return to her position as a professor in the Department of Geography.

The episode will air at 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 29, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound.

"I like to start to recount how our guests came to SIUE to begin with," Budzhan says. "How did you end up here?"

"I'm originally from the United Kingdom, specifically England, and I left school when I was 16 and went to work," Shaw continues. "I eventually married a U.S. service member, and we moved to the States. He began using his GI Bill and started going to college."

Shaw goes on to say that when she was pregnant with her first of four children, she began her own educational journey in community college. Later,

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she received her bachelor's in secondary education, and ultimately received a master's in geography. Upon recognizing that academia was her passion, she pursued and received her PhD in geography from the University of Georgia, and began her academic career in 1994 at SIUE.

"I was so excited to be here and in a way, my academic career was meshed so clearly within the fabric of the College of Arts and Sciences," Shaw says. "Even though I was hired into the old School of Social Sciences, the groundwork was in place for former SIUE President Earl Lazerson's vision for the new College of Arts and Sciences."

Consolidating the former schools into what is now the College of Arts and Sciences was among some of Lazerson's numerous achievements during his tenure, which lasted from 1979 to 1993.

Soon after the creation of CAS and the new Department of Geography, Shaw also became quite active in administrative activities. Her attention to detail, passion for the College's operations and outstanding work ethic helped her stand out in the nationwide search to fill the associate dean position in 2003.



SIUE photo
Greg Budzhan, PhD, CAS dean, honors Wendy Shaw, PhD, outgoing College of Arts and Sciences associate dean, for 15 years of service in that role, during CAS' annual Honors Day program on April 15.

"And the rest is history!" Budzhan exclaims.

Throughout the course of Shaw's career, her role has evolved. However, several aspects of her title have remained.

"I always had a role in faculty development, which is a role I believe is at the heart of what we do at the University. It is a service I think I contributed in a way I hope has been helpful!" Shaw declares.

As associate dean, part of her role surrounds providing the University with more online courses than ever before to meet the changing

needs of the diverse student body. In fact, Shaw recounts that she delivered the very first on-line course at SIUE in 1998. Said Shaw, "I just wrote it in HTML!" She also started the "Online Initiative" in the CAS dean's office that was instrumental in moving the institution forward in the online world. "For a long time, it was just individual faculty doing this, but now SIUE has course designers and online resources that have really added to the curriculum."

"These online courses and infrastructure enhance methods of instruction, and I'm excited

to see it improve SIUE's quality of education as we move forward," Budzhan says.

The College of Arts and Sciences is home to one of the most diverse faculty on campus and welcomes 62 faculty members from 50 different countries. Its student population is also incredibly diverse, and Shaw frequently recommends study abroad opportunities to domestic and international students alike.

"Since I arrived three years ago, it has been an absolute pleasure working with you as associate dean," Budzhan says. "Your contributions to the College over the last 15 years are simply enormous."

"I just want to thank you for your service, dedication and wish you the best, but continue to work with you as we continue to do things together in the dean's office."

"It's been my complete privilege to serve the College of Arts and Sciences as associate dean," Shaw says. "I cannot say enough about the wonderful people at SIUE: the faculty, the staff and the students. It's been a true honor to do it!"

To hear this episode in its entirety, tune in at 9 a.m. this Sunday, July 29, to WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound.

The Segue column is provided each week by SIUE.