As you will read, the Tanner Humanities Center has kept its shoulder to the wheel in building up its Mormon Studies Initiative at the University of Utah. Now ending our first year, we look forward to continuing the work. We join with other programs at Claremont, Utah State University, and elsewhere in helping to create an environment that is conducive to vibrant intellectual conversation and discovery about Mormonism, its values, history, culture, and institutions. Change over time is essential to this investigation. At Utah the focus is not only on the past, but present and future of the LDS Church and its people.

We hope you, too, will join us in putting your shoulder to the wheel by attending coming activities that spotlight the Mormon contribution and the diversity of the Mormon experience. Note also, that our Eccles Mormon Studies Graduate Fellowship will continue and that we are making good strides toward completing the endowment campaign. Once we reach our goal, Mormon Studies will be a permanent feature at the University of Utah.

- Bob Goldberg, Director
Tanner Humanities Center

2012-2013 George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Mormon Studies Fellow

The Tanner Humanities Center Eccles Mormon Studies Fellowship is the first of its kind. This unique fellowship provides a doctoral student with funds to spend a year researching the history, beliefs, and culture of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and its members.

Rosemary Avance, a doctoral candidate at The University of Pennsylvania, will join the Tanner Humanities Center as the Eccles Mormon Studies Fellow for 2012-2013. Her research project, titled “Voices and silences: On the dialogic construction of Mormon identities,” considers the ways that modern Mormon identities are dialogically rendered from multiple, often conflicting sources: normative authorities, faithful members, the secular media, and heterodox and former Mormons.

Mormon Studies on the Move

The Book of Mormon, ‘Samuel the Lamanite,’ Jane Manning James, and the ‘White’ Universal Gospel

Max Mueller, the 2011-2012 Eccles Mormon Studies Fellow presented his Work-in-Progress talk on March 27, 2012. Mueller discussed The Book of Mormon as a lens through which early saints saw the world—and especially people of color—in a radically new way. Many saints saw humanity as a universal family, but a family to be redeemed. This redemption not only involved accepting Anglo-American conceptions of civilization, but also a metaphorical and in some cases literal whitening of dark skin.

Mueller used Jane Manning James, an early black convert to the LDS Church and pioneer, as a case study to evaluate The Book of Mormon lens in the 19th century and also discussed how this lens shifted in the 20th and 21st centuries.

“Science and Religion: This Time It’s Mormonism, Not Darwinism”

Greg Prince discussed the evolution of Latter-day Saint beliefs and theology at his Talk at the Tanner, Thursday, March 8, 2012. His talk focused on understanding and reconciling the multiple and varying accounts of Joseph Smith’s first vision, based on the evolution of the early LDS Church’s theology.

Dr. Prince is a pathology researcher, businessman, author, and historian of the Latter-day Saint movement. His most recent book is David O’McKay and the Rise of Modern Mormonism (U of Utah Press, 2005).
Matthew Bowman delivered a talk exploring the transformation of Mormonism in the early twentieth century on March 17, 2012 at the University of Utah Olpin Student Union. Dr. Bowman teaches the history of American religion at Hampden Sydney College. He received an M.A. in U.S. History from the University of Utah and holds a Ph.D. in American History from Georgetown University. He is the associate editor of Dialogue: a Journal of Mormon Thought. He is also the author of the new book The Mormon People: The Making of an American Faith (Random House, 2012).

“Stirring up LDS History”

Sunstone at the U, Sunstone Education Foundation, and Friends of the Library presented a lecture by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich at the Gould Auditorium in the Marriott Library on December 11, 2011. She discussed the publication, “Daughters of My Kingdom: The History and Work of the Relief Society,” by Susan W. Tanner and the importance and challenges of teaching the historical role of women in the LDS Church.

“The Music and Mysticism of La Monte Young”

BYU Professor Jeremy Grimshaw joined RadioWest host, Doug Fabrizio, to discuss Dr. Grimshaw’s new biography of La Monte Young, an avant-garde composer, musician, and artist, born in Idaho and raised as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on November 29, 2011. www.kuer.org

Upcoming Events

2012-2013 Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture on Religion and Culture

We are excited to announce Dr. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich as the 2012-2013 Sterling M. McMurrin Lecturer on Religion and Culture. Dr. Ulrich will deliver her talk “Remember Me: The Inscription of Self in Nineteenth-century Mormonism” on Friday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Salt Lake City Main Library Auditorium. She is Phillips Professor of Early American History and 300th Anniversary University Professor at Harvard University.

Dr. Ulrich is the author of Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History (Vintage, 2008). Her book A Midwife’s Tale won the Pulitzer Prize in History, among other awards. Ulrich received her B.A. from the University of Utah, her M.A. from Simmons College, and her Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire. Ulrich is the recipient of MacArthur Fellowship and the author of numerous articles and essays.

Women and the LDS Church: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives Conference August 24 - 25, 2012

Please join us for the “Women and the LDS Church” conference, August 24 - 25, 2012, codirected by Kate Holbrook, Specialist in Women’s History in the LDS Church History Department and the 2010-2011 Eccles Mormon Studies Fellow, and Matt Bowman, Professor of History at Hampden Sydney College and alumnus of the University of Utah.

