On these pages, in public talks and discussions, I have made the case for Mormon Studies at the University of Utah. I have written and talked of the importance of understanding those beyond our own tribe to enhance tolerance and good will. It is on this common ground that we learn to respect one another for the differences that make us strong.

Such a vision is not simply rooted in academic study. It takes shape from personal experiences with extraordinary people who give proof to ideals. My journey in Mormon Studies would never have come to pass without having encountered individuals who revealed wisdom touched with humanity. These qualities enabled them to transcend the barriers that divide us and inspire us to repair the world.

My good fortune has been to work in their shadow. I came to the U in 1980 to replace Brig Madsen, who would become my academic role model. In research, teaching, and service, he set the bar high for me as a junior professor. Dean May, my friend, gave me my first lessons in Mormon culture and schooled me in selflessness and patience. Jim Clayton has been a mentor to me. His mindful rigor demanded that no question be left unanswered or area of belief, unexplored. Marlin Jensen has been an enthusiastic supporter of our program and me and opened doors to our success. Spencer P. Eccles, Jess Hurtado, David Mack, Kent Murdock, Jim MacFarlane, Brett and Kelly Parkinson, Greg and JaLynn Prince, Tom and Susan Rugh, and Kim Wirthlin are old friends. Peter and Brynn Huntsman are new ones. In conversations with them, I have been able to understand and appreciate Mormon culture and folkways. Without them, I would be a stranger in this land of Zion.

To do this work, is to carry on their legacy and honor their trust. This humbles me. It also spurs me to continue to keep my shoulder to the wheel.

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

In December 2013, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints issued a new essay on “Race and the Priesthood” on its Gospel Topics page at LDS.org. The statement was the strongest to date in distancing the church from its prior teachings on the status of African Americans within Mormon theology.

To explore matters of race and Mormonism, history professor Paul Reeve is working with the Tanner Center’s Mormon Studies Initiative on a conference titled “Black, White, and Mormon.” This conference seeks to offer a multi-disciplinary assessment of these subjects across time and space. Among the topics to be considered will be:

- Evolving definitions of “blackness” within Mormon theology
- The historical evolution of race-based priesthood and temple bans
- The expansion of Mormonism into inner-city neighborhoods in the United States
- The Mormon Church’s international reach into the Caribbean, Brazil, and Africa
- Notions of social justice within Mormonism regarding educational opportunities and welfare and humanitarian efforts

We tentatively plan to hold the conference in Salt Lake City in the fall 2015.
On October 30, 2014, University of Notre Dame professor of political science David Campbell presented the annual Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture on Religion and Culture: “Whither the Promised Land? Mormons’ Place in a Changing Religious Landscape.” Professor Campbell explored how outsiders view Mormonism as well as Mormons’ views of themselves. More than 300 people attended.

During Mitt Romney’s brief presidential campaign in 2008, Campbell observed that 30 percent of Americans refused to vote for him because of his faith. Mormons were viewed as peculiar and Romney’s church as authoritarian. Romney thus had to spend much of his time testifying to his belief in the separation of church and state, while holding firm to his religious identity. Four years later, when Romney ran again, much of this hostility to his Mormonism had faded and even conservative evangelicals rallied to his banner. For many, any candidate but Barack Obama would have their vote. Nevertheless, Mormonism as a religion still provoked antagonism and many Americans perceived the LDS Church as poorly as they did Islam.

In contrast, Campbell described Mormons view of Mormonism. Above all other religious groups, Mormons share a strong commitment to their faith and have a strong sense of identity. Mormons are proud of their shared culture and are most likely to have friends and find marriage partners who are Mormon. In this very cohesive community, religion plays a powerful role in defining political affiliation. But a key factor in measuring Mormon loyalty to the Republican or Democratic parties is the position of the church leadership. Mormons trust their leaders and, ignoring the liberal or conservative valence of a position or policy, will follow the prophet.

Despite continuing tensions, Campbell’s research shows that Americans are increasingly reaching across religious lines to create friendships and forge political coalitions. He finds that knowing members of a different religion does much to reduce conflict and religious bigotry. He concluded that once religious distrust ebbs, Mormons would have greater opportunities to find acceptance and “reach the promised land.”

Campbell also took part in a lively Q&A following his lecture and signed books for attendees. He also attended a small, informal discussion over lunch with LDS Church leaders, historians, and Mormon Studies students.
STERLING M. MCMURRIN LECTURE ON RELIGION AND CULTURE

On April 11, 2014, Richard Bushman Chair of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia, Kathleen Flake delivered the Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture on Religion and Culture titled “The LDS Intellectual Traditions: A Study on Three Lives” to a standing room audience of more than 300 people at the Salt Lake City Main Library. Flake’s lecture was also broadcast live on KCPW 88.3 and 105.3 FM.

