This month marks the fifth anniversary of the Tanner Humanities Center’s Mormon Studies Initiative at the University of Utah. We began this effort in 2010 with the goal of encouraging vibrant, intellectual exploration of Mormonism on campus and in the wider community and have since been anxiously engaged in a good cause! And, our efforts have borne fruit. After receiving bridge grants from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, we have raised almost $450,000 to successfully fund a permanent endowment to support Ph.D. candidates in Mormon Studies as they finish their dissertations. We have hosted six young scholars from across the United States and Germany, with Stanley Thayne from the University of North Carolina as our current fellow.

With generous help from our donors, we also have raised $120,000 to support Mormon Studies programming. So far, we have:

- Funded Mormon Studies classes in Film, Languages and Literature, Sociology, and Gender Studies.
- Hosted internationally recognized Mormon Studies scholars, including Richard Bushman, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Greg Prince, David Campbell, and Lester Bush.
- Honored Elder Marlin K. Jensen for his service to church and community.
- Funded several Mormon Studies conferences with our most recent—“Black, White, and Mormon: A Conference on the Evolving Status of Saints within the Mormon Fold”—receiving broad national and international coverage.
- Offered a summer Mormon Studies fellowship program that houses Ph.D. candidates from California’s Claremont Graduate University who come to Salt Lake City to work in LDS archives.

We owe much of this success to our working board that oversees the Mormon Studies Initiative. Without its expertise, insight, and donor support, we could not have accomplished a fraction of this work. And, our shoulders remain hard on the wheel. Our newest project has just emerged from the planning stage. We soon will launch a Mormon Studies Scholar and Artist in Residence program, which will bring to campus scholars with expertise in Mormon Studies or renowned artists who explore the relationship between faith and art in their work.

Please push forward with us in continuing this worthy cause!

Bob Goldberg
Professor of History
Director, Tanner Humanities Center
BLACK, WHITE, AND MORMON:
a conference on the evolving status of black saints within the Mormon fold

Conference videos available online at www.youtube.com/tannerhumanitiescenter

On October 8-9, 2015, the Tanner Humanities Center presented “Black, White, and Mormon: A Conference on the Evolving Status of Black Saints within the Mormon Fold.” This conference offered a multi-disciplinary assessment of the status of race across time and space in the LDS Church. Speakers, panelists, and participants examined the legacy of race-based priesthood and temple bans that were in place until the late 1970s. They reflected upon racial violence in the United States and explored the roots of segregation in America and its impact on Mormonism. The conference also addressed the expansion of the Mormon faith into inner-city communities in the United States and into international communities abroad. Discussion centered, as well, upon notions of social justice within Mormonism and explored the implications of gender and race at Brigham Young University and at wards throughout the country.

The Conference included the following sessions:

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**

“LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD: MORMONISM’S NEGRO DOCTRINE FORTY-TWO YEARS LATER”
LESTER BUSH, JR., HISTORIAN

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**

COMMEMORATION: A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO DIED FROM FERGUSON, MISSOURI TO SARATOGA SPRINGS, UTAH – AND FROM BALTIMORE TO CHARLESTON.
Presenters: Bob Goldberg, Director, Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah; Tamu Smith, multimedia personality, co-founder of website and radio show “Sistas in Zion,” and co-author of *Diary of Two Mad Black Mormons*; and Tekulve Jackson-Vann, motivational speaker, singer, and author

**RACE AND THE INNER CITY**
Moderator: W. Paul Reeve, Professor of History, University of Utah
Panelists: Thomas Sugrue, Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University; Ram Cnaan, Professor and Director, Program for Religion and Social Policy Research, University of Pennsylvania; and Jacob Rugh, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Brigham Young University

**LUNCH PLENARY SESSION**

**RACE AND THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH**
Elder Joseph W. Sitati, LDS Church First Quorum of the Seventy

**RACE AND MORMON WOMEN**
Moderator: Paulette Payne, television host, “Life Notes” talk show, Atlanta, GA
Panelists: Janan Graham-Russell, writer and graduate student in religious studies, Howard University; Catherine M. Stokes, retired deputy director in public health and community volunteer; LaShawn Williams-Schultz, CSW; and Tamu Smith
The ‘Black, White, and Mormon’ conference at the University of Utah was historic. It marked the first time that scholars of race and religion as well as scholars and leaders from the black LDS community gathered to talk about what it means to be black and Mormon. Their stories were gripping and filled with passion. Many participants and attendees mentioned that they left both inspired and better educated, a rare combination. The energy from the conference has already spilled over into additional initiatives designed to build momentum. ‘Black, White, and Mormon’ plowed new ground and will raise up a healthy dialogue, not only within the local Mormon community but also in national and international settings.” — W. Paul Reeve, conference co-organizer and Professor of History at the University of Utah.

