

# THE BEEHIVE

THE MORMON STUDIES NEWSLETTER OF  
THE OBERT C. AND GRACE A. TANNER HUMANITIES CENTER

2017-18



## Director's Message

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### Table of Contents

01 Director's Message

---

02 Manifest Destiny Reconsidered: The Utah Experience

---

03 Greg Prince Recap

---

04 Simmons Mormon Studies Professor Paul Reeve

---

05 Marlin K. Jensen Scholar & Artist in Residence Program

---

06 Black, White, and Mormon II:

---

07 2017-18 Mormon Studies Graduate Research Fellow

---

08 Applause, Applause

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09 Donors

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This issue of the *Beehive* marks the seventh anniversary of Mormon Studies at the U. The Tanner Humanities Center has striven to examine, with integrity, the Mormon experience – its history, people, and institutions. This means reaching out and interacting with all segments of the diverse LDS community. We are proud of our achievements. We have hosted classes and conferences, brought leading LDS academics to lecture, and provided fellowships to young scholars working on their doctoral dissertations. We are humbled by the trust

and support we have received from donors who have contributed nearly \$800,000 to insure the health of our programs. On our drafting table for June 2018, is a conference considering race in the LDS Church and the impact of the 1978 priesthood revelation on its fortieth anniversary.

The good news is spreading on campus and we are pleased to be joined in our Mormon Studies effort by the U's College of Humanities. Working with the Tanner Center, the college under the leadership of Lexie Kite has recently secured two-years of funding to create the Simmons Professorship in Mormon Studies. This professorship has been awarded to historian Paul Reeve. Paul is the author of numerous books and articles on Mormon history, including *Religion of a Different Color: Race and the Mormon Struggle for Whiteness*.

This is a first step to a larger goal. As my tenure as director of the Tanner Center draws to a close in 2019, it is important to insure the continuation of our Mormon Studies initiative. With this in mind, Lexie Kite has begun to solicit funds to create the Jane Manning James Presidential Endowed Chair in Mormon Studies at the University of Utah. Jane Manning James was an early convert to the LDS Church and one of only a handful of African-American pioneers who left Nauvoo for Utah. Central to this position is funding allotted to continue Mormon Studies programming.

We hope that you will join us in keeping a shoulder to the wheel and supporting this work. Perhaps, the day dawn is truly beginning to break!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Goldberg".

Bob Goldberg  
Professor of History  
Director, Tanner Humanities Center

# Manifest Destiny Reconsidered: The Utah Experience

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On June 18-23 and July 9-14, 2017, the Tanner Humanities Center welcomed 20 local and 49 national teachers from 28 states to its National Endowment for the Humanities' Landmarks of American Culture and History Workshop. Some of the teachers had never ventured west of the Mississippi River!

"Manifest Destiny Reconsidered: The Utah Experience" was co-directed by University of Utah Professors of History Bob Goldberg and Paul Reeve and aimed to help teachers develop a more complex understanding of western expansion and Utah's place in that story. Under the direction of a diverse team of scholars, teachers investigated the ways religion, race, gender, and class touched Utah migration and settlement and challenged standard interpretations of Manifest Destiny and of what it meant to be "American." The workshop also provided teachers with an historical framework for analyzing how issues at the forefront of settling the Utah Territory — freedom of religion, citizenship, equality, federal vs. states' rights, economic opportunity, and violence — continue to shape our nation's political and social debates.

Our participants varied in their teaching experience, ranging from one to thirty-five years. Areas of teaching specialty were diverse and included history, social studies, English, Economics, Art History, Geography, and Language Arts, among others. Utah teachers came from across the state with the majority from the Salt Lake Valley.

Representative teacher comments included:

"I found all presenters informative and thought-provoking. The variation in styles and approaches made things more engaging. Paul set the standard for intellectual provocation, Quinn for concrete, classroom-oriented implementation. All of the others fit nicely in between."

—Will B., Dunwoody, GA

"I had an amazing experience. Going into this seminar I had very little knowledge on Utah-specific Manifest Destiny. At the U of U I was able to learn an in-depth history of the state, how it came to be and the people who traveled there. The numerous sites only enhanced the learning experience and now that I know this new history of the state, I will be incorporating Utah history into my Manifest Destiny unit."

