The Fountain
2016-2017

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Newsletter for
The Obert C. and Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center
When I became Director of the Tanner Humanities Center ten years ago, I proposed a three fold agenda: I wanted to raise the profile of the Humanities on campus in the face of the great stress on STEM teaching and research. This meant finding and distributing resources to encourage interdisciplinary conversations and partnerships among the Humanities disciplines and with all parts of the university. I also believed that the Humanities could serve to inform discussion beyond the campus and draw community members into the life of the university. This led us to explore opportunities for outreach and develop means to solicit feedback. Finally, the work of the Humanities had to encompass more than specialized research and teaching. Our mission expanded to fostering diversity, nurturing tolerance, and building understanding between campus and community and across the university itself.

We have made progress on all of these goals. Our effort has been very diverse: scholarly fellowships for faculty and graduate students, the British National Theatre, Professors Off Campus Program, Gateway to Learning Teacher Workshops, the Mormon Studies Initiative, Artists in Residence, the Marlin Jensen Scholar in Residence Program, and four different lecture series – World Leaders Lecture Forum, Tanner Lecture in Human Values, David P. Gardner Lecture in the Humanities and Arts, and the Sterling McMurrin Lecture in Religion and Culture. With these tools, we have built bridges that support the unique contributions of the Humanities in our lives, both academic and public.

But, if progress is apparent, we still have much to do. Humbled by the task before us, yet eager to accept the challenge, I agreed to Humanities College Dean Dianne Harris’ request that I take on the Center’s directorship for a final three-year term.

We pledge to build upon this strong foundation. Our hope is not only to “keep on, keepin’ on,” but to role model “Tanner Humanities” to national and even international audiences. The challenge is great, but your support and enthusiasm have helped us develop new ways to tell the Humanities story. Please join me on this next three-year adventure!

Robert A. Goldberg, Professor of History
Director, Tanner Humanities Center
2016-2017 Academic Fellowships

TANNER HUMANITIES CENTER VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Colleen O’Neill
Associate Professor, Utah State University

“Labor and Sovereignty: The Transformation of Work in Indian Country, 1890 to the Present,” offers a new synthesis that moves beyond the individual tribe narrative to offer a broader interpretive framework for understanding Native Americans, colonialism, and the history of US capitalism in the twentieth century. O’Neill’s project will explore how American Indians transformed the meaning of wage work from an assimilationist tool to a sovereignty right.

Pierre-Julien Harter
Adjunct Lecturer, School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies, Saint Xavier University

An expansion upon his dissertation, “Buddhas in the Making: Path, Perfectability, and Gnosis in the Abhisamayālamkāra Literature” focuses on the idea of self-transformation in Indian and Tibetan Buddhist literature. Harter will investigate philosophically the concept of betterment that leads an individual to a perfect or perfected state.

2016-2017 ADVISORY BOARD: FACULTY
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JONATHAN STONE University of Utah | MATTHEW WICKMAN Brigham Young University
Matt Basso
Department of History

“Reworking Settler Societies: Labor and the Evolution of Settler Colonialism in New Zealand and the United States, 1890-1950” places industrial laborers and their organizations at the center of the history of the U.S. West and New Zealand. Basso’s project will explore what the growth of industrial economies and the cultures they fostered meant to the evolution of gender relations and politics in settler societies.

Ben Cohen
Department of History

“The Shape of Water in the Deccan, c. 1083-2013” explores the role of water in south India. Cohen’s objective is to rewrite Deccan history from a long term, hydrosocial perspective. By charting the long history over a chronological period, Cohen hopes to show the dialectical relationship between water and human activity.

Anne Peterson
Department of Philosophy

“Matter, Composition, and Biological Unity in Aristotle” argues that Aristotle sees the matter composing a biological organism as neither more fundamental than the organism, nor lacking any casual role in the organism’s life. Instead, the casual and explanatory relationship between organisms and their matter is bidirectional and complex.

VIRGIL C. ALDRICH FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Anne Royston
Department of English

“Reading Theory as Artist’s Book: Materiality, Writing, Technology” considers the intersection of philosophy and materiality in literary texts. Considering texts such as George Bataille’s Encyclopedia Da Costa, Mark C. Taylor’s Hiding, and Johanna Drucker’s theoretical artist’s book Stochastic Poetics, Royston will explore how these texts stage arguments through their material form.