In her lecture, Flake defined an intellectual as one who loves and is committed to the life of the mind, one for whom thought is both a delight and a necessity, a source as well as means for human flourishing. This does not mean a life without conflicts, as illustrated by three intellectuals – Lowell Bennion, Sterling M. McMurrin, and Obert C. Tanner. Flake considered their intellectual lives in relation to the religious culture from which they came. Doing so tells us much about the Mormon intellectual tradition and its distinctive features.

To view the lecture in its entirety, visit thc.utah.edu

Direct URL: http://thc.utah.edu/lectures-programs/mcmurrin-lecture/past-lectures.php

SYMPOSIUM: FAITH AND REASON, CONSCIENCE AND CONFLICT: THE PATHS OF LOWELL BENNION, STERLING MCMURRIN, AND OBERT TANNER

April 12, 2014, a standing-room only crowd packed the Tanner Center’s Jewel Box for the Mormon Studies symposium’s opening panel forcing our audience into the larger Eccles auditorium of the Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building for subsequent panels.

Symposium speakers and panelists examined the impacts of Lowell Bennion, Sterling M. McMurrin, and Obert C. Tanner and also considered their enduring legacies on the issues facing the Mormon Church today: the inclusion of women in church leadership circles, the need to face painful facets of church history, the challenge of retaining the
engagement or affiliation of socially and culturally liberal members and young adults, the quest to understand the effects of new technologies on Mormon practices and beliefs, and other contemporary concerns.

Symposium proceedings are under contract with the University of Utah Press and will be published as a book.

Four panels were conducted:

Challenge of Conscience: Sterling M. McMurrin
Panelists: Bob Goldberg (chair), Jack Newell, James Clayton, and Brian Birch.

Challenge of Loyalty: Lowell Bennion
Panelists: Irene Fisher (chair), Greg Prince, Tony Morgan, Sam Allen, and Emma Lou Thayne

Challenge of Faith: Obert C. Tanner
Panelists: Greg Thompson (chair), Kent Murdock, Bob Goldberg, and Grethe Peterson.

Public Men and the Challenge of Their Private Worlds
Panelists: Linda King Newell (chair), Carolyn Tanner Irish, Ellen Bennion Stone, Charlotte Hansen Terry, and Bill McMurrin.

The Tanner Center partnered with the College of Humanities, Smith-Pettit Foundation, and Michael Morris for this event.

Each panel is available to view online at thc.utah.edu
Direct URL:
http://thc.utah.edu/lectures-programs/mcmurrin-lecture/past-lectures.php
2014-15 MORMON STUDIES fellow

Doctoral candidate Nathan Jones (Department of History, University of Utah) joined the Tanner Center in August as the 2014-15 Eccles Mormon Studies Fellow. His research project is titled “Mormon Political Thought in an Age of Pluralism.” Jones is working with professor Paul Reeve of the Department of History.

How did you get interested in Mormon Studies?

I’ve been a Latter-day Saint my entire life, and I’ve also had a passion for history since I was a kid, but it wasn’t until after I’d earned my bachelor’s degree that I first became interested in the history of my own faith tradition. That interest began one evening at the local bookstore when I stumbled upon the book, By the Hand of Mormon, by Mormon scholar, Terryl Givens. I immediately purchased it and spent the next couple of days reading it from cover to cover. I had read The Book of Mormon several times before coming across Givens’ work, but never before had I really considered its significance in the broader context of American cultural and religious history. For the first time, I began to consider Mormonism as a whole in the same light. That is, instead of focusing so much on what made the Mormons different or even exceptional, as we tend to do in our Sunday meetings with other Latter-day Saints, I wanted to understand Mormonism as an integral part of the American experience.

What is your research project?

My primary concern is with the various strands of political thought that took shape among the Mormons during the middle decades of the 20th century. As they jettisoned their 19th century emphasis on absolute political unity, how did Mormons in the 20th century choose to make sense of the major problems confronting their nation, and how did their ideas differ from one another? In what ways did politically minded Latter-day Saints look to their religious tradition for guidance? How did the Church hierarchy deal with growing political divisions in its own ranks? And, what kind of legacy did these various strands of Mormon political thought leave behind? These are some of the main questions I hope to answer.

Nathan Jones will give a Work in Progress talk on his research project on Tuesday, March 31. This talk is free and open to the public, and will be held at 12:00 p.m. in the Tanner Center’s Conference Room (Room 143) on the first floor of the Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building.
How do you think Mormon Studies will evolve as a discipline?

