MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Greetings from the College of Social and Behavioral Science where we are just beginning another academic year which promises to be another exciting one.

Rocco and Marion Siciliano

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SIXTH ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI/AE AWARDS

On May 1, Parry Mead Murray and Earl S. Skidmore received the College’s Distinguished Alumnus Awards at a gathering of friends, family and alumni at the Alumni House. The Distinguished Alumnus Award is awarded to individuals who have made lasting contributions to the advancement of the College, The University of Utah, their communities and their professions.

Distinguished alumni are honored at a banquet and on stage at Convocation and have permanent plaques on the College of Social and Behavioral Science “Wall of Honor” in Orson Spencer Hall.

PARRY MEAD MURRAY, Distinguished Alumnus

Parry Mead Murray graduated magna cum laude from the University of Utah in 1977 earning bachelor degrees in Anthropology and Psychology. Additionally, Parry took undergraduate and graduate courses in Folklore and Media Communications with an emphasis on Documentary Photography. In 2001, she also completed a master’s in Museum Studies at San Francisco State University.

Parry is a third generation grape grower in Napa Valley, Calif. The family property known as “Mead Ranch” is 1,100 acres – 390 acres are in grapes, 10 acres for home sites and roads and the rest under a conservation easement with the Napa County Land Trust. Following a devastating fire in the summer of 1981, Parry arrived to help bring the harvest and stayed for another 21 years as the ranch and vineyard manager – a position she turned over to her sister Jane in 2003. While managing the ranch, Parry assisted in the production and sale of wines and grapes to other growers and processors.

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PARRY MEAD MURRAY, Distinguished Alumnus

Earl S. Skidmore earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Utah where he majored in Sociology and Anthropology and minored in Zoology and Chemistry. Earl’s studies at the University were interrupted by two years of service in the U.S. Navy.

Many years later, Earl earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Stanford University.

Earl entered the University in 1942 and was a freshman member of the Assembly Committee. He played for Utah’s basketball team in 1942-1943 and was active in Sigma Chi. In fact, Earl’s wife, Elies, was the “Sweetheart of Sigma Chi.” The two were married in 1947 following Earl’s graduation.

Earl’s career began with Phillips Petroleum in Spokane, Wash. After three years, he moved to the San Francisco Bay area and eventually owned and operated four gas stations – “Skids Royal Stations.” In 1958, Skidmore sold the stations and began Pressure Vessel Service, a chemical company specializing in handling corrosive chemicals and creating chemical solutions. Earl devoted over 30 years to PVS and the chemical industry, serving as president of Esbo Chemical and president of the Northern California Chemical Association.

Earl has been a leader in professional and community associations throughout his life. He was president of the board of directors for United Stations while working in the retail gas industry. He was on the board of directors of the San Carlos Chamber of Commerce and president of the San Carlos Optimist Club. Skidmore also served on the boards of three Silicon Valley electronics companies.

Earl and Elies have given two scholarships to CBSS students for several years. In 2007, they created an endowment that will award CBSS Honor Roll Scholarships to several students each year in perpetuity.

To nominate someone for the CBSS Distinguished Alumnus/AE Award, please call Rick Pike at (801)585-9200 or visit www.csbs.utah.edu/alumn_nom.pdf
Colonel Fisher was awarded the Medal of Honor for personal action against the enemy. "The University of Utah is extremely proud to call and claim (Colonel Fisher) as one of its own," said J. Steven Otter, dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science and the diploma presenter. When asked how it felt to finally receive his degree after so many years, Colonel Fisher said, "It's simply amazing. I didn't think I was ever going to get my diploma. I'm very proud to have it." Also during the commissioning ceremony, the ROTC detachment presented the first Col. Bernard F. Fisher Leadership Award to Cadet John Greco. Cadet Fisher was awarded the Medal of Honor for personal action above and beyond the call of duty by risking his life to save a fellow pilot who was shot down during action in the A Shau Valley in Vietnam in 1966.

By Senior Airman Brok McCarthy

Don’t let the education offer fool you, there are some people out there who have become commissioned officers without leaving their bachelor’s degrees.

On May 3, Retired Col. Bernard Francis Fisher, a Medal of Honor recipient, received his diploma in fine arts at The University of Utah during a commissioning ceremony of nine second lieutenants from ROTC Detachment 850, almost 57 years after he originally attended. “The University of Utah is extremely proud to call and claim (Colonel Fisher) as one of its own,” said J. Steven Otter, dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science and the diploma presenter.

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Mark your calendars now! On November 13 and 15 the College, the Rocco C. and Marion J. Siciliano Forum, and the Institute of Public and International Affairs will bring together national luminaries and The U experts to talk about the next U.S. president and his administration that we need new national and international laws and policies to address the question, “How far should we go in protecting ourselves from terrorists?” The Forum will include an address by former U.S. Sen. Lee Hamilton, vice chairman of the 9/11 Commission, and three diverse perspectives on the issue presented by experts from The U and moderated by Margaret Warner, senior analyst with The NowHour on Jim Lehrer. The event will attract local and national press coverage aimed at convincing the next administration that current laws and policies are inadequate. If you have wondered what it means when we talk about “internationalizing” The U and the College, note the article about the cohort of government, business and nonprofit leaders from Hainan Province, China who are at The U for 16 months earning Masters of Public Administration degrees. These outstanding leaders from southern China are proving to be wonderful additions to our community and many more students-leaders will follow them here. Future newsletter stories will feature these students, their relationships with other U students and with professionals across Utah.

In May we proudly honored two of our finest graduates with “Distinguished Alumni Awards.” You will enjoy reading about Parry Mead Murray and Earl Skidmore. Both are extraordinary individuals who have worked endlessly and selflessly to strengthen their communities and who are giving generously to our Honor Roll Scholarship Program. And, their scholarship support makes the profile of Kacoe Kizekova, an outstanding 2008 recipient, all the more appropriate. Kacoe inspires everyone who knows her; yet, she is only one of the more than 40 students who received Honor Roll scholarships – out of the hundreds who truly need and deserve support.

At the Air Force ROTC commissioning ceremony in May, I was privileged to award a diploma to a recipient of the Medal of Honor. Col. Fisher left The U without completing his degree. His bravery and sacrifice bring to mind the sacrifices U.S. servicemen – our students, fellow Utahns and Americans – continue to make in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

Sincerely,

J. Steven Otte, Dean

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH