



# COLLEGE of SOCIAL and BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

SPRING 2004

*Focus on the Human Factor*

## MCLANAHAN ADDRESSES THE MARRIAGE AGENDA AT THE 7TH ANNUAL ROCCO C. AND MARION S. SICILIANO FORUM

*On October 20, 2003, more than 300 people from the community, the university, and neighboring areas gathered in the Dumke Auditorium to attend the 7th Annual Rocco C. and Marion S. Siciliano Forum.*

Dr. Sara McLanahan, the first-ever female keynote speaker for the Forum, addressed a standing-room only crowd as she lectured on "Fragile Families and the Marriage Agenda."

Dr. McLanahan, a leading expert on families and children, is a Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs and Director of the Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton University. Dr. McLanahan has spent over 20 years researching single-parent families. Her latest study is tracking 4,900 children, gathering data about the parents' relationships, their views on marriage, and the degree of the father's involvement at birth, at one year, and at five years.

In an effort to help fragile families achieve healthy marriages and improve the well being of their children, the Bush Administration is proposing a five-year, \$1.5 billion "healthy marriage initiative" that will focus on the type of families McLanahan studies. This initiative would include media campaigns to promote to high school students the benefits of marriage and programs to help married couples improve their relationships and decrease divorce.

McLanahan reported that one-third of all births in the United States currently take place out of wedlock. These numbers are even greater for black (69%) and Latino (42%) children. Sixty percent of all non-marital births are to "lone" mothers who are no longer involved with the father, a rate that is among the highest in the world.

Three-fourths of the children she studied were



*Dr. Sara McLanahan*

born to unmarried parents. One-half of the unmarried parents lived together at the time of birth and 33 percent had "visiting relationships." Eight percent considered themselves friends; 9 percent of the mothers had no relationship with the father at all.

McLanahan has found that unmarried couples are most optimistic about building a life together and most open to participating in programs such as the ones proposed by the administration when approached at the "magic moment of birth." Her data supports some of the benefits predicted by the initiative proponents, but predicts failure for others. It also produced some surprises. On average, getting married helps fathers become better parents, but not mothers. When a couple marries, fathers have higher income and employment rates. In addition, married couples attain higher levels of education and have better attitudes about their relationships.

McLanahan's lecture was the keynote event of the 2003 Siciliano Forum. Other Forum events included a panel discussion moderated by Karen Crompton and featuring McLanahan, Dr. Lynn Wardle, BYU; Dr. Dawne Moon, University of California - Berkeley; Dr. Matthew McKeever, Mt. Holyoke College; and Dr. Lori Kowaleski-Jones, University of Utah. Assistant Professor Nick Wolfinger taught an intensive course on fragile families, and organized a day-long conference that featured 10 professional papers. All activities were coordinated by faculty from the Department of Family and Consumer Studies, particularly Lori Kowaleski-Jones and Nick Wolfinger.

A transcript of Dr. McLanahan's lecture with the question and answer session is forthcoming. When completed, it will be available on the college website at [www.csbs.utah.edu](http://www.csbs.utah.edu).

For additional information about the Siciliano Forum, contact Becky Murphy at (801) 581-7579.

Editors' note: special thanks for contributions by Brooke Adams, Laura Campbell, and Elaine Jarvik.



*Pictured from left to right: Loretta Siciliano, Steven Ott, Dr. Sara McLanahan, Rocco Siciliano, and Fred Siciliano.*

## “AN ENTHUSIASTIC THANK YOU”

*We are excited to announce that Siegfried and Ellen Karsten have provided a generous planned gift to establish the “Siegfried and Ellen Karsten Foster Scholarship Program.”*

After having experienced the horrors of World War II and fleeing East Prussia, Germany, Siegfried and his mother, the late Maria Karsten, arrived in Utah in 1951. Ellen, living in Saxony, East Germany, fled to West Germany in 1950. She held executive secretarial positions and spent over two years in London and Paris as an au pair studying the respective languages. The Karstens met through a mutual friend, Mary Howard. They were married in 1967 and enjoyed a 40-year friendship with Mary and Frank Howard.

