MHA's First Venture to Texas:
A Significant Conference in San Antonio, 2014

MHA’s annual conference held this year in San Antonio, Texas, our 49th gathering since first meeting in San Francisco, California, in 1965, was certainly one of the most enjoyable to date for those who attended. With a conference setting at the Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk, located on the upper reaches of the famed River Walk, 400 Mormon history enthusiasts shared a weekend of reconnecting with old friends and engaging new acquaintances amid one of MHA’s most ambitious programs to date. The Honorable Henry Cisneros, former San Antonio mayor and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the President Bill Clinton administration, welcomed MHA visitors to San Antonio in one of the more memorable greetings we have ever had. Personalizing his message, he noted his own experience in observing the positive influence of the Mormons in the San Antonio area. A generous MHA donor provided Mr. Cisneros with a maternal pedigree chart after his presentation, which was gratefully accepted. After an entertaining interlude by one of San Antonio’s prominent Tejano bands, La Calma, the Thursday evening welcome was capped by Professor Michael Van Wagenen’s overview of Mormonism in Texas.

Conference visitors immediately felt the hospitable influence and lengthy preparation of the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Mike Paulos and assisted by Doug Brackenridge, Ken Driggs, Mel Johnson, Gary Payne, Jodi Peterson, Liza Olsen, Randal Wright, and Brett Dowdle. With numerous opportunities for exploration of the historic city, America’s seventh largest, those looking for a cultural as well as an intellectual experience were richly rewarded.

(While we can’t say if it was calculated, the San Antonio Spurs’ opening game of the NBA finals held the same evening as our Opening Welcome seemed to help electrify the local mood. Some MHA conference attendees even opted for the finals over our Opening Reception. They paid for their poor choice by witnessing the game in a sweltering arena without air-conditioning!)

(continued on page 3)
I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead as MHA celebrates its fiftieth anniversary and lays plans for an even more dynamic and inclusive future. I have fond memories of attending my first MHA meeting at Canandaigua, New York in 1980. I remember hearing powerful presentations by several of our founding members, some no longer with us. I also remember making friends there among the much larger group who follow Mormon history out of personal interest rather than professional commitment. As president, I am committed to maintaining the wonderful mix of lay and academic scholarship, religious and cultural affiliation, professional and personal engagement that make MHA meetings so memorable.

I am also committed to helping MHA move forward in new ways. I support the determination of the Board to increase participation by women, expand engagement beyond conventional Mormon culture areas, and create new ways of presenting and disseminating the best work in our field. In this issue of the Newsletter you will find suggestions from the 2015 Program Committee for preparing proposals for our meeting in Provo next June. The conference theme, Mormon Cultures, Cultural Mormons, cries out for innovation in format as well as content. Surprise us with your good ideas! The Local Arrangements Committee will surprise you with unusual offerings. In homage to the past, they also hope to revive the tradition of gathering singers for a Sunday devotional presentation.

I came away from the San Antonio meeting energized by the plenary speeches, the panels, the tours and receptions, and the many conversations that I had in hallways and along the Riverwalk. The theme of the conference was powerfully realized in all its activities, from the food we ate to the plenary lectures. It is time for MHA to internationalize our meetings and our scholarship. To do that we need your ideas, your scholarship, and, yes, your financial support. We have already received generous offers from several donors. You will be hearing more about that soon.

Let’s innovate. Let’s globalize. Let’s think forward as we celebrate our past.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich
MHA President, 2014-2015
The pre- and post-conference tours arranged by the committee were well attended and from every report interesting and informative. Highlights included visits to eighteenth-century Catholic missions, the nearby Lyman Wight colonies, and the Lyndon B. Johnson Texas White House and Library, all augmented by expert presenters.

The outstanding program, crafted by the Program Committee composed of Brian Cannon, chair, and committee members Elise Boxer, Ignacio Garcia, J. B. Haws, Mel Johnson, Boyd Peterson, Jenny Reeder, and Jared Tamez, emphasized features of Mormon history that often have received short shrift through the years. Appropriate to the Hispanic-American region hosting the conference, topics of discussion included the Latino experience among the Mormons, the internationalization of Mormonism with an emphasis on the global impact of Saints upon the several branches of the Restoration churches, and more recent Mormon history. Over ten dozen presentations were delivered on a broad range of timely topics.

