On October 20, 2003, more than 300 people from the community, the university, and neighboring areas gathered at the Dinkle 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 nonmarital births are to "live-in" mothers who are no longer involved with the father, a rate that is among the highest in the world.

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 Dr. McLanahan, Dr. Lynn Wardle, BYU; Dr. Dawne Moon, University of California-Berkeley; Dr. Matthew McKay, Mt. Holyoke College; and Dr. Lori Kowaleski-Jones, University of Utah. Assistant Professor Nick Wollinger taught an intensive course on fragile families, and organized a daylong conference that featured 10 professional presentations. All activities were coordinated by faculty from the Department of Family and Consumer Studies, particularly Lori Kowaleski-Jones and Nick Wollinger.

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.

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.
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 1957, where he earned 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 fulltime. Only after obtaining both degrees, was he, with the aid of the University of Utah and IBM Research Fellowships, able to pursue graduate fulltime 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 India 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. Besides writing approximately 150 columns for newspapers, he presented papers at professional meetings and to college 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 approach to social and political market economies. Siegfried also published on other topics such as China, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Several of his book, Business Forecasting and Economic Cycles, 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 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 Undergraduate 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 foster-care system. To assist these young people in earning their undergraduate degrees at the University of Utah, 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) 585-8620.

PLANNED GIVING

When planning your estate, please consider a planned gift to the University of Utah and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Eugenie K. Androush
Stephen and Cindy Clinger
Siegfried and Ellen Karsten
Sandra Merlo and Angus Edwards
Karen and Walter Karsten
Roxcy C. and Marion S. Stuck
Joan B. Thompson
Robert Tague
Dorothy Walker
Ted Wilson
For more information on how to give to the college in your estate plan, please contact Dale Snyder at (801) 585-8620.
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 its students.

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 and scholarships. Last spring, 1,831 students representing 35% of all degrees awarded by the U of U. What is perhaps most 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 do toward the end of this semester and beyond. We have to be attentive to our current and future needs. We are asking the Board of Regents for a budget increase that will allow us to maintain our high standards. This is critical to the success of our students and the future of our community.

We are proud to be educating our future leaders who will lead in the world in the years to come. Thank you for continuing your support of the college.

We are asking for your help! Please consider making a gift to the College of Social and Behavioral Science Honor Fellowship support of the college. I would like to hear from you about concerns – and we are able on the college website at www.csbs.utah.edu. When completed, it will be available in the DIGITAL FORMATION gallery at the campus website. For additional information about the fellowship, contact the college office at (801) 581-1320 or email me at smclanah@csbs.utah.edu.

We need your help! Please consider making a gift to the College of Social and Behavioral Science Honor Fellowship support of the college. I would like to hear from you about concerns – and we are able on the college website at www.csbs.utah.edu. When completed, it will be available in the DIGITAL FORMATION gallery at the campus website. For additional information about the fellowship, contact the college office at (801) 581-1320 or email me at smclanah@csbs.utah.edu.

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Dr. Sara McLanahan

Dr. Sara McLanahan, a leading expert on families and research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton University. She is the author of the book "Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing," and Director of the Bendheim-Thoman Center for Education and Child Policy. She is also the founder and Director of the Center for Studying Societal Trends, a research institute that studies the well-being of children and families. Dr. McLanahan is a prolific writer and speaker, and her research has been widely cited in the media.

Dr. 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 Dr. McLanahan. The panel focused on the topic of "The Role of Law and Policy in Shaping our Children's Future.

Dr. McLanahan also spoke at the 2004 SICILIANO FORUM, where she addressed a standing-room-only audience.

In 2005, Dr. McLanahan was a guest speaker at the HANG UP SICILIANO FORUM. She delivered a talk on the topic of "The Intersection of Law, Policy, and Family Success." Her presentation highlighted the importance of family support in improving children's outcomes. She emphasized the role of policymakers in addressing the needs of families and children.

Dr. McLanahan has conducted extensive research on the impact of family structure on children's well-being. Her work has focused on understanding the factors that contribute to successful family outcomes. She is known for her commitment to improving the lives of children and families through research, policy, and practice.

Dr. McLanahan's research has been widely recognized and influential. She has received numerous awards and honors for her contributions to the field. She is a sought-after speaker and has delivered keynote addresses at conferences and events around the world.

Dr. McLanahan's expertise and leadership have made her a valuable resource for policymakers, educators, and practitioners. Her work has helped to shape policies and programs that support families and children.

We are honored to have Dr. McLanahan speak at the 2006 SICILIANO FORUM. Her presentation will provide valuable insights into the latest research on family well-being, and we look forward to a dynamic and informative discussion.