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Not surprisingly, I am often asked why I, as a Jew, have decided to spearhead the Mormon Studies Initiative at the University of Utah. The question is never raised negatively or as a test of my sincerity. I respond that I am anxiously engaged in this good cause precisely because I am Jewish. It is not unusual for Jews to look beyond their community to pursue justice and the right. Jews believe in Tikkun Olam, Hebrew for ‘repairing the world’: to foster respect, and tolerance toward making the world a better place. Like many Jews, I am passionately sensitive to even the hint of prejudice and discrimination, for we are a people keenly aware of their destructive power. We also know that bigotry against any group tears at the social fabric and leaves all peoples vulnerable. We remember well the words of Pastor Martin Niemöller who realized, too late in Nazi Germany, our common humanity:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out--
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out--
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out--
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me--and there was no one left to speak for me.

One hundred years before, Joseph Smith also recognized this simple truth:

I am ready to die in defending the rights of a Presbyterian, Baptist, or a good man of any denomination, for the same principles which would trample upon the rights of the Latter-day Saints, would trample on the rights of the Roman Catholics or of any other denomination.

The Tanner Center’s Mormon Studies Initiative, then, is an effort to cultivate knowledge, understanding, tolerance, and good will. It is on this common ground that we learn to respect one another for the differences that make us strong. Note that the more than 300 readers of this newsletter and supporters of our initiative come from many tribes: Latter-day Saints, Catholics, Jews, and Protestants of all denominations. It is the work of many minds, hearts, and hands. It is work that raises us all.

Bob Goldberg
Professor of History
Director, Tanner Humanities Center
Mormon Studies on the Move at the U

Research in Progress

2013-14 Eccles Mormon Studies Fellowship

Ph.D. candidate Saskia Tielens (Department of American Studies, Dortmund University, Germany) joined the Tanner Center in August as the 2013-14 Eccles Mormon Studies Fellow. In her research project, titled “The Ritualization of Modern Mormon History: Tracing Global Memory in a Global Zion,” Tielens investigates the transnational context of Mormonism by tracing cultural memory as it passes borders (both real and imagined, physical and cultural) in a global Mormon community. Key to her research is the question of how cultural memories are reinterpreted and reappropriated by groups with no direct connection to the original site or event. Using approaches from memory studies, cultural studies, and transnational American studies, Saskia seeks to examine how the LDS Church promotes shared cultural memories in an attempt to create a usable past accessible to Mormons throughout the world.

Mormon studies can be challenging for a Europe-based non-Mormon, but Tielens finds it to be an exciting and richly rewarding field of study. The opportunities provided by the Tanner Center’s Mormon studies fellowship have proven to be crucial to her research: “This fellowship has been an amazing opportunity to connect with people interested in the same things as I am, as well as given me the chance to live in Utah and explore the Church History Library and Museum to my heart’s content.”

Please join us for Saskia Tielens’ Work in Progress talk on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 12:00 PM. Her talk, “Come, Come Ye Saints: Pioneer Narratives in a Global Church,” will be held in the Tanner Center’s Conference Room (Room 143) on the first floor of the Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building. This event is free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided.
Work-in-Progress Talk: “The Internet and Modern Mormon Identity”
The Tanner Center hosted a Work-in-Progress talk by 2012-13 Eccles Mormon Studies Fellow Rosemary Avance on February 12, 2013. Avance discussed how the Internet has given voice to competing perspectives of the LDS faith and its appropriate performance, particularly in regard to the perception and negotiation of femaleness. Focusing on a recent movement to encourage LDS women to wear pants to church services, Avance explored Mormon feminism online and examined how digital expression in the Internet age affects Mormon identity.

LDS Women Oral History Project
Since 2005, author and historian Gregory Prince has worked on a project to collect the oral histories of LDS women. To date, approximately eighty women from across the country have participated. The focus of this oral history project, which differs from other recent projects, is the simple question, “What is the story of your spiritual journey, wherever it has taken you?” A rollout event for this project and a proposed larger center for women’s studies at the Marriott Library is being planned for Spring 2014.

Mormon Studies Research Interest Group
The 2013-14 Mormon Studies Research Interest Group, led by History Professor Colleen McDannell, brings together scholars from the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, Utah Valley University, and the LDS Church History Department. This group facilitates conversations on the field of Mormon studies by discussing current research and hosting guest speakers. On November 5, the group invited current Eccles Mormon Studies Fellow Saskia Tielens to discuss her research on LDS concepts of history.