Jessica Houf
Department of Communication

“Bacteria, Bodies, and Boundaries: A Genealogy of Bacteria and the Human Body” explores bacteria, life processes, and particular orifices that open the human body to being more-than-human. This project seeks to understand how we arrived at the idea that the human microbiome brings forth a “new microbial age.”

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN MORMON STUDIES

Gavin Feller
Department of Communication, University of Iowa

“Enamored but Ambivalent: Mormonism and 20th Century New Media” is an interdisciplinary and interpretive analysis of Mormonism’s historical relationship with new media technology. Feller plans to explore the existing tensions by examining Mormonism’s approach to emerging radio, television, and Internet technologies across the 20th century.

HONORS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Jonah Katz
Asian Studies Major, Honors College

In “Analysis of Dream of the Red Chamber,” Katz plans to use geospatial and character network analysis to study the interactions of social hierarchies and cliques within the 18th century Chinese classic, Dream of the Red Chamber, one of the most beloved books in Chinese literature. Katz will examine the relationship between gender and class by looking at patterns of character interactions and the spaces in which these characters socialize.
The Tanner Humanities Center launched its Mormon Studies Initiative in 2010 to encourage vibrant, intellectual exploration of Mormonism on campus and in the wider community.
“IT IS THE WORK OF MANY MINDS, HEARTS, AND HANDS. IT IS WORK THAT RAISES US ALL”
— BOB GOLDBERG, DIRECTOR, TANNER HUMANITIES CENTER

MARLIN K. JENSEN SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

In fall 2016, we launched the Marlin K. Jensen Artist and Scholar in Residence program. The goal of this program is to host prominent scholars with expertise in Mormon Studies or renowned artists who explore the relationship between faith and art in their work. It has been named for Marlin K. Jensen, a general authority of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who served as the official Church Historian and Recorder from 2005 to 2012, to honor his significant and enduring impact on our community. Each scholar will serve as a mentor for students, offer public lectures or performances in the community, teach workshops or classes for University of Utah students or lifelong learners, and contribute to Mormon Studies curriculum planning and program development.

Brian Birch will serve as our inaugural Marlin K. Jensen fellow. Birch is a Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Religious Studies Program, and Director of the Center for the Study of Ethics at Utah Valley University. His course, The Intellectual Life of Mormonism: Reason, Faith, & Science Among the Latter-day Saints, will be offered fall 2016. It includes a public companion lecture series featuring prominent Mormon Studies scholars who bring their expertise to different areas of the curriculum.

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE FORUM

From May 31-June 3, 2017, the Vernacular Architecture Forum’s annual conference will take place in Salt Lake City. It will focus on how the Mormon settlement of the Great Basin during the second half of the nineteenth century created, in conjunction with various human and natural forces, one of the world’s richest and most distinctive regional architectures. During the conference, the LDS Church will open a number of its buildings on Temple Square to VAF members, and the Tanner Humanities Center will sponsor a day-long visit to an “early Mormon landscape” in the Sanpete Valley in central Utah.

MARLIN K. JENSEN SCHOLAR AND ARTIST IN RESIDENCE SELECTION COMMITTEE

STEVEN PETERSEN Petersen Advantage, LLC | MATT GROW LDS Church History Department
FIONA GIVENS University of Richmond | SALLY GORDON University of Pennsylvania | BRIAN CANNON Brigham Young University | BOB GOLDBERG University of Utah | LARRY LUNT Retired Brigadier General | DAVID WIRTHLIN
2016-2017 Public Lectures

STERLING M. MCMURRIN LECTURE ON RELIGION AND CULTURE

Stephen Prothero
Professor, Department of Religion, Boston University
Why Liberals Win The Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections)
Thursday, October 6, 2016, 7PM
Nancy Tessman Auditorium, Salt Lake City Public Library

Stephen Prothero is a skilled researcher, celebrated religious and public historian, and Professor in the Department of Religion at Boston University. He has written eight books, including the recent Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections): The Battles That Define America from Jefferson’s Heresies to Gay Marriage. Prothero will also participate in a workshop with University of Utah students and faculty. This event has received funding from Utah Humanities and will be held in conjunction with the Utah Humanities Book Festival.

WORLD LEADER LECTURE FORUM

Blake Mycoskie
Founder and Chief Shoe Giver, TOMS Shoes
The Story of TOMS: Entrepreneurship in Service to Social Change
October 20, 2016, 3PM
UMFA Dumke Auditorium, University of Utah

Blake Mycoskie is the founder and chief shoe giver of TOMS, an innovative for-profit company with a philanthropic and sustainable business model. As the pioneer of the “One for One” movement, Mycoskie has helped “provide shoes, sight, water, safe birth, and bullying prevention services to people in need.” He will meet with University of Utah students in related fields and speak to approximately 300 business, university, and government leaders.