Highlights were plenary presentations by Michael Van Wagenen, Ignacio Garcia, Paula Kelly Harline, the Presidential Address by out-going MHA President Dick Bennett, and the final Tanner Lecture by Jehu Hanciles. We thank the Local Arrangements and Program committees for the herculean efforts made on our behalf to ensure a first-class conference in a first-class city.

The Awards Program, continuing the long-standing tradition of MHA to honor those whose have excelled in research and writing Mormon history, also honored this year the distinguished contributions of Ron Romig, who received the Leonard J. Arrington Award, and Darius Gray, who received a Special Citation for his enduring influence upon Mormon culture and history. Winners of awards are identified on pages 4 and 5.

The traditional MHA Devotional, held Sunday morning just a short walk upriver from the Wyndham in a nineteenth-century chapel once part of an Ursuline Convent and Academy that is now home to the Southwest School of Art, was moving musically (by an a cappella octet led by Professor Ethan Wickman) and by the spoken word. It was a wonderful conclusion to the conference program.

We extend our appreciation to all who attended the conference, making this one of lasting impact upon the study of Mormon history. If you don't show up—a real sacrifice for many—this great enterprise collapses. So, please accept our sincere thanks to you!
2014 MHA Award Winners

Leonard J. Arrington Award, MHA’s highest honor

Ronald E. Romig

Special Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Mormon History

Darius A. Gray

Best Book Award is funded by Curtis T. Atkinson in memory of Mary Ann Atkinson and to encourage scholarship in Mormon history, and by Christian K. and Julianna Barlow Barney


Best First Book Award is funded by the Smith-Pettit Foundation in support of scholarly Mormon studies


Best Biography Award is funded by the families of Ella Turner and Ella Ruth Bergera in honor of Ella Larsen Turner and Ella Ruth Turner Bergera

Todd M. Compton, A Frontier Life: Jacob Hamblin, Explorer and Indian Missionary (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2013)

Best Documentary Editing/Bibliography Award is funded by Christian K. and Julianna B. Barney in remembrance of the Barneys’ Mormon ancestors


Best International Book Award is funded by Geraldine and Clair Woodward, Christopher and April Newton, and Nan Woodward Noble in honor of Geraldine McBride Woodward

Craig Livingston, From Above and Below: The Mormon Embrace of Revolution: 1840-1940 (Draper, Utah: Greg Kofford Books, 2013)

Best Family and Community History Book Award is funded by the Scott family in memory of Marjorie June Winchester Scott to honor the Winchester family

Best Article Award is funded by the Hartley Family Foundation in honor of William G. Hartley

Ryan G. Tobler, “‘Saviors on Mount Zion’: Mormon Sacramentalism, Mortality, and the Baptism for the Dead,” Journal of Mormon History 39, no. 4 (Fall 2013)

Awards of Excellence are funded by the Vera Jean and J. Talmage Jones family in honor of their family’s Christian values


Best International Article Award is funded by Joseph and Julia Todd in honor of Andrew Jenson, former Assistant LDS Church Historian

Richard L. Jensen, “Mr. Samuelsen Goes to Copenhagen: The First Mormon Member of a National Parliament,” Journal of Mormon History 39, no. 2 (Spring 2013)

Best Women's History Article Award is sponsored by the Mormon Women's History Initiative Team and funded by the Silver Foundation


Best Dissertation Award is funded by Gerald Edward Jones in honor and memory of his many students

Brent M. Rogers, “Managing Popular Sovereignty: Federalism and Empire in Utah Territory, 1847-1862” University of Nebraska, Lincoln (2013)

Best Thesis Award is funded by Gregory A. Prince in honor of Lester E. Bush

Blair Hodges, “Intellectual Disability in Mormon Thought and History, 1830-1900” Georgetown University (2013)

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Papers Awards are funded by Lola Van Wagenen in honor of Juanita Brooks

Best Undergraduate Paper


Best Graduate Paper


Student Research Paper, Awards of Merit, funded by G. Kevin Jones in honor of Davis Bitton

Jillian Clare, Hannah Eckhardt, Bradley Kime, Mykle Law, Jeremy Lofthouse, Matthew Pitts, Bridger Talbot

Changes in MHA Awards

With changing circumstances and emphases, the Mormon History Association has retired one award and added a new one to the roster of awards given by the Association at its annual conferences. We are grateful to the Winchester family, and previous to them, the King family, for funding the Best Family/Community History Award, given by MHA for over a decade.