—Wayne C., Arvada, CO



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Special thanks to the Department of History for co-sponsoring our opening night receptions.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**Humanities**

# Mormon historian, scientist calls on Mormon leadership to rethink its long-held conclusions about LGBT people



Author and historian Gregory A. Prince delivered the 2017 Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture “Science vs. Dogma: Biology Challenges the LDS Paradigm” to a standing room only crowd at the Salt Lake City Public Library on Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

Until the late 1960s, when the Stonewall Riots in New York City brought LGBT issues into the public square, the consensus among clinicians, scientists, legislators, and religious leaders was that homosexuality was either an unfortunate choice that could be unchosen, or a disease that could—and must—be cured.

Recent research, however, has shown that a combination of genetic and (mostly) epigenetic factors act during fetal development to imprint sexual preference and gender identity indelibly within the brain. This ‘biology paradigm,’ Prince argued, calls for a reassessment of Latter-day Saint doctrines, policies, and attitudes towards homosexuality, all of which

were built on a foundation of the ‘choice paradigm.’ These policies and attitudes helped institutionalize homophobia, and left some LGBT members feeling so isolated that they decided to take their own lives.

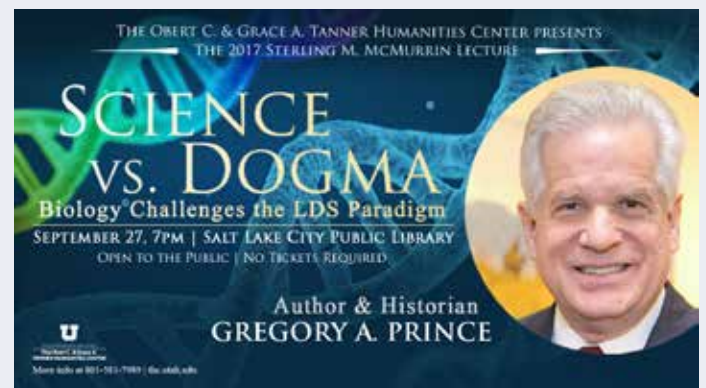
“No policy is justifiable, no policy is ethical, that results in suicide,” said Prince. “If we embrace the findings of science that sexual orientation and gender identity are biological, then we become a more just society,” he concluded.

“Greg Prince,” writes Tanner Center director Bob Goldberg, “regardless of topic, brings to his research both the insight of the scientist and the creativity of an historian. His talk demands that that we reflect seriously on our beliefs and reenvision our sense of community.”

## Very Special Thanks

The B.W. Bastian Foundation, The Salt Lake City Public Library, Q Salt Lake Magazine, and The King’s English Bookshop.

Watch the complete lecture online: <https://youtu.be/gssnz1WZ3dU>  YouTube



## Mormon Studies Initiative Steering Committee

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# Simmons Mormon Studies Professor Paul Reeve

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The University of Utah's College of Humanities has appointed Paul Reeve, Professor of History, as the first Simmons Mormon Studies Professor. Reeve received his doctorate in history from the University of Utah and teaches courses in Utah history, Mormon history, and the history of the Western U.S. His most recent book, *Religion of a Different Color: Race and the Mormon Struggle for Whiteness* (Oxford University Press, 2015), received the Mormon History Association's Best Book Award, the John Whitmer Historical Association's Smith-Pettit Best Book Award, and the Utah State Historical Society's Francis Armstrong Madsen Best History Book Award.

As the Simmons Mormon Studies Professor, Reeve will research and teach, shape this emerging field, and begin a new digital history project, "A Century of Black Mormons." Reeve's project seeks to build a digital database that names all black Mormons baptized into the faith between 1830 and 1930 and documents their lives through primary source research. On completion, the database will become available to scholars and the public.

This professorship builds upon a strong foundation of Mormon Studies at the University of Utah, and the College of Humanities is grateful to the David E. and Melinda K. Simmons Foundation for its support.



## Marlin K. Jensen Scholar & Artist in Residence Selection Committee

BRIAN CANNON | Brigham Young University  
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DAVID WIRTHLIN | Retired

# Marlin K. Jensen Scholar & Artist in Residence Program

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The Tanner Humanities Center launched its Marlin K. Jensen Scholar and Artist in Residence program in fall 2016. 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. The semester-long residency will

be tailored to a specific scholar or artist, but each Marlin K. Jensen resident will serve as a mentor for students, offer public lectures or performances, teach workshops or classes for University of Utah students or lifelong learners, and contribute to Mormon Studies curriculum planning and program development.