2016-2017 ADVISORY BOARD: WORLD LEADERS LECTURES FORUM
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NAOMA TATE Philanthropist | KIM WIRTHLIN Wirthlin Strategies
TANNER LECTURE ON HUMAN VALUES

Barry Scheck
Attorney, Co-Founder of The Innocence Project
Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 7PM
S.J. Quinney Moot Courtroom, College of Law, University of Utah

Barry Scheck is an attorney, DNA expert, and co-founder of The Innocence Project. He is known for landmark litigation that set the standards for using DNA evidence in courts. He has spearheaded a nationwide movement to re-examine the fairness and efficacy of our criminal justice system. A Commissioner for the New York State Forensic Science Review Board and Professor at the Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, Scheck is considered one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America. He also will meet with students and faculty from the S. J. Quinney College of Law.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Sandra Cisneros
Author
Tuesday-Wednesday, April 25-26, 2017
Public lecture: Tuesday, April 25, 7PM
Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center

The Artist in Residence program has brought diverse artists to the University of Utah to lecture, teach, and give culturally significant performances. Award-winning writer Sandra Cisneros will serve as our 2017 Artist in Residence. Cisneros writes about the Latino experience in America and supports socially engaged writing and community outreach. She is the author of several significant and beloved books, including The House on Mango Street, Loose Woman: Poems, Caramelo, and A House of My Own. She also has been honored with numerous awards, including the MacArthur Fellowship, two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, and a Texas Medal of the Arts.

Cisneros will participate in a free public reading and on-stage conversation about her work, a book signing, and a reception for invited guests at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center in downtown Salt Lake City. Additionally, she will conduct an outreach activity for underserved Salt Lake City students in partnership with the University of Utah Neighborhood Partners, Office of Engagement, Latin American Studies Center, Gender Studies Program, Latinos in Action, Glendale Middle School, and the Glendale Branch of the Salt Lake Public Library.

2016-2017 ADVISORY BOARD: TANNER LECTURES ON HUMAN VALUES
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BOB GOLDBERG University of Utah | MATT HABER University of Utah
DAVID MACK Salt Lake Legal Defender Association | MARK MATHESON University of Utah
TOM RICHMOND University of Utah | PATRICK SHEA University of Utah
RAYMOND TYMAS-JONES University of Utah
National Theatre Live

COMING NEXT!

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
9/24 | 12PM
SALT LAKE CITY

THE DEEP BLUE SEA
10/15 | 12PM
SALT LAKE CITY

3 PENNY OPERA
11/12 | 12PM
SALT LAKE CITY

FRANKENSTEIN
10/29 | 12PM
SALT LAKE CITY

HAMLET
12/06 | 6PM
SALT LAKE CITY

FRANKENSTEIN
10/30 | 2PM
PARK CITY

WAR HORSE
12/11 | 2PM
PARK CITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: THC.UTAH.EDU.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
The Obert C. and Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center has received a $160,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for Landmarks of American Culture and History: Workshops for School Teachers. The workshops will be held in the summer of 2017 and will be co-directed by U professors of history Bob Goldberg and Paul Reeve.

Titled, “Manifest Destiny Reconsidered: The Utah Experience,” the course aims to enrich the curriculum of teachers nationwide by helping them develop a more complex understanding of western expansion. Under the direction of a diverse team of national and local scholars, teachers will investigate ways religion, race, gender and class impacted the Utah migration and challenged standard interpretations of Manifest Destiny and American citizenship. The workshop also will provide teachers with a historical framework for analyzing current conflicts over freedom of religion, equality, immigration and federal vs. state rights.

“We are honored to receive funding from the NEH for this timely and significant workshop,” said Bob Goldberg, director of the Tanner Humanities Center. “It provides a wonderful opportunity to bring teachers from across the nation to Utah to understand its place in the story of the American West. It also enables local teachers to expand their knowledge base and introduce new techniques to make that story come alive for their students. Our state’s and our country’s past is our opening to its present and future. Without knowing who we were, we will never learn who we are or all that we can accomplish.”
WORLD LEADERS LECTURE FORUM

Former Prime Minister of Denmark and Former Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen delivered the World Leaders Lecture Forum address on September 23, 2015. Entitled Unlimited Partnership: The European Union and the United States, his address reflected on the key challenges he encountered during his career and outlined his ideas for responding to international terrorism, economic turmoil, and military crisis.