We are pleased to announce the inauguration of the new Best Personal History/Memoir Award, funded for the next ten years through the generous contribution of Morris and Dawn Thurston. The $1,200 cash award will be given for the first time at the 2015 conference in Provo, Utah. Please go to the MHA website under the Awards, then click on the Nominations tab to see instructions for submissions for Personal History/Memoirs published in 2014. www.mormonhistoryassociation.org.
News of MHA

2014 MHA Business Meeting at San Antonio Conference: Report

The annual MHA Business Meeting, held in conjunction with a plenary luncheon on Friday, June 6, 2014, included important information for MHA members.

MHA Board members rotated off the Board in a staggered schedule that this year involved the change in three assignments. MHA President Richard E. Bennett, who became Past-President after the conference, thanked outgoing Board members, Polly Aird and Gary Bergera for their significant contributions to the organization over the past three years. He then called for a vote for the new Board nominees: Laurie Maffly-Kipp as president-elect; and board members Bryon C. Andreasen and J. B. Haws (all who were introduced to MHA members in the Spring 2014 newsletter). The three were unanimously approved by the MHA membership at the luncheon. We thank the outgoing and welcome the incoming MHA Board members.

Ken Cannon, MHA Board member chairing the Finance/Fundraising Committee, also made a brief presentation regarding the finances of the Association. He reported that MHA’s financial status is in good shape and that the executive officers and board members of MHA are frugal with expenditures. Ken noted that the endowment funds raised several years ago are secure in a diverse investment portfolio. Financial procedures are regularly reviewed by an accounting firm. He also reported continuing efforts to raise money to fund the Association’s office expenses, as well as extending and broadening the activities of MHA. These include the Board’s proposal to sponsor international seminars. Finally, Ken stated that if any member wants to review the balance sheet, its annual cash flow, and other financial particulars, they are available and he would be happy to provide such information upon application.

Thanks to those who contributed to the Student Travel Fund

A few years ago MHA inaugurated a Student Travel Fund (STF) to assist university students who wished to attend the annual conference. To qualify for assistance from the STF, the student had to submit a paper proposal for delivery at the conference and have that paper accepted by the Program Committee. This year, due to the generosity of numerous donors, MHA provided assistance to seventeen university students to attend the San Antonio conference where they delivered their papers.

Contributions to the fund totaled nearly $8,000, the most we’ve ever received, including one large anonymous gift and the money from one of last year’s book award winners who donated the entirety of her award to the fund.

Thanks to all of you who contributed to this important MHA initiative.

Tanner Lecture changed to Smith-Pettit Lecture

An institutional icon at the annual MHA conference has been altered in name and sponsorship. The Tanner Lecture was endowed in 1980 to invite a scholar who has not previously worked in Mormon studies and who is not a member of the traditional Mormon community to prepare and present a paper at MHA’s annual conference. The purpose of the lectureship is to elicit perspectives on Mormon history that place it within the broader context of American thought, American history, or the history of religion, thereby enlarging the understanding of researchers in Mormon studies.

The money initially given by the Tanner family in the 1980s to fund the lectureship has been exhausted for a number of years. The MHA Board approved at the quarterly Board meeting held on June 4, 2014, a change to the name of the lecture beginning at MHA’s 50th Anniversary conference to be held in Provo, Utah, in 2015. The lecture will hereafter be called the Smith-Pettit Lecture. The continuation of this important feature of MHA’s annual conference and the association’s interest in furthering understanding of Mormon history is made available through the generous sponsorship of the Smith-Pettit Foundation, headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah.
MHA 50th Conference, Provo 2015
A Note from the Provo Program Co-Chairs

We hope you are saving the dates for the “Mormon Cultures, Cultural Mormons” meeting in Provo, June 5-7, 2015; it is going to be a truly unique experience. The meeting will feature occasions to commemorate the organization’s 50th anniversary and tap into local resources for Mormon history, bringing together first-timers and old-timers in what promises to be an unforgettable conference. As always, there will be times set aside to socialize and network at the Newcomers’ Breakfast, the Student Reception, and the Mormon Women’s History Initiative Breakfast, along with plenary and cultural events. And alongside the local tour options, we are also excited about plans for a Thursday pre-conference scholarly digital humanities workshop; stay tuned for forthcoming details on that.

