

# Former Dean, University Professor Emeritus C. Murray Smart Jr. Honored



C. Murray Smart Jr. and his wife, Carolyn Smart (MA 1972, Fulbright College), gathered with other distinguished guests in the east lobby of Vol Walker Hall on Aug. 8 to celebrate his 80th birthday and the dedication of the C. Murray Smart Jr. Lobby, made possible by a gift from son Clifton J. Smart III (JD 1986, School of Law) and daughter-in-law, M. Gail Smart (JD 1987, School of Law).

Chancellor G. David Gearhart presented Murray and Clif Smart with a resolution expressing the university's appreciation to Clif and Gail Smart for honoring Murray Smart through their \$250,000 commitment to support the renovation of Vol Walker Hall and the addition of the Steven L. Anderson Design Center, and to acknowledge his "distinguished service to the Fay Jones School and his role in bettering the educational opportunities provided by the University of Arkansas to students in the design professions."

"I am grateful to Clif and Gail Smart for their generosity in honoring Murray Smart as a father and in recognition of the many important and lasting contributions he made to enhance the Fay Jones School during his years of administrative leadership and teaching," Gearhart said. "Murray's name will now remain prominent in years to come within the walls where he led and taught so well, and that is a very fitting tribute."

"In addition to his service to our students, faculty and staff, I'm personally most appreciative of the opportunity given me by Murray to teach at the Fay Jones School," said Jeff Shannon, former dean of the Fay Jones School.

"And, because of that initial opportunity, I am able to return now to my first love – teaching."

Since joining the faculty in 1966, Murray Smart has made the advancement of the Fay Jones School the cornerstone of his professional life. As the school's second dean, Smart served 15 years, the longest tenure held by an architecture dean. During that time, the school increased its faculty threefold, added a landscape architecture program, and renovated its home in Vol Walker Hall. Among his proudest accomplishments as dean was helping to secure 210 acres on Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs that would become Garvan Woodland Gardens. Smart retired from the faculty as a university professor of architecture in 1998, but continued to teach as a professor emeritus.

"The breadth and depth of Murray's contributions to our field is a constant source of inspiration for me," said Ethel Goodstein-Murphree, interim dean of the Fay Jones School. In 1972, he was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship Program grant that took him to Kabul, Afghanistan; in 1989, his *Muscular Churches: Ecclesiastical Architecture of the High Victorian Period*, one of the first books on architecture published by the University of Arkansas Press, appeared; and in 1990, he was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, an honor for architects who have "achieved a standard of excellence in the profession."

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Smart in 1995, when he received the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award from the Arkansas Alumni Association.



Opposite page: Top: Cyrus Sutherland, left, and Smart are shown on the U of A campus, possibly around 1970. Below left: Smart is shown during a study tour of Mexico in the mid-1970s, with an iguana on his head. Right: Smart takes students in his honors architecture lecture class on a field trip to the Farrell House in Fayetteville in 2009. Above right: Smart is shown during a 2005 trip to Madrid, where he took photographs for his architecture slide collection.

Arkansas Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching and Research, an honor that, according to his wife, Carolyn, was a career highlight. Goodstein-Murphree agrees. "The award was the most perfect of distinctions for Murray – that rare architectural educator who is equally gifted as a scholar, a practitioner, and a leader in the university and the community."

"We all have our Murray Smart stories," said Greg Herman, associate professor of architecture. "I have always been cheered by Murray's infectious laugh and miss seeing him in the school. Murray was the first person with whom I taught when I arrived here, and, more importantly, I will always be grateful for his kindness and generosity as a mentor in the classroom and as an advisor and good friend outside of it. And let's not forget Carolyn. They're a fine team, indeed."

Tom C. Kennedy, a longtime friend and colleague, reminisced, "In the late 1990s, when Murray and I were team teaching an H2P [Honors Humanities Project] course, he got mixed up on the schedule. When I told him he could begin after I made a few announcements, Murray responded that he thought somebody else was to lecture that day. I suggested letting the class go, but Murray said, 'No, keep them entertained for a few minutes.' I somehow managed for about 10 minutes. Murray returned and presented, as usual, a great slide lecture on early modern architecture. I was amazed, but Murray said, simply, 'Well, it is my field.'"

Leslie Belden, architecture school alumna, historic preservation advocate, and Presbyterian minister, met her

husband, Ted during a month-long architecture school trip to Italy to study art and architectural history, led by the Smarts. "We came home with a richer love of our architectural heritage, a budding romance, and a life-long connection to the Smarts. Murray's love of teaching, his leadership as dean of the school, and his passion for architectural history and design have been a gift to the school and the many students who he has influenced."

Murray and Carolyn Smart long have been champions and financial supporters of the school's media center, named the C. Murray Smart Multi-Media Resource Center in his honor upon his retirement. The school's most prestigious awards for outstanding achievement in architectural history, the C. Murray Smart Medal and the C. Murray Smart Rome Program Award, recognize his enduring commitment to teaching in this foundational area of the curriculum.

A graduate of Fayetteville High School and Tulane University, Clif Smart earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1986. While at Tulane, he participated in the U. S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps. Smart was an attorney in the U. S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and later joined The Strong Law Firm in Springfield, Mo., until being named general counsel for Missouri State University in 2007.

In June 2011, Smart was appointed interim dean of Missouri State, and was named the school's 11th president Oct. 16, 2012. Of Gail, his wife of 27 years, Smart said, "She is a huge part of me and how we do this job together. I would not be here, doing this work, if Gail were not all in as first lady of Missouri State."



Clif and Gail Smart, who donated \$250,000 in honor of C. Murray Smart Jr., are shown in a parade.

