

## Edward H. and Florence G. Skinner Professorship in Systems Science and Mathematics

**F**lorence Skinner Farrow established the Skinner Professorship in memory of her parents, Dr. Edward H. and Mrs. Florence G. Skinner.

Mrs. Farrow's mother, Florence Garrell Schade Skinner, graduated from Washington University in 1902 with a degree in civil engineering. At the time, she was said to be the only woman civil engineer in St. Louis. She married Dr. Edward Skinner, whom she had met at Washington University, later that same year. She died in 1906 at the age of 24.

Mrs. Farrow's father, Dr. Edward Holman Skinner, attended Washington University and received a medical degree from Saint Louis University in 1904. A prominent physician in the Kansas City area, he helped found the Kansas City Southwest Clinical Society

in 1923 and served as its first president. Active in several radiological associations, Dr. Skinner was a diplomate of the American Board of Radiology and served as president of the American Board of Radiology in 1946. He died in 1953.

Mrs. Farrow received bachelor's and master's degrees in English from

Washington University. A generous benefactor of the arts, opera, philharmonic, and higher education in St. Louis, she was a special friend of Washington University and the School of Engineering & Applied Science. In addition to establishing this professorship, she endowed the Joseph H. and Florence S. Farrow Professorship in Biomedical Engineering and the Florence Skinner Farrow Scholarships. In recognition of her outstanding support, Mrs. Farrow received the School of Engineering Dean's Medal in 1997.

She died in 1999 at the age of 93.



**Florence G. Skinner**



**Edward H. Skinner**



**Florence Skinner Farrow**

**CHRISTOPHER I. BYRNES**, internationally known for his work in automatic controls, was appointed the Skinner Professor in 2000. He earned his bachelor's degree from Manhattan College and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Massachusetts. Before



**Christopher I. Byrnes**

coming to Washington University, Dean Byrnes served on the faculties of the University of Utah; Arizona State University, where he founded the Center for Systems Engineering Research; and Harvard University. He has held numerous visiting appointments in the United States and internationally.

In 1989 Dean Byrnes was appointed professor of systems and control and chair of the School of Engineering's Department of Systems Science and Mathematics. In 1991 he was named the School's eighth dean, which he describes as "the best job in St. Louis."

He was named a fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE),

and the Academy of St. Louis. He also received two international best paper awards from the IEEE and one from the International Federation of Automatic Control. Among other honors are an honorary doctor of technology bestowed by the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1998 and the Reid Prize presented by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics in 2005.

Involved in many community service activities, Dean Byrnes has served as a board member of several corporations, board chairman of the Center for Emerging Technologies, and chair of the Gateway Technology Alliance formed by the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association.