On November 18, 2004, more than 300 people from the community and the University gathered in the Museum of Fine Arts Dumke Auditorium for the 8th Annual Rocco C. and Marion S. Siciliano Forum. Richard B. Freeman, Professor of Economics at Harvard University, addressed a standing-room only crowd as he lectured on “Labor Goes Global: The Effects of Globalization on Workers Around the World.”

Freeman is also Co-Director of the Labor and Worklife Program at the Harvard Law School, Director of the Labor Studies Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and Co-Director of the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics. He has published more than 100 articles, many on the effects of globalization on labor around the globe. His research interests include a wide range of topics including the job market for scientists and engineers, the effects of immigration and trade on inequality, and youth market problems.

“An American degree is no longer sure,” warned the audience. The collapse of communism and intensified competition for jobs in India and China over the past 20 years have dramatically changed the global labor force. The number of scientific workers around the world has nearly doubled — from 1.5 billion to 2.9 billion. “There are going to be a lot of [scientists and engineers] to compete with,” reported Freeman. “The big adjustment is yet to come. The United States and other developed nations will lose their technical hegemony over the rest of the world... the high-tech edge.”

The U.S. will also need to cope with the challenge of lower wages and increased high-tech exports. The spread of technology benefits the world but also causes advanced countries to lose industries as prices for their products fall. Despite what one audience participant called a “dismal picture for developed countries,” Freeman offered this hope: “If we have good economic policies, strong research and development in some sectors, and can get very entrepreneurial and smart immigrants, we could still advance while we wait for the poorer countries to catch up with us.” Whether or not we are prepared to do things right, Freeman concluded, is still uncertain.

Freeman’s lecture was the keynote event of the 2004 Siciliano Forum. Other Forum events included a panel discussion featuring Freeman, Garth Mangum, Economics Department at the U of U; Branko Milanovic, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Ajit Singh, Cambridge University; and Ralph van der Hoven, International Labor Office of the United Nations. The panel was moderated by Professor Norman Waitzman of the U of U Economics Department. Following the Forum, the Department of Economics, in collaboration with the Ford Foundation and the Levy Economics Institute, hosted two days of round-table discussions with these and other world-renowned economists.

When transcribed, Dr. Freeman’s lecture and the question-and-answer session will be available on the college website and in the college magazine. For additional information about the Siciliano Forum, contact Aleta Tew at (801) 581-4620.
At that time, Jim was already launched on a journalism career at the Salt Lake Tribune. Having three years of college credits from other institutions, he decided to enroll at the nearby U to complete his bachelor’s degree. Five part-time quarters later, Jim graduated.

Those months at the University gave him more than a degree. They also became a bridge between journalism and a wholly different career, centered in Washington, D.C. Jim took classes being individual visiting professor and former U of U, Spencer Parrett of Syracuse University, and Parrett entered him to Syracuse for graduate work in public administration. With a master’s degree, Jim joined the talent flow to Washington, which needed public administrators — however junior — to organize the new defense agencies in the pre-Pearl Harbor days of 1941.

Employed by the White House’s Bureau of the Budget, he was assigned during most of World War II to the Army on management improvement projects. After the war ended, he was selected to be two years to be Director of Management Control in the military government of Germany, and then returned to Washington as both an analyst and based on his newspaper background — a writer. In that capacity, he helped draft messages and speech to Congress for President Truman.

This assignment led to yet another career transition — into politics. When Truman left office, Jim gave up his civil service status to serve successively on the staffs of a Democratic National Chairman, a governor and candidate for president (Averell Harriman, N.Y. and a U.S. senator (Joseph Clark, Pa.) Then he served as Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture (1963-1965).

Now fully retired, at the age of 89, he lives with his wife Gerry in a Virginia suburb of Washington. He has returned to Utah only occasionally over the years, primarily for University events (including lecturing at the Hinckley Institute) but most recently to research the early history of his home town — McCarthy — for a memoir of his Utah childhood.

Finally, Jim moved to a more contemplative life, as a scholar at the Brookings Institution, the oldest and most respected Washington D.C. “think tank.” There, over twenty years, he produced six books and numerous articles and lectures. Subjects ranged from national policy-making processes to federalism, regional development policy, the Presidency and Congress, the political party system, and reform of the Constitutional structure of the government.

Jim’s scholarly work has been recognized by several top awards: the Metcalf Award of the American Political Science Association (APSA) to “the person whose published works and career represents a significant contribution to the art of government through the application of social science research”; APSA’s Eldersveld Award for “a lifetime of distinguished scholarly and professional contributions to the field”; and specialized prizes for his books on Congress and public administration, and an article on public administration. He has also received two honorary doctoral degrees, and an appointment as a fellow from the University of Utah Alumni Association. Jim served a term as treasurer of APSA, was Director of Government Research at Brookings for five years, and represented the U.S. on the Executive Committee of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences for nine years, editing its journal.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

With 2005 and Spring Semester underway, I would like to share a few of the exciting developments in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences as well as some challenges we face.

Our faculty is working with colleges and departments across the University to develop new interdisciplinary degree and certificate programs in public policy, applied politics, and global management. At least two of these innovative programs should be approved this spring and ready to accept students in fall 2005. A national search is underway for the new Director of the Hinckley Institute of Politics, an invaluable university and community asset. The Institute of Public and International Affairs (IPI) is being created, providing energy and focus for many new teaching and research programs. The Center for Public Policy and Administration is providing research support to Governor Huntsman’s administration on public policy issues. The 2005 Bocce C. and Marion S. Siciliano Forum will feature Howard Rheingold, a social visionary who will speak on “The Impact of Ubiquitous Instant Access on Social Networks and Social Relations.” The 2005 Middle East Lecture Series will once again present an outstanding lineup of international speakers who will challenge us with contrasting viewpoints and analyses on the Middle East. According to a December 2004 New York Times story, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, a major research university in China, has ranked The University of Utah the 95th best university in the world.

We hope the worst of the state’s budget problems are behind us. President Young and Higher Education Commissioner Kendall are working to establish strong relations with the Legislature and Governor Huntsman. The state faces an enormous backlog of financial needs, however, that will likely limit new funding for higher education. We must find creative ways to educate students and answer social questions. Scholarships given by our alumni and friends will be more important than ever to students and faculty. Please stay in touch — we are always glad to hear from our friends.

Sincerely,

J. Steven Ott, Dean