

SIUE enjoys global partnerships

Every other week on Segue, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's premier radio show on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound, Chancellor Randy Pembrook invites guests to discuss what's happening on campus or in SIUE's surrounding communities.

The newest Segue episode has an international focus, as Pembrook discusses the degrees and agreements the University has with institutions around the world.

Tune in at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 24, as he welcomes College of Arts and Sciences Dean Greg Budzban, PhD; Gireesh Gupchup, PhD, professor and outgoing dean of the School of Pharmacy, School of Engineering Dean Cem Karacal, PhD; and Mary Weishaar, PhD, executive director of International Affairs.

"Dr. Gupchup, let me start with you!" Pembrook exclaims. "You've been developing a relationship with JSS (Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreshwara) University in India. Can you tell our listeners how that relationship began?"

"A few years ago, I met the vice chancellor of JSS University at a National Colleges of Pharmacy meeting," Gupchup says. "At the time, their institution was receiving international accreditation by the same accrediting body as our School of Pharmacy in the U.S. As it turns out, there are a number of similarities between their program and ours."

"Since then," he continues, "five of our faculty members have traveled to visit the institution. Two JSS faculty members

Segue

have come to SIUE and one more will be a visiting soon."

In 2017, Pembrook signed a memorandum of understanding with JSS University that involves student and faculty exchanges, as well as assisting and arranging clinical services with JSS. The JSS System includes 350 educational institutions that teach health sciences.

According to Gupchup, though their clinical experiences will be nearly identical anywhere they choose to practice worldwide, pharmacy practitioners in India will learn more about medicinal plants and tropical medicine.

"We've had about five students from JSS University conduct their clinical experiences here, and three SIUE students have studied at JSS," Gupchup says. "This year, four more will go to JSS and have clinical experiences, and two more will come here."

In 2007, the School of Engineering created a dual-diploma program with Istanbul Technical University (ITU). The first program of its kind, students pursue their freshman and junior coursework at SIUE, and their sophomore, senior and senior design project coursework at SIUE to complete two bachelor's degrees in industrial engineering.

"We have been quite pleased with the international students from Turkey who have been in this program," Karacal says. "These students come from the top 50,000 university placement

exams, of about 1.5 million students taking those exams in Turkey every year. The four-year graduation rate is almost 100 percent with a 3.0 or better grade point average."

"Second-year students are required to stay in University housing to give them that authentic college experience," he adds, "We connect them up with other international and American roommates, so they can enhance their communication skills."

Due to massive funding cuts for higher education in Turkey, SIUE and ITU's dual-diploma program is coming to a close. However, Karacal is looking to form new relationships with other institutions to strengthen the School of Engineering's global reach. In fact, the School has intensified its recruitment efforts in China.

In 2014, SIUE also created a 2+2 dual diploma program with Tongmyong University (TU) of South Korea. The formal agreement allows SIUE students to take a faculty-led summer abroad course in the summer. TU students and faculty members also have the opportunity to visit SIUE in the winter and give presentations on their student design projects.

Recently, SIUE signed a letter of engagement with Vidyalkar School of Information and Technology (VSIT) located in Mumbai, India, opening the doors for potential collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences.

"In mass communications, we will have something like a 2+2 agreement, and VSIT students will be transferring over to our



Pembrook

campus after two years of study at home," Budzban says. "We'd love to have administrators from VSIT visit our campus. We're focused on providing their students a transformative campus experience, and they're very interested in communications, journalism and the technology of public relations."

Also in the College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE introduced in 2016 its bachelor of arts degree in international studies. This interdisciplinary program offers students the background to succeed in an increasingly globalized world in areas such as international diplomacy, the arts, or development and sustainability.

During spring break 2018, a group of more than 30 students, faculty and staff from SIUE's Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Education, Health and Human Behavior upheld the University's mission of "shaping a changing world," arriving in

Costa Rica on Saturday, March 10 for a week of service and educational activities.

"Mary, as our executive director of International Affairs, it must be incredibly exciting for you each time our University makes a new connection!" Pembrook says. "It's like adding a new piece to a puzzle."

"It certainly is," Weishaar replies. "In particular, our recent experience with the University of Costa Rica was fantastic and we are honored to be partners with them. We'll be working to develop student and faculty exchanges, as well as short-term and tailor-made programs. We will also engage in collaborative dialogue on research and curriculum."

"We're hopeful that we can solidify solutions that will be a good fit with Central American Mission Projects (CAMP), and Dean Bruce Rotter, DMD, from the SIU School of Dental Medicine is also reaching out to colleagues at the University of Costa Rica. We're hopeful we can meld something together there, as well."

Above all, Pembrook makes it clear that the opportunity for an international experience isn't out of reach. Opportunities span from one week, to a semester or an entire academic term. Financial aid and scholarships are available for students hoping to study abroad or embark on a service learning trip.

Tune in at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 24, to hear the episode in its entirety.

By Madelaine Deardeuff, SIUE Marketing & Communications