Current Research by U of U Graduate Students

**Jeremy Chatelain**

**Melissa Ferguson**
“Know Ye Not that Ye are the Temple of God: Identity, Acculturation, and the Body in Salt Lake City, 1890-1930”

**Robin Jensen**
“History of the LDS Church Historian’s Office” (Tentative Title)

**Nathan Jones**
“20th Century Mormon Political Thought” (Tentative Title)

**Debbie Marsh**
“No Other Way to Restore the Peace: The Making of a Jacksonian Era Mob”

**Alan Morrell**
“Zion’s Enemies: Boundaries and the Indispensable Other in the Forging of Mormon Identity”

**Tom Rugh**
“Cultural Environmentalism and the Utah Landscape”

**Derek Sainsbury**
“Cadre for the Kingdom: The Electioneer Missionaries of Joseph Smith’s 1844 Presidential Campaign”

In addition, students in research seminars at the University of Utah are exploring a rich diversity of Mormon related topics, including the material culture of the LDS sacrament of bread and water and its evolutions over time; the impact of the Great Depression upon LDS female social justice efforts; the Mormon Battalion and the intersection between military service and political and social legitimacy for marginalized groups; and an intriguing case of horse stealing and frontier justice as a harbinger of the unraveling relationship between Mormons and “old settlers” in Hancock County, Illinois, in the months preceding the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.
Postdoctoral Fellowship in Mormon Studies

The Tanner Humanities Center, with sponsorship from the College of Humanities and Department of Languages and Literature, is pleased to host Professor David Bokovoy as the first Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in Mormon Studies during the 2013-14 school year.

In Professor Bokovoy’s course, titled “The Book of Mormon as Literature,” participants spent a semester analyzing the Book of Mormon independent of its truth claims. Written in the language of the King James Version of the Bible, the long and complicated Book of Mormon boggles the minds of many. Yet it is unquestionably one of the most influential books ever written. For the first time in an academic context, students in this class considered multiple ways in which the Book of Mormon can be appreciated for its literary qualities.

David Bokovoy holds a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East from Brandeis University and a BA in History and Near Eastern Studies from Brigham Young University. In addition to his work in Mormon studies, David has published articles in the Journal of Biblical Literature and Vetus Testamentum. A former LDS Chaplain at Harvard University, Dr. Bokovoy has taught for many years in the LDS Church’s Seminary and Institute program.

On Tuesday, April 15, 2014, Dr. Bokovoy will give a Work-in-Progress talk on his research concerning the ways in which the Book of Mormon draws upon the Bible to present an apocalyptic message of social protest. This talk will be held at 12:00 PM in the Tanner Center’s Conference Room (Room 143) on the first floor of the Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building. This event is free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided.
Reaching Out

Summer Research Fellowships
The Tanner Humanities Center has partnered with Claremont University in California to create a summer fellowship residence program for Claremont graduate students. Beginning in 2014, these fellowships will enable students researching Mormon studies to spend two months in Salt Lake City utilizing various university and LDS church archives. The Tanner Center will provide fellows with offices and resources during their stay. This collaboration will help facilitate important research and contribute to the progress of Mormon studies as an academic field.

“The State of Mormon Studies in Academia” Gathering
The Tanner Center hosted twenty Mormon studies scholars and academics on July 31, 2013 to consider the state of the field and ways to enhance Mormon studies at universities and in the broader community. Representing schools in Utah, California, Oregon, and Idaho, university professors and interested non-affiliated researchers discussed how to teach Mormon studies, find funding resources, and ways to expand the Mormon studies scholarly base. Conference attendees also agreed to continue their dialogue on these important matters.

Mormon Battalion Heritage Day
The Mormon Battalion Association held its annual Heritage Day on June 22, 2013 at the Sons of the Utah Pioneers Headquarters in Salt Lake City. This event, attended by Bob Goldberg as the representative of the U of U, included a mini-symposium on debunking the myths associated with the original 1846-47 Mormon Battalion, and featured a keynote lecture by David Jamiel, titled “The Many Myths of the Mormon Battalion.” There was also a meeting to discuss organizing Mormon Battalion service units at local universities, which would seek to emulate at a local level the selfless service that the original battalion gave to their communities and country.