RACE AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
Moderator: Dalyn Montgomery, Campus Director of Graduate and Professional Studies, University of Redlands
Panelists: Maybelline McCoy, activist, photo journalist, and mentor; Margaret Young, author, African American history; Darius Gray, commentator; Leslie Hadfield, Professor of African American History, Brigham Young University; Luis Belchior, student of international relations and economic development, Brigham Young University

RACE AT THE WARD
Moderator: Dalyn Montgomery, Campus Director of Graduate and Professional Studies, University of Redlands
Panelists: Jermaine Sullivan, eCore advisor, Clayton State University; Janan Graham-Russell; Peter Johnson, Assistant Professor of Accounting, University of Alabama; and Ingrid Shepherd, Executive Director, The One Less Foundation.
From Catherine M. Stokes, panelist: “Reflections will continue into the months ahead because the conference went where angels [and others] have feared to tread or even approach. The conference was a very good thing for the Mormons, the blacks, the whites, and the society itself. There is a need to start a dialogue/conversation about race so that we might begin to examine ourselves individually and collectively. What better place to initiate a small beginning than Utah, the home/headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. My gratitude to the people who made the conference happen and to the University of Utah.”
VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT CO-SPONSORS
George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation; Greg Prince; Jess Hurtado; Smith-Pettit Foundation; Anonymous; David Eccles School of Business Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, University of Utah; Charles Redd Center, Brigham Young University; College of Humanities, Brigham Young University; Laurel Thatcher-Ulrich; Utah Valley University; Department of History, University of Utah; and University of Utah Press.
Stanley Thayne, doctoral candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, joined the Tanner Humanities Center in August as the 2015-16 Mormon Studies Fellow. His research project is titled “The Blood of Father Lehi: Indigenous Americans and the Book of Mormon.”

**How did you become interested in Mormon Studies?**
I became interested in Mormon history while serving as a missionary in northern Pennsylvania, including some areas where Joseph Smith had lived. We heard stories about Joseph Smith that were quite different from anything I grew up with. As an undergraduate majoring in English with an interest in Folklore, I returned to those areas and documented stories, which led to my first academic presentation at the Mormon History Association and first publication in the *Journal of Mormon History*. After that, I read everything I could about early Mormon history and earned an M.A. in U.S. History from BYU. I migrated from there to Religious Studies for my Ph.D.

**What is your research project?**
I am interested in the question of how indigenous Americans respond to the Book of Mormon, since it is purportedly about their ancestors and about them, as typically interpreted. My project is an ethnographic study of indigeneity, or indigenous identity, as informed by the Book of Mormon among American Indian and First Nations Latter-day Saints in North America.

**How has the Mormon Studies Fellowship at the Tanner Humanities Center benefitted you and your research?**
The Mormon Studies Fellowship has given me time and space to write and continue my research. Being in a university setting in Utah is great for a number of reasons, including proximity to archives, my fieldwork sites, and professors and other scholars. The center also brings in outside scholars and organizes talks and conferences on topics relevant to my research. For example, the “Black, White, and Mormon” conference addressed the issue of race and Mormonism, embedding it within a wider context while also focusing on the lived experience of black Mormons. I gained a lot from this conference, both from the presentations themselves and the conversations that took place between sessions.

**What can we expect in your Work In Progress talk in the spring?**
My talk will address the question of how the Book of Mormon influences articulations of indigeneity among American Indian Latter-day Saints, based on fieldwork I conducted in Shoshone, Hopi, Catawba, and confederated Blackfoot and Blackfeet nations. I also will discuss how being indigenous to the Americas may influence how one reads and interprets the Book of Mormon and reflects upon the politics of interpretation for American Indian Latter-day Saints.
What is next for you in this field and in your career?

I hope to complete my dissertation, graduate, and get a job! I am looking for a position in Indigenous Studies, Religious Studies, or American History. I also, of course, plan to continue writing and doing research and field work. I love getting out of the library and visiting the actual sites where people live. And people, unlike printed sources, are open-ended (as long as they want to keep talking to you); you can ask follow-up questions and you can return to them with your interpretations. This is something I plan to do in the near future: return to the field with my dissertation chapters to see what the people I write about have to say and then revise. It is what a mentor of mine, Elaine Lawless, calls “reciprocal ethnography.”
MORMON STUDIES COURSES at the U

FALL 2015

MORMONS AND MOVIES: SEARCHING FOR TRANSCENDENCE
STERLING VAN WAGENEN, PROFESSOR/LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF FILM AND MEDIA ARTS