THE STERLING M. MCMURRIN LECTURE ON RELIGION AND CULTURE

On October 8, 2015, Lester E. Bush, Jr. delivered the McMurrin Lecture on Religion and Culture. His lecture, Looking Back, Looking Forward: ‘Mormonism’s Negro Doctrine’ Forty-two Years Later served as the keynote address of Black, White, and Mormon: A Conference on the Evolving Status of Black Saints within the Mormon Fold. In his talk, Bush considered the forty-two years since his seminal article was published in Dialogue and undermined the historical narrative regarding the LDS Church’s priesthood ban.

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

Last year we hosted sixteen screenings in Salt Lake and Park City with titles including Hamlet, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, One Man, Two Guvnors, and Everyman. With funding from the Salt Lake City Arts Council and Zoo, Arts, and Parks of Salt Lake County, we brought more than 200 students from Salt Lake Arts Academy to watch a private screening of Charlotte Brontë’s Jane Eyre at Broadway Centre Cinemas.
THE DAVID P. GARDNER LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS & TANNER HUMANITIES CENTER ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Suzan-Lori Parks is a playwright, screenwriter, novelist, and musician. In 2002, she was the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for Topdog/Underdog. She has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the MacArthur Foundation and recently was awarded the prestigious Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize.

On February 24, 2016, Parks delivered her lecture via stories, gestures, song, and what she called “suggestions”: “listen to your own voice,” explore your “far out ideas,” “make your own luck,” “practice radical inclusion,” “keep the drama on the stage” and “grow your own grit.” Parks also conducted a theatre workshop for students from the Theatre Department, MUSE Project, and Humanities House.

THE TANNER LECTURE ON HUMAN VALUES

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee is a widely published and nationally recognized physician and cancer researcher. He received a Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction for The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer. On March 22, 2016, he lectured on Previvors and Post-humans: The Fantasies of Changing the Human Genome. His talk grew from his research for The Gene: An Intimate History. The lecture expertly wove together personal narrative, political and social history, and scientific research to tell us of the quest to understand human heredity and its influence on our lives, personalities, identities, fates, and choices.

THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE IN DOCUMENTARY FILMS

In partnership with Salt Lake Film Society, we presented a VIP reception and free, public screening of the Sundance-award winning documentary The Case Against 8 to university and community members on November 15, 2015. Following the screening, the film’s Director Ryan White was available for a Q&A session that focused on changing marriage equality laws in Utah and throughout the nation.
In keeping with our mission to support academic research at and beyond the University of Utah, the Tanner Humanities Center hosts internal and/or visiting faculty to present their latest work to a public audience.

TALKS AT THE TANNER

Professor of Law

AMOS GUIORA
SJ Quinney College of Law, University of Utah
Global Perspectives on Cyber-Terrorism
September 10, 2015

300th Anniversary University Professor

LAUREL THATCHER ULRICH
Harvard University
Tangible Things: Writing History Through Objects
March 10, 2016

Professor of Linguistics and Cultural Studies

MOHA ENNAJI
University of Fez, Morocco
Why the Arab Spring Did Not Happen in Morocco
April 28, 2016
GATEWAY TO LEARNING 
EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

Since 1990, the Tanner Humanities Center’s Gateway to Learning Educator Workshops have aimed to energize humanities education statewide by offering K-12 teachers rigorous professional development and continuing education summer courses. The workshops are led by University of Utah faculty and explore current scholarship on academic subjects, new course content and pedagogical methods, curriculum development, and innovative classroom technologies. These workshops serve more than 200 teachers every summer, and their training impacts over 5,000-7,500 students yearly. This year, we also offered a limited number of scholarships to teachers from local Title 1 schools.

2016 WORKSHOPS INCLUDED

- Teaching the History of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance
- The Great Transition: America Becomes Modern, 1880-1930
- Place, Story, and History in Contemporary World Literature
- English and American Literary Classics II
- Teaching the Holocaust
- Nature and Environment in Chinese Culture
- Critical Issues in Urban Education
- Using Online Course Materials to Individualize Student Learning

PROFESSORS OFF CAMPUS

In 2010, the Tanner Humanities Center developed a faculty outreach program called Professors Off Campus. This program aims to heighten awareness of local needs, strengthen dialogues between campus and community, and foster an appreciation of service work by University of Utah faculty. Program funds enable faculty members to be released from teaching a semester-length class so they may work on-site on a community project.