## About Marlin K. Jensen

Naming this program for Marlin K. Jensen honors his significant and enduring impact on our community. Jensen was a general authority of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving as the official Church Historian and Recorder from 2005 to 2012. During his tenure, he worked to professionalize the Church History Department, give it international range, make its holdings more accessible to researchers, and publish primary materials. He was made an emeritus general authority in 2012. Currently, he practices law in Salt Lake City and is a member of the Utah State Board of Regents.

We are grateful to the many donors who have supported our efforts in developing and launching this program. Major donors include the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Greg and Julie Cook, Peter and Brynn Huntsman, Steven Petersen, Bill and Pat Child, the Bank of Utah, the Boyer Family Foundation, the R. Harold Burton Foundation, and J. Frederick and Phyllis Pingree.

Utah Valley University Professor of Philosophy Brian Birch was our inaugural Jensen scholar in 2016-17. He taught "The Intellectual Life of Mormonism: Reason, Faith, and Science Among the Latter-day Saints" and organized a public companion lecture series featuring

prominent Mormon Studies scholars. Brigham Young University Professor of English Kimberly Johnson will hold the position in 2017-18. In spring 2018, we will solicit applications for 2018-19.

## Kimberly Johnson

From a highly competitive pool of applications, Kimberly Johnson was selected as the 2017-2018 Marlin K. Jensen Scholar and Artist in Residence. Johnson, U alumna and professor and associate chair of English at Brigham Young University, is the recipient of numerous awards including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, Utah Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her latest book of poetry, "Uncommon Prayer," was published in 2014.

Johnson's fellowship will consist of a semester-long residency at the Tanner Humanities Center beginning in spring 2018. She will lead a poetry class for U students and lifelong learners featuring a series of guest poets and public readings. She will also contribute to Mormon Studies curriculum planning and program development.

"As a scholar and poet, Kim brings new perspectives to our Mormon Studies Initiative at the U," said Bob Goldberg, director of the Tanner Center. "Her unique ability to provide deep context to Mormon poetry will enable students to expand their understanding of the faith and explore how devotion is expressed. Students of all religions will gain much from this stimulating and thoughtful master teacher."

Her class, "Devotional Poetry," will guide students through the historical religious, political, and social tensions that have influenced the development of devotional poetry over the last three millennia. Students will explore how contemporary Mormon writers navigate the boundaries between the secular American literary tradition and the interests and lexicon of their faith community.

# Black, White, and Mormon II: A conference on race in the LDS church since the 1978 revelation

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On June 8, 1978, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced Spencer W. Kimball's revelation extending the lay priesthood to all worthy men, regardless of race or color. To mark this event and analyze the Mormon Church's ongoing efforts to achieve racial equality, the Tanner Humanities Center will host "Black, White, Mormon II," a multidisciplinary conference in collaboration with the College of Humanities' Simmons Mormon Studies Professor Paul Reeve. This follows our 2015 conference on Mormonism and race that received national and international press coverage. Here, we expand these themes and examine new issues to investigate how the LDS Church sustains an ever-increasing multiracial and multicultural membership and to explore the impact of doctrinal change at the grassroots.

"Black, White, and Mormon II" will begin on June 15, 2018 with the Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture on Religion and Culture delivered by African American writer, historian, and activist Darius Gray. Gray joined the Mormon Church in 1964 and has been a central figure in pressing for racial change and serving as a voice for African American Mormons.

On June 16, 2018, scholarly and community panels will discuss how African American Mormons make sense of America's current racial and religious climate, examine the Mormon Church's racial policies and practices, and explore the impact of the 1978 revelation. Panelists also will assess the Mormon Church's progress on race at institutional and membership levels and discuss what needs to happen to advance racial equality moving forward.

## Stay connected

For conference updates and to join our Mormon Studies Initiative e-mail list, contact [john.boyack@utah.edu](mailto:john.boyack@utah.edu).



## Mormon Studies Graduate Research Fellowship Selection Committee

MARTHA BRADLEY | University of Utah  
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# A Conversation with 2017-2018 Mormon Studies Graduate Research Fellow

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Cristina Rosetti, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside is spending the 2017-18 academic year at the Tanner Humanities Center as our Mormon Studies Graduate Research Fellow. She will deliver a work in progress

talk at 12:00 p.m. on February 20, 2018 in the Tanner Humanities Center's Jewel Box Conference Room. The talk is free and open to the public.