This course will explore the way Mormons have been portrayed and portrayed themselves in feature and documentary films. Topics include: films treating the Mormon experience, the LDS Church’s contemporary use of film and media, “devotional” v. “propaganda” expressions of faith, Hollywood and the Mormon image, the use of film to express the transcendent, and current genres and filmmakers in Mormon cinema. Throughout the semester, working Mormon filmmakers, historians of LDS film, and LDS Church producers and directors will attend class discussions.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS SOCIETY AND CULTURE
MARCIE GOODMAN, ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

In this course, aspects of Mormonism, such as family, organization, education, politics, health practices, gender, stratification, culture, social control and deviance, identity, power, and other principles are scrutinized with an academic framework. Using sociological paradigms, official LDS doctrine, and applicable peer-reviewed publications, the course is designed to better comprehend the distinctive nature and contributions of this religion.

MORMONISM AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE
W. PAUL REEVE, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

This course explores the historical development of Mormonism in an American context, from its Second Great Awakening beginnings to the beginning of the twenty-first century. It situates the founding and development of Mormonism within the contexts of American cultural, economic, social, religious, and political history. A central theme is the ebb and flow over time of tension between Mormonism and broader American society.
SPRING 2016

MORMONISM AND GENDER
JACKIE FARNSWORTH, ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR, GENDER STUDIES

This course offers an exploration and analysis of the historic and contemporary practices and perceptions surrounding gender in the Mormon religion. We will consider how different branches of Mormonism historically and currently view the social roles and responsibilities of men and women, as well as the recognition and treatment of gender minorities, including transgender individuals. We also will examine Mormon perspectives on the connection between gender roles, family structure, and sexual orientation and explore personal perceptions of gender roles from outsiders and insiders.

Other Mormon Studies courses that have been offered at the University of Utah:
Mormon Theology and Christianity with Professor Brian Birch, Department of Philosophy, Utah Valley University
The Book of Mormon as Literature with Associate Instructor David Bokovoy, Department of Languages & Literature

Sterling Van Wagenen says this about his “Mormons and Movies” course:

REFLECTIONS
Kevin Hanson, Chair of the Department of Film and Media Arts, approached me about teaching a course on “Mormons and Movies” with support from the Tanner Humanities Center. I have a long and broad background in film from working with the Sundance Film Festival and the Sundance Institute, directing and producing feature and documentary films, and teaching a range of university courses. But this gave me the chance to survey how Mormons have been portrayed and how they have portrayed themselves in films, to look at the current landscape of Mormon cinema, and think about the ways in which movies that address Mormonism fit into larger cinematic traditions.

THE FUTURE OF MORMON CINEMA
Mormon cinema is still pretty young, and the challenge for its filmmakers is to consider how a film that addresses Mormonism may move beyond a niche audience. Two recent trends I see in Mormon cinema are what I’ll call “Missionaries in Peril” and “Mormons in Crisis.” Several use Mormonism as a means to address universal issues—life, love, death, faith, courage, and community—and succeed by making strong, interesting films. If you want to learn more about contemporary Mormon cinema, the Saratov Approach by Garrett Batty (2013) and Just Let Go (2015) by Christopher S. Clark and Patrick Henry Parker are good places to begin.
MORMON STUDIES Initiative

MORMON STUDIES SCHOLAR AND ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

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. To extend our Mormon Studies Initiative’s reach, we aim to establish a Mormon Studies Scholar and Artist in Residence program. Our goal is to host prominent scholars with expertise in Mormon Studies and renowned artists who explore the relationship between faith and art in their work. Each residency will be tailored to a specific scholar or artist, but we expect the resident to serve as a research or artistic mentor, offer public lectures or performances, teach workshops or classes for University of Utah students and lifelong learners, and contribute to Mormon Studies curriculum planning and program development.

We have secured preliminary funding for this new program from the R. Harold Burton Foundation, Jim Macfarlane, Thomas and Susan Rugh, and Charlotte and David Hamblin. We aim to complete fundraising in the spring so that we may welcome a Mormon Studies scholar or artist during the 2016-17 academic year.

If you would like to learn more about or to support the Tanner Humanities Center’s Mormon Studies initiative, please contact Bob Goldberg, Director, at (801) 581-8844 and bob.goldberg@utah.edu or Susan M. Anderson, Development Officer, at (801) 581-8862 and susan.anderson@utah.edu; www.thc.utah.edu.
Oxford University Press published W. Paul Reeve’s *Religion of a Different Color: Race and the Mormon Struggle for Whiteness* in February 2015. From September 4–October 29, 2015, and in conjunction with the Tanner Humanities Center’s “Black, White, and Mormon” conference, illustrations from Reeve’s book were enlarged and placed on display at the Marriott Library. The exhibition highlighted two themes: polygamy as the racial corruption of the white family and polygamy as slavery. Reeve was a Tanner Humanities Center Faculty Fellow in 2007–2008.