For those considering submitting proposals for sessions or papers: our intention is that the academic program will balance conventional session formats for presentation of research and scholarship with innovative or alternative formats, ones that break the mold in surprising ways. Consider whether one of these ideas might meet your session’s intellectual goals, though by no means do these exhaust the possibilities: roundtable, performance, film screening or reviews, “TED-style” talks, shorter papers, PechaKucha, debate, facilitated discussion, Q&A, “author meets critics,” workshop, practicum, demonstration, multi-media, or digital presentation. We invite bold reformulations and creative thinking for sessions to share exemplary scholarship of Mormon history and provoke lively, thoughtful conversations among the conference attendees.

How might a session proposal best fulfill these goals?

Keep in mind that the committee will have a strong preference for fully constituted sessions, especially those which think outside the traditional “panel-with-comment” model. The committee especially encourages proposals to strive for balance and variety; consider diversity of gender, region, specialization, institution, and academic rank, for example.

And please note, all proposals should conform to high standards of academic professionalism in order to be seriously considered. The ideal session proposal consists of an engaging topic and title, a brief but polished abstract of the session’s theme or intellectual problem, and 1-2 page CVs for all participants. If the session involves scholarly papers, there should be a 300-word abstract for each presentation. As a friendly reminder, a well-crafted abstract might state a substantive research problem, propose a clear thesis, indicate the sources used, and establish the significance of the research to those who might be less familiar with the author’s specialization.

We look forward to your submissions; if you have questions for the Program Committee, please contact us at mha2015provo@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Spencer Fluhman & Tona Hangen, 2015 Program Co-Chairs

PS: Please remember, the deadline for submissions for papers, panels, and other proposals for the 2015 conference is October 1, 2014. The MHA Call for Papers can be found on the MHA website, www.mormonhistory-association.org, and in the last issue of the MHA News (Spring 2014): 11.
A Note from MHA’s New Executive Directors: Debbie and Dave Marsh

It is such an exciting time for us to become the Executive Directors of the Mormon History Association. There are so many previous accomplishments to appreciate and so many future possibilities to anticipate. As we look forward to the 50th anniversary of the founding of MHA, we recognize the sturdy shoulders we stand on, the tradition of success attending preceding efforts, and the noble achievements of past leaders and members.

We live in an age of incredible technological advances and see them as tools and opportunities to make scholarly historical research more accessible to members. We also see the prospect of using technology to enhance our conferences and encourage more scholars to join our organization. We hope to honor the efforts of previous Executive Directors in maintaining the Mormon History Association as a vibrant organization that offers keenly relevant research to the expanding scholarship on Mormon history.

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**Origins and Destinations:**
Forty Years of Mormon Women’s Histor(ies)

**August 9, 2014**
Utah Valley University
Library Auditorium
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Honoring the Life and Work of Claudia L. Bushman

The Symposium is FREE and OPEN to the Public
Luncheon is $15.00

Register for the symposium and luncheon by August 1 at [mormonwomenshistoryinitiative.org](http://mormonwomenshistoryinitiative.org)

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**Update**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**
THIRD MORMON MEDIA STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

“Mormons and Meaning: How media shapes Mormon identities.”
Friday, Oct. 17, 2014

PANEL AND PRESENTATION PROPOSAL DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL JULY 31.
PAPER REQUIREMENT DROPPED

The conference will be held at the BYU Salt Lake Center, 345 W. North Temple St., Salt Lake City, Friday, Oct. 17, 2014.

Contact Information/questions:
Lane Williams:
BYU-Idaho Department of Communications,
williamsll@byui.edu

Joel Campbell:
BYU-Provo Department of Communications,
joelcampbell@byu.edu

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**Writing Their Stories: Biography, Autobiography, and Personal Essay**
9:15 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

**Panelists**
Carol Cornwall Madsen (BYU emeritus)
Lowell “Ben” Bennion (Humboldt emeritus)
Aimee Hickman (Exponent II)
**Respondents**
Claudia Bushman & Kristine Haglund

**Collecting Their Stories: Edited Volumes**
10:45 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

**Panelists**
Colleen Whitley (Utah Historical Quarterly)
Jenny Reeder (Church History Department)
Brittany Chapman (Church History Department)
**Respondents**
Audrey Godfrey & Robin Jensen