My hope is that scholars of Mormonism will do more to uncover the myriad expressions of religious, cultural, and even political thought embedded in the LDS tradition. The Mormon intellectual tradition hasn't always been given the close attention it deserves, so I'm at least hoping that the evolution of Mormon Studies will continue to remedy that.

How has the Mormon Studies fellowship benefited you and your research?

The Mormon Studies Fellowship has been a tremendous blessing for me and my family. Along with the much-needed financial aid, I can't even tell you how much I appreciate having my own office. When I was preparing to take my Ph.D. exams, the closest thing I had to an office was my sofa in front of our TV I tend to get a lot more work done when I'm not distracted by NBA basketball.
MORMON STUDIES COURSES at the U

The Tanner Humanities Center is proud to support five new Mormon Studies courses at the University of Utah during Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters. These classes explore the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, its people, values, history, culture, and institutions.

FALL 2014

MORMON THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIANITY
INSTRUCTOR: BRIAN BIRCH, UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY
This course will examine selected topics in Mormon thought and situate them in relation to the Christian theological tradition. The curriculum will focus on the more distinctive features of Mormonism and explore the range of perspectives within this tradition against the backdrop of historical and contemporary debates in Christian theology. The course will also examine key methodological questions regarding the place of theology in Mormon Studies and how these issues impact the development of this emerging field of study.

SPRING 2015

MORMON SOCIETY AND CULTURE
INSTRUCTOR: MARCIE GOODMAN, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
This course will provide both depth and breadth to an examination of LDS communities, culture, social history, migration patterns, lifestyles, organizational components, racial differentiation, social control/deviance, courtship/marriage practices, education, health, aging, politics, and economics. In point of fact, sociology is the perfect template for studying the LDS phenomenon.
MORMONISM AND GENDER  
INSTRUCTOR: JACKIE FARNSWORTH, 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. Mormon perspectives on the connection between gender roles, family structure, and sexual orientation will also be examined. Personal perceptions of gender roles from outsiders and insiders will be explored.

THE BOOK OF MORMON AS LITERATURE  
INSTRUCTOR: DAVID BOKOVOY, DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

Written in the language of the King James Version of the Bible, the long and complicated The Book of Mormon boggles the minds of many. Yet it is unquestionably one of the most influential books ever written. In this class, The Book of Mormon will be analyzed for an entire semester independent of its truth claims. This exciting Mormon Studies course will help students recognize the ways in which The Book of Mormon can be appreciated for its unique literary qualities.

FAITH AND GOOD WORKS: ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, AND CULTURE IN EARLY MORMON UTAH  
INSTRUCTOR: THOMAS CARTER, COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING

This course explores the relationship between the built environment and religious culture in Utah during the principal years of Mormon settlement, 1847-1890. It looks at this critical issue over time, considering the evolution from collective to an individual identity. By the end of the 19th century, a temple/town unity transformed into the unique blending of sacred and secular space that now characterizes Mormonism. The Sanpete Valley of central Utah serves as our case study for the course. Lectures, readings, and discussion will be supplemented by a number of field trips.
Mormon Studies Endowment Campaign
In 2010, the Tanner Center launched a campaign to endow a doctoral research fellowship in Mormon Studies. Generous grants from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation supported the Center’s first four Mormon Studies graduate research fellows: Kate Holbrook, Max Mueller, Rosemary Avance, and Saskia Tielens.
In early 2013, the Eccles Foundation again renewed its support, allowing the fellowship to proceed without interruption through Spring 2016. We are happy to welcome Nathan Jones with the University of Utah’s Department of History as our 2014-15 fellow.

Putting Our Shoulders to the Wheel
In December 2013, the Tanner Center completed its campaign to permanently fund this graduate research fellowship in Mormon Studies – the first of its kind in the nation.
More than 80 individuals including faculty, staff, foundations, and other organizations joined community members in contributing over $435,000 to the endowment, including major gifts from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Foundation, Blake Roney, and Sam and Diane Stewart.

Mormon Studies Initiative Moves Forward
Embarking on phase two of its initiative, the Tanner Center is now raising funds to support Mormon Studies programming on campus and in the community.
Along with generous support from Peter and Brynn Huntsman, our programming initiative is well underway. Funds now total more than $55,000 and will be used for lectures, panels, classes, conferences, and other events on campus and in the community.