Kate Holbrook, the Tanner Humanities Center’s first Mormon Studies fellow, has announced that *The First Fifty Years of Relief Society: Key Documents in Latter-day Saint Women’s History* will be published on March 1, 2016 by The Church Historian’s Press. Carol Cornwall Madsen and Jill Mulvay Derr first conceived of this project, and Matt Grow and Kate Holbrook joined as co-editors in 2012. Holbrook now works as a specialist in Women’s History at the Church History Department.

Elise Pulido, a 2014 Mormon Studies Summer Fellow, has completed her dissertation, “The Spiritual Evolution of Margarito Bautista: Mexican Mormon Evangelizer, Polygamist Dissident, and Utopian Founder, 1878–1961,” at Claremont’s Graduate University. Pulido says this about her fellowship: “Being in proximity to Special Collections in the Marriott Library at the University of Utah and the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University, the LDS Church History Library in Salt Lake City, and the Museum of Mormon History in Mexico in Provo was invaluable. Also, having office space and the support of Bob Goldberg and the Tanner Humanities Center’s staff made a huge impact. Without the fellowship, I would not have finished so early or so well.”

Derek Ralph Sainsbury, a Ph.D. student in the Department of History at the University of Utah, completed his dissertation: “The Cadre for the Kingdom: The Electioneer Missionaries of Joseph Smith’s 1844 Presidential Campaign.”

In partnership with Claremont’s Graduate University, the Tanner Humanities Center welcomed doctoral candidates Taunalyn Rutherford and Christopher Smith as our 2015 Mormon Studies Summer Fellows.

During his visit to Utah for the Tanner Humanities Center’s World Leaders Lecture Forum, former NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Tanner Humanities Center Director Bob Goldberg were invited to meet with President Henry B. Eyring and Elder Russell M. Nelson, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Together, they engaged in a wide-ranging discussion that spanned the emigration of Denmark’s Saints to Utah and current political and economic events in Europe.

In April 2015, University of Utah student Justin Bray was awarded the Mormon History Association’s 2014-15 Student Paper Award for “‘No Hard Feelings’: The Lord’s Supper and Community Worship in Early Mormon Utah.” As a reviewer noted, “Bray’s paper is a carefully argued examination of the communal nature of the Lord’s Supper as it functioned when it was withheld from entire congregations as a means to restoring unity and order within Mormon communities. It is a little known aspect of nineteenth century Mormon communitarianism and Bray explores and analyzes it well.”
MORMON STUDIES donors

The Tanner Humanities Center is grateful for the generous donations it has received from campus and community since 2010 in support of our Mormon Studies Initiative. If we inadvertently have left anyone off this list, please let us know.

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Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel!
We welcome donations at all levels and would be honored to discuss our Mormon Studies Initiative and its funding opportunities with potential donors. We also would be pleased to arrange a visit to the Tanner Humanities Center or an invitation to applicable Mormon Studies Initiative programs or events. Please contact Bob Goldberg, Director, at (801) 581-8844 and bob.goldberg@utah.edu or Susan M. Anderson, Development Officer, at (801) 581-8862 and susan.anderson@utah.edu; www.thc.utah.edu.
MISSION
The Obert C. and Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center at the University of Utah promotes humanistic inquiry and exchange by supporting innovative scholarly projects and creating opportunities for interaction among scholars, students, and lifelong learners. We achieve this by:

- Providing fellowships and support to undergraduate, graduate, and faculty scholars to facilitate and discuss new research in the humanities, particularly projects that transcend traditional disciplinary and departmental boundaries.
- Developing and hosting colloquia and workshops that encourage new thinking in humanities education for university, primary, and secondary school faculty and their students.
- Presenting conferences, lectures, panel discussions, screenings, and other programs that connect campus to the community and encourage engagement with the humanities beyond the university environment.

HISTORY
The Obert C. & Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center was founded in 1988 as the Utah Humanities Center in the College of Humanities at the University of Utah. In 1993, it was endowed and renamed through a generous gift from the family foundation of Obert C. Tanner, renowned entrepreneur, philanthropist, and professor emeritus of philosophy. In Fall 2008, the Tanner Humanities Center moved from the University of Utah’s historic Carlson Hall to the new Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities building, named for the Rt. Rev. Carolyn Tanner Irish in honor of her passion for the humanities at the University of Utah.

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