## **How did you become interested in Mormon Studies?**

During a directed study with my advisor, I was introduced to Richard Bushman's *Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling*. From the beginning of the text, I was captivated by the story of Smith and the early Saints. As a trained ethnographer, I wondered how the early world of Joseph Smith translated into contemporary Mormon experience. Not long after, I met individuals from Mormon fundamentalist groups and churches, which opened the door to a world of Mormonism that was more complex than I imagined and that raised compelling research questions.

## **What is your research project?**

My project analyzes the historic connections between nineteenth-century Mormons and spiritualists and investigates how and why the practice of spirit communication translates into the present for Mormon members of outlier groups. In particular, I am interested in the ways that Mormon individuals and groups utilize this practice to harness spiritual power. For some, this simply means gaining special insight into the spiritual world by communicating with deceased family members or friends. For others, however, it is a mechanism for acquiring authority and legitimizing leadership structures and movements.

## **How has the Mormon Studies Research Fellowship at the Tanner Humanities Center benefitted you and your research?**

The Mormon Studies Research Fellowship allowed me to move to Utah, which has made it easier to conduct intensive fieldwork with the individuals and communities central to my research. I also have gained invaluable access to the archives and critical materials housed in the Marriott Library, the Harold B. Lee Library, and the LDS Church History Library. I even discovered seminal texts browsing the shelves at Weller Book Works in Trolley Square. This fellowship not only has allowed me to spend a year focusing on research and writing, but it has surrounded me with amazing thinkers in this community working in the fields of Mormon and Religious Studies.

## **What can we expect to hear during your work in progress talk this spring?**

I currently am working on a dissertation chapter that examines the nature of divine revelation and access to spiritual authority. Throughout the fall semester, I have observed and interviewed fundamentalist Mormons at their ranch in Nevada. This group, which began in 1978, follows a reported spiritual interaction between their late prophet and a previous fundamentalist leader. As the group claims, this instance of spirit communication authenticates its authority and solidifies its claim to the priesthood key. My work in progress talk will distill what I have discovered in my fieldwork and I will discuss how the contemporary practice of spirit communication enables some marginalized groups to navigate their place within the broader Mormon culture.

## **What is next for you in your career?**

I will present several conference papers on my research in the coming year and aim to defend my dissertation in spring 2019. I will apply for faculty and fellowship positions in Religious Studies programs nationwide and plan to transform my dissertation into a book manuscript. My future projects will build upon this work, studying the experiences of contemporary Mormons with the goal of adding to scholarly conversations about the faith and its place in American religious history.



# Applause, Applause

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*Conscience and Community: Sterling M. McMurrin, Obert C. Tanner, and Lowell L. Bennion*, edited by Robert Alan Goldberg, L. Jackson Newell, and Linda King Newell, will be released by the University of Utah Press in Spring 2018. Additional contributors include: Brian Birch, Mary Lythgoe Bradford, Kathleen Flake, J. Boyer Jarvis, Mark Matheson, William McMurrin, Kent Murdock, Gregory Prince, Carolyn Tanner Irish, Ellen Bennion Stone, and Emma Lou Warner Thayne.

Under the direction of Joseph R. Stuart, graduate student in the Department of History at the University of Utah, the inaugural Rocky Mountain American Religion Seminar (RMARS) took place in October 2017 at the Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building. The seminar featured Kathryn Gin Lum, Assistant Professor in the Religious Studies Department at Stanford University. Lum delivered the keynote address, discussed her current book project, and conducted research at the LDS Church History Library archives. In the spring 2018, RMARS will host Robert A. Orsi, the Grace Craddock Nagle Chair in Catholic Studies at Northwestern University and Marie Griffith, the John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis and the Director of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.



**Max Perry Mueller**, the Tanner Humanities Center's 2011-12 Mormon Studies Graduate Research Fellow, recently published *Race and the Making of the Mormon People* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017). Mueller is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Nebraska.