Dr. Ulrich’s lecture will serve as the plenary address for the conference. On August 25, 2012, please join us for four roundtable panels:

Latter-day Saint Women and Agency: A Historical Perspective
Kathleen Flake, Quincy Newell, Kate Holbrook, and Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

Women’s Agency in the Contemporary LDS Church: Analytical Perspectives
David Campbell, Mary Farrell Bednarowski, Jennifer Finlayson-Fife, and Aimee Evans Hickman

(Continued on next page)
Women’s Agency in the Contemporary LDS Church: Popular Perspectives

Nelyan McBaine, Jana Reiss, Jane Hafen, and Claudia Bushman

Latter-day Saint Women Outside the United States

Judith Dushku, Matt Heiss, Carine Decoo-Vanwelkenhuysen, and Eva Roth

Women and the LDS Church Conference Sponsors

Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah
LDS Church History Department
The Program in Religious Studies, Utah State University
The Leonard J. Arrington Chair of Mormon History & Culture, Utah State University
The Center for Women & Gender, Utah State University
Utah Valley University
Utah State Historical Association
American West Center, University of Utah
Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University

For more information about the conference and Dr. Ulrich’s lecture, please visit the Tanner Humanities Center website (www.thc.utah.edu).

Current Research by U Graduate Students

Bruce Worthen, The First Runaway Officials in Utah
Alan Morell, The Creation of Mormon Identity in the 19th Century
Derek Sainsbury, The Electioneer Missionaries of 1844 and their emergence as a Mormon Elite
Melissa Ferguson, The Word of Wisdom and Mormon Foodways
Debra Marsh, The Making of a Mob: An In-depth Analysis of the Carthage Mob

Applause, Applause

Debra Marsh, a doctoral candidate in the Department of History, received the 2012-2013 Marriner S. Eccles Graduate Fellowship in Political Economy for her dissertation research, which takes an in-depth look at one particular type of antebellum mob violence and argues that many of the participants believed their actions were not only justifiable, but honorable as well.

W. Paul Reeve, Associate Professor of History at the University of Utah, and Michael Scott Van Wagenen, alum of U of U and Assistant Professor of History at the University of Texas at Brownsville, co-edited Between Pulpit and Pew: The Supernatural World in Mormon History and Folklore, published by Utah State University Press, May 2011.


Announcements

University of Utah Press Juanita Brooks Prize

$10,000 Bienniel Book Publication Prize to be awarded for the best monograph submitted to the Press in the subject area of Mormon Studies. Bob Goldberg, Director of the Tanner Center, sits on the Brooks Prize panel. Visit www.uofupress.com for more information.

Prize Announced
Smith-Pettit Award in Mormon History

The Smith-Pettit Foundation has announced a new award for the best dissertation in Mormon or Utah history. This award is exclusive to the University of Utah and will be awarded annually by the University of Utah History Department.
Eccles Mormon Studies Fellowship Board

Robert Goldberg
Director, Tanner Humanities Center; Co-Director, Middle East Center; The University of Utah

Martha Bradley
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dean of Undergraduate Studies; The University of Utah

Susan Rugh
Brigham Young University Professor of History

Spencer P. Eccles
Executive Director, Governor’s Office of Economic Development

Gregory Prince
President and CEO of Virion Systems, Inc.

Paul Reeve
Associate Professor of History, The University of Utah

Mormon Studies Fellowship Endowment Steering Committee

Robert Goldberg
Director, Tanner Humanities Center; Co-Director, Middle East Center; The University of Utah

Martha Bradley
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dean of Undergraduate Studies; The University of Utah

Lew Cramer
CEO, World Trade Center Utah

Spencer P. Eccles
Executive Director, Governor’s Office of Economic Development

Michael Homer
Attorney, Sutler Axland PLLC; Chair of the Utah Board of State History

Jess Hurtado
Hurtado and Associates

Kirk Jowers
Director and Associate Professor, Hinckley Institute of Politics; Co-Director, Middle East Center; The University of Utah

James McConkie
Attorney, Siegfried & Jensen

Gregory Prince
President and CEO of Virion Systems, Inc.

Susan Rugh
Brigham Young University Professor of History

Greg Thompson
University of Utah Marriott Library

Kim Wirthlin
Associate Vice President for Health Sciences, The University of Utah

“Come, help the good work move along”

The George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation has generously funded two additional years of support for the Eccles Mormon Studies Fellowship. The initial seed-grant from the Eccles Foundation enabled us to support the first two Mormon Studies Fellows, Kate Holbrook and Max Mueller.

This fellowship is the first step toward establishing Mormon Studies as a permanent part of the University of Utah. Our graduate research fellowship is the only one in the country at a time when the academic study of Mormonism is burgeoning.

But we still need your help!

The Tanner Humanities Center has raised $240,000 toward the $400,000 goal to endow the Ph.D. fellowship in Mormon Studies. With your support, we can ensure the future of this fellowship. Any size contribution will make a difference.

Will you join us in making the fellowship a reality?

To make a donation to the Mormon Studies Fellowship Endowment, please contact Bob Goldberg by email at bob.goldberg@utah.edu or by phone at (801) 581-8844.