In 2016, Professors Off Campus will support Professor Erin Carraher from the School of Architecture. Carraher will execute an ongoing project in partnership with the Salt Lake Arts Council and three West Side youth art collectives. Carraher will help incorporate community input, creative vision, and themes from stakeholder dialogue into refined community art designs.
Applause, Applause!

Jessica Alexander (English), Graduate Fellow 2015-16 completed and successfully defended her dissertation and begins teaching at Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania this fall.

Nadja Durbach (History), Faculty Fellow 2004-05 and Melanie Rae Thon (English), Faculty Fellow 2008-09 were awarded John Simmon Guggenheim Fellowships for 2016. Guggenheim fellows are appointed on the basis of impressive achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

Robert W. Gehl (Communication), Faculty Fellow 2012-13 received the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) 2015 Nancy Baym Book Award for his book, Reverse Engineering Social Media: Software, Culture, and Political Economy in New Media Capitalism.

Robin Jensen (Communication), Faculty Fellow 2014-15 received the 2015 Professor Recognition Award from the University of Utah’s Mortar Board Senior Honors Society and the Order of Omega Greek Honors Society as well as several awards from the National Communication Association convention: Karl R. Wallace Memorial Award, New Investigator Award, and Distinguished Book Award.

David Kieran (History), Visiting Fellow 2015-16 published “Never Too Late to Do the Right Thing: Barack Obama, the Vietnam War’s Legacy, and the Cultural Politics of Military Awards during the Afghanistan War” in the Journal of American Studies. He is Assistant Professor of History at Washington-Jefferson College in Pennsylvania.

Kimberly Mangun (Communication), Faculty Fellow 2010-11 was awarded the 2015 Eugene Asher Award for Distinguished Teaching from the American Historical Association.
Our very special thanks to Kaitlyn Klein, 2015-2016 Tanner Humanities Center undergraduate intern and office assistant and recent Honors College graduate in Peace & Conflict Studies and Asian Studies. Klein is now teaching English as a Second Language for the US Peace Corps in Ukraine.

W. Paul Reeve (History), Faculty Fellow 2007-2008 received the Best Book Award at the 2016 Mormon History Association conference for his book, *Religion of a Different Color: Race and the Mormon Struggle for Whiteness* and has also been promoted to full professor at the University of Utah.

Paisley Rekdal (English), Faculty Fellow 2007-2008 received the 2016 Association of Writers & Writing Programs Award for Creative Nonfiction for her new book, *The Broken Country: On Trauma, A Crime, and the Continuing Legacy of Vietnam*.

Maeera Shreiber (English), Faculty Fellow 2015-2016 received a Fulbright Scholarship for 2016-2017 to Israel.

Stanley Thayne (Religious Studies), Mormon Studies Fellow 2015-16 successfully defended his dissertation in May and begins teaching Anthropology and Religion at Whitman College in Washington state this fall.
Donors & Supporters

The Tanner Humanities Center is grateful for the generous donations we have received from campus and community in 2015-16. If we have inadvertently left anyone off of this list, please let us know.

PEARLS | $100,000+
- O. C. Tanner Charitable Trust

DIAMONDS | $20,000+
- Julie and Greg Cook
- Peter and Brynn Huntsman

RUBIES | $10,000+
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- David Eccles School of Business
- Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, University of Utah
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Salt Lake City Public Library
Salt Lake Film Society
Mission and Overview

Since 1988, The Obert C. & Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center has promoted humanities inquiry and exchange by supporting innovative scholarly projects and creating opportunities for interaction among scholars, students, and lifelong learners. In particular, we offer twenty programs in three major areas: research support, public lectures and programs, and faculty outreach. Our activities reflect a vision of the humanities as not only relevant, timely, stimulating, and cutting-edge, but also essential for developing critical thinking, tolerance, and respect at the University of Utah and in our community.

The title of our newsletter and the picture on its cover recall one piece of Obert Tanner’s Legacy. Beyond his business, philanthropy, and teaching, Obert Tanner was a builder of fountains. He writes, “fountains are universally pleasing. The sight and sound of running water both awakens and answers so many human moods, from carefree joy and playfulness to serenity and peace of mind... The design of fountains has always caught my imagination. Each fountain has its own quality of beauty, and its own story.”