Department of History graduate students have raised the profile of Mormon Studies at the University of Utah: Jeffrey Mahas' "'I Intend to Get Up a Whistling School': The Nauvoo Whistling and



Whittling Movement, American Vigilante Tradition, and Mormon Theocratic Thought" was published in the *Journal of Mormon History* in fall 2017. Jeff Turner presented "Polygamy, Immigration, and the Negotiation of Mormon Ethnicity," at the Mormon History Association's Annual Meeting in June 2017 and will present "Immigration and Religious Nativism: Mormons, Catholics, and the Language of the 1891 Immigration Act," at the annual meeting of the American Society of Church History in January 2018.

**Lori Motzkus Wilkinson's** "Scribbling Women in Zion: Mormon Women's Fascination with Fanny Fern" will be published in the Spring 2018 issue of the *Journal of Mormon History*. It also won the Mormon History Association's Davis Bitton Student Research Paper Award of Merit and the Helen Papanikolas Award for Utah Women's History. Her "Buttons, Banners and Pie: Mormon Women's Grassroots Movements, 'Equality Yes, ERA No' versus 'Another Mormon for ERA'" has also been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Mormon History*.

**Gavin Feller**, the Tanner Humanities Center's 2016-17 Mormon Studies Graduate Research Fellow, successfully defended his dissertation in May 2017. Feller is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at Southern Utah University.

Richard E. Turley, Jr., and Jeffrey G. Cannon received the Article of Excellence Award from the Mormon History Association for "A Faithful Band: Moses Mahlangu and the First Soweto Saints."

Utah State University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences awarded the Evans Biography Award to Gregory A. Prince for *Leonard Arrington and the Writing of Mormon History* (University of Utah Press, 2016).

# Mormon Studies Initiative Donors

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The Tanner Humanities Center is grateful for the generous donations we have received from the community since 2010 in support of our Mormon Studies Initiative. If we inadvertently made any mistakes or left anyone off of this, 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](mailto:bob.goldberg@utah.edu) or Susan Anderson, Development Officer, at 801-581-8862 and [susan.anderson@utah.edu](mailto:susan.anderson@utah.edu).

## \$100 +

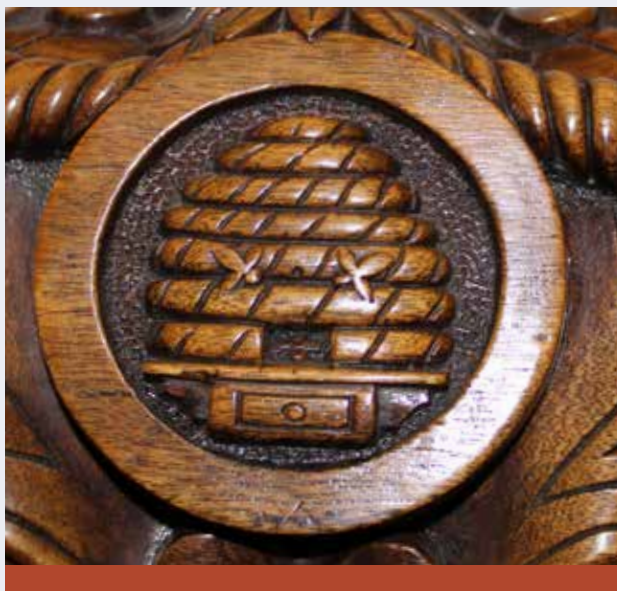
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## Mission and Overview

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Since 1988, the Obert C. and 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. 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, stimulating, and cutting-edge, but also essential for developing critical thinking, tolerance, and respect at the University of Utah and in our community.

## Mormon Studies Initiative at The University of Utah

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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. Funds raised for the Mormon Studies Initiative have supported an endowment for a graduate research fellowship, the Marlin K. Jensen Scholar and Artist in Residence program, conferences, courses, public lectures, panels, and other community events.



## Staff

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**Bob Goldberg** | Director  
**Beth Tracy** | Associate Director  
**John Boyack** | Communications Manager  
**Susan Anderson** | Development Officer  
**Christal Hazelton** | Student Assistant

## About the Cover

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The Tanner Humanities Center sought a beehive to grace the newsletter's cover this year. Emily Utt — Historic Sites Curator, Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — came to the rescue, again! She graciously arranged a staff member visit to the Beehive House in downtown Salt Lake City. With the benefit of Emily's historic guidance, we toured the building in search of bees and beehives. Thank you Emily!



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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
**The Obert C. & Grace A.  
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