After a stint in the U.S. Army and working various jobs, Siegfried attended Oregon State University. He transferred to the University of Utah in his second year and was awarded a B.S. in Mathematics in 1958. During his undergraduate career, Siegfried worked as a dishwasher in the Union, did yard work, and babysat.

Siegfried earned his M.S. in Economics in 1962 while employed full-time. Only after obtaining both degrees, was he, with the aid of University of Utah and IBM Research Fellowships, able to pursue full-time graduate work and earn his Ph.D. in Economics in 1970.

Siegfried served on the faculties of the University of Utah, the University of Wyoming, and the State University of West Georgia. He was also a Fulbright Professor at Jilin University, Changchun, China, and Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University, Greifswald, Germany. He participated as a Fulbright Scholar in seminars in Germany and India studying the socioeconomic conditions of these countries. He is presently Professor Emeritus of Economics at the State University of West Georgia and Adjunct Professor at the University of Utah.

During his professional career, Siegfried set up a computerized management information system for Hercules Powder Company, conducted demand and elasticity studies with regard to electricity and natural gas for the State of Utah, and served as a consultant in rate hearings before the Public Service Commission of Utah.



*Ellen and Siegfried Karsten*

book, *Business Forecasting and Economic Cycle*, and several of his articles, were published in China.

Ellen was active in community and cultural affairs, including membership in the League of Women Voters, taking a wide variety of college courses, and acting as a host to many foreign students in her home, supporting several Chinese students pursuing graduate degrees in the U.S., and accompanying her husband to China where she taught classes in English conversation at Jilin University.

It is these life experiences that compel Siegfried and Ellen to help university students. In 1999, to honor their dear friends, Mary and Frank Howard, the Karstens endowed the “Howard-Karsten Graduate Fellowship” and the “Howard-Karsten Undergraduate Scholarship” in Economics. They recently became aware of the challenges eighteen-year-olds face as they are terminated from the state fostercare system. To assist these young people in earning their undergraduate degrees at the U of U, they established the “Siegfried and Ellen Karsten Foster Scholarship.”

We salute Siegfried and Ellen Karsten for their generous support of our students and the university!

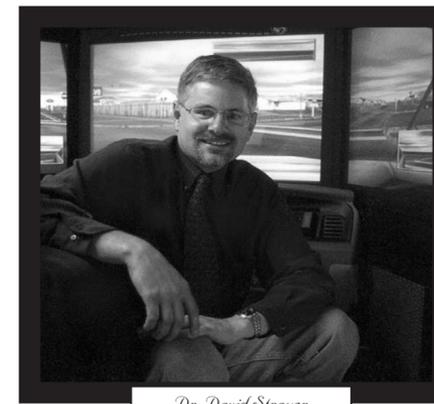
For information on how to establish a scholarship, please contact the college at (801) 581-8620.

Besides writing approximately 350 columns for newspapers, he presented papers at professional meetings and to community groups, and published articles on methodology, industrial policy, consumer behavior, healthcare, environment and development, the social market economy, and China’s and the Soviet Union’s approaches to socialist social market

economics. Siegfried also published on other topics such as China, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Translations of his

## HANG UP & DRIVE!

Research recently published by three Psychology Department faculty members — Drs. David Strayer, Frank Drews and William Johnston — has garnered world-wide attention. Ranked 64 out of



*Dr. David Strayer*

Discovery’s “100 Top Science Stories of 2003,” the researchers used a GE I-Sim driving simulator and an eye-tracking device to investigate how driving performance is affected by cell phone conversations, listening to the radio, and other possible distractions. These studies found that conversing on a cell phone creates much higher levels of driver distraction than listening to the radio or books on tape. Interestingly, driving performance was affected *regardless* of whether hand-held or hands-free cell phones were used. When conversing drivers look at objects in the simulated driving environment but may fail to see or remember them. Strayer and his colleagues refer to this as “inattention blindness.” Two new studies, one conducted at the University of Utah and one in the United Kingdom, found that driving performance was, in some cases, more impaired when drivers were conversing on a cell phone than when these same drivers were legally intoxicated.

Reprints of their work can be found online at [www.psyc.utah.edu/AppliedCognitionLab](http://www.psyc.utah.edu/AppliedCognitionLab).