Achievements
Since 2011, the Tanner Center has published a newsletter to act as a clearinghouse for information about Mormon Studies at the University of Utah. The newsletter features news and information on events, scholarships, and research opportunities for the study of Mormonism.
Richard Bushman, Gouverneur Morris Professor of History emeritus at Columbia University, delivered a lecture titled “Mormonism and the Public Good” on September 27, 2011. This lecture addressed the lack of civility in contemporary politics and what Mormonism might contribute to the resolution of fundamental disagreements regarding what constitutes the public good.
Dr. Gregory A. Prince, pathologist, businessman, philanthropist, and historian, gave a lecture on March 8, 2012, titled “Science and Religion: This Time It’s Mormonism not Darwinism” at the Tanner Humanities Center.
On May 10, 2012, the Tanner Humanities Center hosted a dinner honoring Elder Marlin K. Jensen for his service on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Tanner Center’s Mormon Studies Initiative. Jensen served as the historian for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 2005 - 2012, and is currently an emeritus general authority. At the event, Jensen spoke about his calling as church historian, including his experiences working on key projects such as the publication of the Joseph Smith Papers and the promotion of an inclusive dialogue with the academic community.
On August 24, 2012, Harvard University professor of history Laurel Thatcher Ulrich delivered the Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture on Religion and Culture, titled “Remember Me: The Inscription of Self in Nineteenth Century Mormonism.” Ulrich’s lecture served as the plenary address for a conference on Mormon women that drew over 300 people. The University of Utah Press will publish a collection of essays titled Women and Mormonism: Historic and Contemporary Perspectives that includes talks and papers presented at the conference. Edited by former Mormon Studies Fellow Kate Holbrook and Dr. Matt Bowman, publication is set for early 2016.
The University of Utah Press has established a new Mormon Studies book series, titled The Mormon Experience in Perspective, edited by Tanner Center Director Bob Goldberg and University of Utah professor of history Paul Reeve.

In partnership with California's Claremont University, a summer fellowship residence program was created for graduate students researching Mormon Studies topics. In 2014, doctoral candidate Elisa Pulido became the first fellow under this program.

Commencing in 2014, the Mormon History Association and the Tanner Center established an Award of Merit to be given to a student at the U who has written an outstanding research paper on any aspect of Mormon history. This award will be given annually at least through 2017.

Support Mormon Studies at the University of Utah
Despite its location, the University of Utah has never had a program for the study of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, its beliefs, history, and people. Universities in major centers of Jewish, Catholic, Baptist, and Lutheran populations, among others, have long boasted of religion-based programs for undergraduate and graduate study. It is time for the University of Utah to move forward on this endeavor.

If you would like to support Mormon Studies, please contact Bob Goldberg, professor of history and director of the Tanner Humanities Center at 801-581-8844 (office), 801-230-0448 (cell) or via email at bob.goldberg@utah.edu.
APPLAUSE, applause

**KATE HOLBROOK** completed her doctoral dissertation “Radical Food: Nation of Islam and Latter-day Saint Culinary Ideals (1930-1980)” at Boston University.

**ALAN MORRELL** completed his doctoral dissertation “Zion’s Enemies: Boundaries and the Forging of Mormon Identity in the West” at the University of Utah.

**JEREMY LOFTHOUSE** received the Mormon History Association’s Award of Merit for his paper on “Ordain Women” which he completed as a student at the University of Utah. Lofthouse has also been named a Tanner Humanities Center Honors Fellow. He plans to research the changing role of glossolalia within early Mormonism.

**ROSEMARY AVANCE** published an article, “Seeing the Light: Mormon conversion and deconversion narratives in off- and online worlds” in *The Journal of Media and Religion*. 
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For over 25 years, the Tanner Humanities Center has fostered innovative humanistic inquiry and scholarship. The Center’s programs create opportunity for lively dialogue among scholars, students, and the community on issues (from ancient to contemporary) pertaining to the human condition.

OUR PROGRAMS
Annually the Tanner Humanities Center hosts approximately 30 wide-ranging programs in the humanities that inform, educate, and enlighten both campus and community.

The Tanner Humanities Center programs include thoughtful and provocative public lectures and symposia, cutting-edge humanities education for teachers, and local and national fellows who produce new knowledge and become opinion makers within their scholarly disciplines.

ABOUT US
The Obert C. and Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center was founded in 1988 in the College of Humanities at the University of Utah. The Center was endowed 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 to its new location, the Carolyn Tanner Irish Building, named for the Rt. Rev. Carolyn Tanner Irish in honor of her passion for the humanities at the University of Utah.

Bob Goldberg, Director
Beth Tracy, Administrative Manager
John Boyack, Development and Donor Relations Coordinator
Tyler Ford, Public Relations Associate

For more information on the Tanner Humanities Center, visit thc.utah.edu or call 801-581-7989.