Announcements

University of Utah Press
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 History Professor Paul Reeve, this series seeks to situate Mormonism - its culture, institutions, and people - in a broad context to reflect the perspectives of religious studies, history, literature, theology, politics, and other disciplines. Publications will facilitate and enhance the scholarly exploration of the Mormon experience in ways that enrich understanding of the role religion plays in shaping the human condition. Manuscript monographs in this series will be eligible for competition in the Press’s Juanita Brooks Prize in Mormon Studies, a $10,000 biennial book publication prize.
The University Press will also publish a collection of essays, titled Women and Mormonism: Historic and Contemporary Perspectives, that includes talks and papers presented at the “Women and the LDS Church” conference, held at the U of U on August 24-25, 2012. Sponsored in part by the Tanner Humanities Center and the LDS Church, this conference brought together over three hundred attendees to explore women's roles in the LDS Church and discuss themes of agency and identity in Mormon studies. Publication is set for 2015 and will include scholarship on Mormon women from a diverse range of academic disciplines, reflective essays that contemplate the issues that face contemporary Mormon women, and innovative articles that point the conversation forward. This work is edited by former Eccles Fellow Kate Holbrook and Dr. Matt Bowman.

Mormon History Association at the U

The Mormon History Association has created a new “Student Research Paper Award of Merit” at the University of Utah and other academic institutions. Beginning in 2014, this competition will award a $300 prize each year to a University of Utah student for the best academic paper covering Mormon history/Mormon studies. This award has been funded by a generous donation from Kevin Jones in memorial to Davis Bitton - U of U scholar, teacher, mentor, and one of the founders of the Mormon History Association.

Bob Goldberg has also accepted a three-year appointment as committee chair for the Mormon History Association's annual awards for best dissertation and thesis on Mormon historical themes. Additional award committee members include Greg Prince, Brian Birch, Susan Rugh, and Susanna Morrill. These awards acknowledge students whose work represents the highest ideals in Mormon scholarly research. Visit mormonhistoryassociation.org for more information.

Mormon Studies Online

2013-14 Tanner Center Visiting Fellow Jared Farmer is offering free electronic versions of his books on Mormon studies through his website: jaredfarmer.net/ebooks. E-copies and PDF versions are available for two of his publications: Mormons in the Media, 1830–2012, which provides an outline of the history of Mormonism from the “Restoration” by Joseph Smith to the 2012 presidential election, and The Image of Mormons: A Sourcebook for Teachers and Students, a visual anthology of 700+ depictions of Latter-day Saints.

Jared Farmer is an associate professor of history at Stony Brook University. His research focuses on the historical dimensions of landscape, environment, science, culture, and religion.
Mormon Studies Publication
Oxford University Press has published a new book by University of Utah alum John Ben Haws (Ph.D., History, 2010), titled The Mormon Image in the American Mind: Fifty Years of Public Perception. In his book, Haws explores the dramatic transformation of the American public’s understanding of Mormons in the past half-century. Reid L. Neilson, Managing Director of the LDS Church History Department, describes the book as “breaking new ground in the fields of American religious history and Mormon studies. J. B. Haws has done remarkable historical spadework to uncover and overturn new sources and unconventional evidence to tell the recent story of the Mormon experience in America. A gifted writer, Haws helps connect and reconnect stories that have not been told or need retelling.”

2013 Juanita Brooks Prize in Mormon Studies
The 2013 Juanita Brooks Prize in Mormon Studies, presented by the University of Utah Press, was awarded to Todd M. Compton for his work titled A Frontier Life: Jacob Hamblin, Explorer and Indian Missionary. Chosen by a panel chaired by Tanner Center Director Bob Goldberg and including Richard Turley and Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp, the Brooks prize is awarded biennially to the best monograph submitted to the University Press in the subject area of Mormon studies. The winner of the Brooks Prize receives a $10,000 award and a publication contract.


2014 McMurrin Lecture on Religion and Culture
The Tanner Humanities Center is proud to welcome Professor Kathleen Flake as the 2014 Sterling M. McMurrin Lecturer on Religion and Culture. Dr. Flake's lecture, titled “The LDS Intellectual Tradition: A Study on Three Lives,” will serve as the keynote for a symposium honoring the work and legacies of Lowell Bennion, Obert C. Tanner, and Sterling McMurrin.

Upcoming Events
Friday, April 11, 2014
7:00 PM
Salt Lake Main Library Auditorium (210 E 400 S)
Free and Open to the Public
Information at thc.utah.edu
“Mormon Intellectuals: In the Academy and Beyond”

Symposium on Lowell Bennion, Sterling McMurrin, and Obert C. Tanner

Mormonism is often seen as a religion of conformity, with a hierarchy in tight control of members’ beliefs and behavior. Yet this perspective misses a rich tradition of intellectual independence and principled dissent. With an eye on the past and to the present and future, the Tanner Humanities Center will offer a unique symposium on the lives and legacies of Sterling M. McMurrin, Obert C. Tanner, and Lowell L. Bennion.

