The definition of a polymath is an individual with wide ranging expertise, often epitomized by Renaissance men such as Leonardo da Vinci, Galileo Galilei, and Michelangelo. In a modern world in which increased specialization is highly valued and often a career goal, Story Musgrave stands apart as an authentic polymath. Musgrave dropped out of high school at age seventeen to join the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served in various capacities in aviation. He went on to earn bachelor’s degrees in mathematics and chemistry, a MBA in operational analysis and computer programming, a Master’s of Science in physiology and biophysics, a Master’s of Arts in literature, and a medical degree. Musgrave had an illustrious thirty year career as a NASA astronaut that included six spaceflights and a spacewalk to repair the Hubble Telescope. During his time at NASA, he also worked as a part-time trauma surgeon. Today, he is a concept artist with Walt Disney Imagineering, innovator with Applied Minds, Inc., and a professor of design at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California.

On March 27, 2012, Story Musgrave gave the keynote address for the “Thinking about Space” College of Arts and Sciences Colloquium at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Readers can use the web link to the colloquium website to access a YouTube video and PowerPoint of Story Musgrave’s keynote address: [http://www.siue.edu/artsandsciences/colloquia/2012.shtml](http://www.siue.edu/artsandsciences/colloquia/2012.shtml)