## EAT YOUR GEOPHYTES!

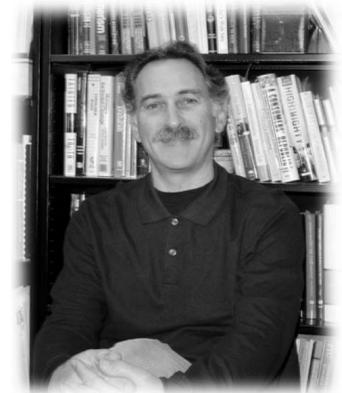
Students in the Department of Anthropology are working on the ethnography and archaeology of *geophytes*, better known as roots and tubers. Familiar in their many domesticated forms, wild versions of these underground carbohydrate storage organs may have been important in human diets for hundreds of thousands of years. Some analysts have suggested that their use may even have played a role in the evolution of genus *Homo*, nearly two million years ago.

Supported in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation, current work in the department focuses on the nutritional benefits and labor costs of exploiting wild geophytes, particularly those found here in the Intermountain West. Some students have combed the literature on the role of tubers in traditional Native American diets; others have conducted field experiments on digging, which is expected to target archaeological markers of tuber use, allowing analysts to explore long-term changes in patterns of exploitation.

For more information on this project, contact Ph.D. candidate Lori Hunsaker [lori.hunsaker@anthro.utah.edu](mailto:lori.hunsaker@anthro.utah.edu).

## WEB SITES – CREDIBLE OR NOT?

Professor Robert Mayer, Department of Family and Consumer Studies, recently participated in a 13-country study of web sites that provide financial, health, and shopping advice to consumers. The study found that many sites fail to provide basic information about their identity, business relationships, and privacy practices. In the worst cases, some sites promised to provide online information but actually functioned as a way of gathering names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails to contact prospective customers.



*Dr. Robert Mayer*

More information can be found at [www.consumerinternational.org/document\\_store/Doc509.pdf](http://www.consumerinternational.org/document_store/Doc509.pdf).

## FOCUS ON FACULTY SAM RICH SCHOLARS IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the “Sam Rich Scholars in Global Affairs” and the selection of the first Sam Rich Scholar. The scholars program will be used to expand and strengthen teaching and research on global issues at the University of Utah. The Sam Rich Scholars program will bring outstanding academicians to the University of Utah campus and recognize university distinguished scholars for their achievements. It will also provide additional resources to support these scholarly activities.



*Sam Rich and Ibrahim Karawan*

Political Science Professor Ibrahim Karawan has been designated as the initial Sam Rich Scholar in Global Affairs. Karawan has written and lectured extensively on the Middle East, particularly about Islamist movements and key state strategies in dealing with them. Among his many accomplishments, Karawan was the senior fellow for Middle East Studies at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, is a member of the Advisory Board

of the Centre for International Studies at Oxford University, and a member of the Brookings Institute’s Task Force on “U.S. Policies towards the Muslim World.” Karawan is a frequent contributing analyst to the BBC World Service, CNN, Al-Jazeera satellite television, The Voice of America, and Radio France International.

Professor Emeritus Sam Rich joined the University of Utah Political Science department faculty in 1949 where he served until retiring in 1980. For decades Rich was the driving spirit behind and led the faculty in the University of Utah’s International Relations programs. He currently serves on the College of Social and Behavioral Science Advisory Board and the Health Sciences Council. He is the leading sponsor of the Hinckley Institute of Politics’ Foreign Internship Program.

For information on how to contribute to this exciting program, please contact Dale Snyder at (801) 585-9200.

## PLANNED GIVING

When planning your estate, please consider a planned gift to the College of Social and Behavioral Science. We would like to thank the following individuals who have so generously made planned gifts to the college:

Eugene K. Andreasen  
Stephen and Cindy Clinger  
Siegfried and Ellen Karsten  
Stan Katz  
Renee Morita and Angus Edwards  
Walter and Karen Muir  
Rocco C. and Marion S. Siciliano  
Joan B. Thompson  
Roland Tougas  
Dorothy Watkiss  
Ted Wilson

For more information about how to include the college in your estate planning, please call Dale Snyder at (801) 585-9200.