With mutual respect, but using distinctive methods, Tanner, McMurrin, and Bennion shared a passion for justice and impatience with racial discrimination in their church and across American society. At various points in their careers, they served the LDS Church, the University of Utah, their state, and the nation in pursuit of their visions of a more enlightened and humane society.

Symposium speakers and panelists will not only examine the specific contemporary impacts of Lowell Bennion, Sterling McMurrin, and O.C. Tanner, but also consider their enduring legacies on the issues facing Mormons today: the inclusion of women more fully in church leadership circles, the need to face painful facets of church history, the challenge of retaining the engagement of socially and culturally liberal members and young adults, and the quest to understand the effects of new technologies on Mormon practices and beliefs, among other concerns of our time. A concluding panel will focus upon the personal, intellectual, and working relationships that existed among these men. Participants include: Sam Allen, Margaret Battin, Brian Birch, Jim Clayton, Irene Fisher, Bob Goldberg, Carolyn Tanner Irish, William McMurrin, Tony Morgan, Kent Murdock, Jack Newell, Linda King Newell, Grethe Peterson, Greg Prince, George Smith, Ellen Bennion Stone, Charlotte Hansen Terry, and Emma Lou Thayne.

The Tanner Center is partnering with the Marriott Library, College of Humanities, Smith-Pettit Foundation, and Michael Morris to bring you this event. This symposium will mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Obert C. and Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center.

Saturday, April 12, 2014
Panels begin at 9:00 AM
Location TBA
Free and Open to the Public
Information at thc.utah.edu
Graduate Fellowship Endowment Campaign

“Come, help the good work move along”

The Tanner Humanities Center is now engaged in an endowment campaign to make the Mormon Studies Graduate Fellowship permanent. It will be the only graduate research fellowship dedicated solely to the academic study of Mormonism in the nation.

The George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation generously provided the initial operating funding to support our first two fellows: Kate Holbrook in 2010-11 and Max Mueller in 2011-12. An additional two-year funding commitment enabled the Tanner Center to offer the fellowship to Rosemary Avance in 2012-13 and Saskia Tielens in 2013-14.

But we still need your help!

This fellowship is the first step toward establishing Mormon studies as a permanent part of the University of Utah. With your support, we can ensure the future of this fellowship. Any size contribution makes a difference.

Will you join us in making the fellowship a reality? To donate to the Mormon Studies Endowment, please contact Bob Goldberg by e-mail at bob.goldberg@utah.edu or by phone at (801) 581-8844. You may also donate by check (made out to “Tanner Humanities Center”) using the enclosed envelope, or directly online at ugive.utah.edu by selecting “Tanner Humanities Center” and noting your gift for the Mormon Studies Initiative.

“Keeping our shoulder to the wheel”

The Tanner Humanities Center has now raised more than $340,000 toward our $400,000 endowment goal. This is over 85% of the way! Dedicated supporters like the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Foundation, Mormon Historic Sites Foundation, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at BYU, Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance, and numerous individuals have all come forward to contribute to this important cause.

Our fellowship supports academic scholarship. It seeks to enlighten and educate while grounding understanding in serious research. The fellowship will not disparage or denigrate any religion, organization, people, or group. The fellow must be affiliated with a university and actively enrolled in a Ph.D. program. A committee, chaired by the Director of the Tanner Humanities Center and composed of scholars and members of the community, informed and sensitive to the needs of Mormon studies, will select the fellow annually.

But we still need your help!
Endowment Donors

We offer our sincere gratitude to our Mormon Studies Initiative donors:

$20,000+
Roger Boyer
Kem Gardner
Jess Hurtado
Greg Prince
Blake Roney
University of Utah, Office of the President

$10,000+
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Foundation

$5,000+
Sterling & Eleanor Colton
Spencer P. Eccles
Peter Freed
Bob Goldberg
Mormon Historic Sites Foundation

$3,000+
Charles Redd Center, BYU
Talley Goodson
Abby & Bill Martin
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Endowment Campaign T-Shirts
Support Mormon studies and look stylish at the same time! Tanner Humanities Center T-shirts will be available for purchase in early 2014 through our website: www.thc.utah.edu. All proceeds support our Mormon Studies Initiative.
For twenty-five years, the Tanner Humanities Center has fostered innovative humanistic inquiry and scholarship. The Center’s programs create opportunities for lively dialogue among scholars, students, and the community on issues (from ancient to contemporary) pertaining to the human condition.

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 of philosophy. In Fall 2008, the Tanner Humanities Center moved to its new location, the Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building, named for the Right Rev. Carolyn Tanner Irish in honor of her passion for the humanities at the University of Utah.