**Luncheon**
12:15 – 1:30 p.m.
Featured speaker and honoree
Claudia Bushman (author, editor, and educator)

**Recording Their Stories: Oral Histories**
1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

**Panelists**
Jessie Embry (BYU emeritus)
Neylan McBaine (The Mormon Women Project)
Taunaylyn Rutherford (Claremont)
**Respondents**
Marian Ashby Johnson & Boyd Petersen

**Analyzing Their Stories: Scholarly Approaches and Future Paths**
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

**Panelists**
Jill Mulvay Derr (Church History Department)
Susanna Morrill (Lewis & Clark)
Patrick Q. Mason (Claremont)
**Respondents**
Kathryn M. Daynes & Andrea Radke-Moss
Cosponsored by UVU Religious Studies


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**Selected Articles**

*By Jennifer St. Clair*


Rust, Val D. “Male and Female Teachers in Early Utah and the West.” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 82, no. 2 (2014): 151-166.


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**A Note from MHA's Departing Executive Directors: Ron and Marilyn Barney**

As we leave the Executive Directors’ post at the conclusion of our three-year contract (four years for Marilyn) with MHA, we leave with mixed emotions. The appointment was a great blessing to us. We have appreciated so much working with many terrific people dedicated to the enduring legacy of Mormon history. So many of you have done so much. Sad but true, it is common for us to overlook the efforts of those who voluntarily give their time, talents, and energies to better the organization. Your significant contributions to MHA, your many kindnesses, the support, and the goodness of so many of you have not escaped us.

Many good things have happened in the past three years to the organization that we attribute to not only the excellent efforts of the officers and board members, but also to the enormous contributions of those who compose the organizational committees, the award sponsors, and the donors (a number of them anonymous) who have ensured the perpetuity of our organization. The conferences would never get lift-off without the great energy expended by the Program and Local Arrangement committees, the advertisers, the exhibitors, as well as the other volunteers who have given so much. And, those who make our publications possible, the *Journal of Mormon History* and *MHA News*, can never be thanked enough. We are sincerely grateful to all of you who have meant so much to us.

*(All conference photographs in this issue courtesy of Michael Paulos and Andrea Radke-Moss. Our thanks to them.)*
In Memory

We are saddened to announce the passing of two of our MHA associates, both with longtime interest and participation in Mormon history.

Christopher Talmage Jones
(November 12, 1941 – July 7, 2014)

Christopher Talmage Jones passed away at his Salt Lake City home on July 7 due to complications from a stroke he suffered three years ago. He is survived by his wife, Louise Rolapp Jones, their four children, and fourteen grandchildren. A devoted supporter of the Mormon History Association since 1977, his presence will be dearly missed. Many of Christopher's closest associates have attended MHA conferences with him for years, including family members Louise Jones, Barbara Jones Brown, Bob and Sharon Jones, Anna and Frank Rolapp, and Christopher C. Jones. At the time of his passing, Chris was also serving on the board of directors for the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation. For his lifelong devotion to preserving and sharing Mormon history, MHA presented him a special citation in 2013. Since 2001, Christopher and his family have funded MHA's two Articles of Excellence Awards in honor of his parents, Talmage and Vera Jean Jones. The Jones family now wishes to continue that legacy in Christopher's name. In lieu of flowers, any who would like to contribute to the Christopher Talmage Jones Articles of Excellence Awards may do so by contacting the MHA office.

MarJane Christofferson
(June 8, 1948 - May 5, 2014)

MarJane Christofferson, long-time member of MHA, passed away May 5, 2014 following a lingering illness. Born on June 8, 1948 in Lethbridge Alberta Canada to Reed and Eva Ellison, MarJane enjoyed an idyllic childhood. She attended Brigham Young University and graduated with a degree in microbiology in 1970. Earlier that year MarJane married her sweetheart Greg in the Salt Lake City temple. They met in BYU’s Program Bureau where she danced and he was the MC. They lived in Irvine California, from 1977-2010 when they moved to Lockheart Texas. MarJane loved broadway musicals, cooking, and crocheting baby blankets. She was a terrific listener, relating especially well to teenagers. Her children, many of their friends, and students at University High School where she worked for sixteen years sought her welcoming company and sage advice. MarJane was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in a wide variety of teaching and leadership positions. She is survived by Greg, their four children and spouses Nicole and Ryan Miller, Adam and Marilee Christofferson, Laura and Kevin Redford, Daniel and Jill Christofferson, and fourteen grandchildren.