## EMERITUS BOARD

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## EDITORS

Sarah Moyer  
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## SPECIAL THANKS

Marilyn Cox  
Becky Guillory  
Becky Murphy  
U of U  
Development Office

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Denise Tribble

## DAVID C. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

*We are excited to announce that through the generosity of family and friends, the “David C. Williams Memorial Graduate Fellowships” were established in Fall 2003.*

David Williams (1937-2002) spent his entire career in public service, including many years with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. In 1999, Professor Williams and his family moved to Utah where he served as the first Stegner Fellow in the School of Law and taught in the Master of Public Administration program. His passion in life was his love for the natural land resources of this country. He believed that the successful stewardship of these lands should be through the cooperative partnership of the American people and their government.

**ALUMNI[AE]**

**CSBS ALUMNI/AE, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

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News about you \_\_\_\_\_

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We want to know more about you. Please return in the mail to the College of Social and Behavioral Science, 260 S. Central Campus Drive, Room 205, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84112-9150 or email [dale.snyder@csbs.utah.edu](mailto:dale.snyder@csbs.utah.edu).

Congratulations to Amy Barry, a masters/doctoral student in political science with an emphasis in environmental policy, and Jason Berry, who started in the MPA program in January, for being selected as the initial fellowship recipients. Thank you, friends and family of Professor Williams, for creating these fellowships. They will support research and programs that will help ensure his goal of protecting the ecological health and sustainability of the public lands for generations to come.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

*With a new year —*

and spring semester off to an exciting beginning, we are eager to share a few developments and challenges facing the college and the university with you.

I continue to be proud of the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. They are recognized in the university and across the nation and world for their excellence. They are selected for disproportionate numbers of national and university awards, fellowships, and scholarships. Last spring, 1,831 students received bachelors degrees from the College of Social and Behavioral Science, representing 35% of all degrees awarded by the U of U. What is perhaps most amazing is that our faculty and staff have continued to excel in teaching and research despite repeated budget reductions, and our students continue despite multiple years of double-digit tuition increases.



We have many things to look forward to and to be excited about in 2004. Faculty from colleges and departments across the university are developing useful new undergraduate and graduate programs in public policy and applied politics. Additionally, the national search for a director of new programs in applied politics and public policy is well underway.

President Bernie Machen's move to the University of Florida at the turn of the year has once again thrown the U of U into a search for a president. I am honored to have been selected as one of two deans to serve on the Presidential Search Committee. We have begun the screening process. We hope to have a new president selected and in place before this fall. Although I cannot share confidential details, I welcome questions and suggestions about the search process or progress.

The social and behavioral sciences continue to face perhaps one of the most demanding times in the history of the world. We are proud to be educating our future leaders who will lead the world in the years to come. Thank you for continuing support of the college.

I would like to hear from you about concerns – and we are always glad to hear about positive experiences you may have had.

Sincerely,

J. Steven Ott, Dean

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## COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### HINCKLEY FORUM

*Weekly discussions and lectures*

### MIDDLE EAST LECTURE SERIES

*Weekly, February 2 – April 6, 2004*

### ALLEN SIEVERS SPEAKER SERIES

*March 26, 2004*

### AWARDS LUNCHEON

*April 14, 2004*

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LUNCHEON

*May 6, 2004*

### SICILIANO FORUM

*November 18, 2004*

*For information about any of these events,  
please call (801) 581-8620 or visit our website  
at [www.csbs.utah.edu](http://www.csbs.utah.edu)*

## 2004-05 HONOR ROLL SCHOLARSHIPS

We need your help! Please consider making a gift to the College of Social and Behavioral Science Honor Roll Scholarship Program. For information, please call (801) 581-8620.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ MCLANAHAN ADDRESSES SICILIANO FORUM
- ◆ AN ENTHUSIASTIC THANK YOU: KARSTEN SCHOLARSHIP
- ◆ FOCUS ON FACULTY: SAM RICH SCHOLARS PROGRAM
- ◆ HANG UP AND DRIVE!
- ◆ EAT YOUR GEOPHYTES!
- ◆ DAVID WILLIAMS FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT
- ◆ WEBSITES: CREDIBLE OR NOT?
- ◆ MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN