Mormonism in the Public Mind

Thursday, April 2
Lakeview Room (UVU Library)

8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Mormonisms

"Postcards From the Edges:
The Challenges of Expressing Mormon Diversity"
Dan Wotherspoon, Foundation for Interreligious Diplomacy

"Uneasy Emergence: Mormonism and Media Gate-Keepers"
Daniel Stout, University of Nevada Las Vegas

10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Keynote Address

"Far From Zion:
"Meeting Mormonism on the Religion Beat"

Michael Paulson
Religion Reporter, The Boston Globe

11:30 – 12:45 p.m.

Brownbag Lunch Panel

The Mormon Beat

Michael Paulson, The Boston Globe
Lynn Arave, The Deseret News
Peggy Fletcher Stack, The Salt Lake Tribune
Jennifer Dobner, Associated Press

Mormonism in the Public Mind

Thursday, April 2
Lakeview Room (UVU Library)

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

New Media and Pop Culture

"Book of Mormon Stories that Steph Meyer Tells to Me"
Jana Riess, Westminster John Knox Press

"Why Satire is Better Than a Sermon: A Sermon"
Stephen Carter, Sunstone Magazine

"Arrested Development? Independent Mormon Publications
Coming of Age in the Age of Blogs"
Kristine Haglund, Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought

2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Symbols and Boundary Maintenance

"You say 'Mormon,' I say 'No Way': Defining Boundaries Between
FLDS and LDS in the Media and Public Discourse"
Joel Campbell, The Mormon Times

"The Sacred Secret Open to All: Ye Are Gods"
Charles Randall Paul, Foundation for Interreligious Diplomacy

"Was Jesus Scandinavian? Sacred Archetypes at Temple Square"
David W. Scott, Utah Valley University

7:00 p.m.

Eighth Annual Eugene England Lecture

(Ragan Theater, UVU Student Center)

"The Prehistory of the Soul"

Terryl L. Givens
Bostwick Professor of English, University of Richmond

Mormonism in the Public Mind

Friday, April 3
Ragan Theater (UVU Student Center)

8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Political Discourse and the Latter-day Saints

"Did Romney's Religion Cost Him the Presidency?"
Kirk Jowers, Hinckley Institute of Politics

"The Politics of Morality:
The Church's Involvement in Proposition 8"
Morris Thurston, Latham & Watkins (retired)

"The Morality of Politics:
The Challenges of Mormon Tribalism"
Boyd Petersen, Utah Valley University

10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Public Relations for the Twenty-First Century

"Perils and Prospects: Communicating Latter-day Saint Messages"
Val Edwards, LDS Public Affairs Department

"Public Affairs for the Twenty-First Century"
Richard Bushman, Claremont Graduate University

11:00 – 11:50 p.m.

LDS Public Relations: Strategies and Applications

"How Americans View Mormonism"
Gary Lawrence, Lawrence Research

"Public Affairs in Harlem: A Case Study"
Claudia Bushman, Claremont Graduate University

Mormonism in the Public Mind

Friday, April 3
Ragan Theater (UVU Student Center)

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Brownbag Lunch Panel

Val Edwards, LDS Public Affairs
Claudia Bushman, Claremont Graduate University
Gary Lawrence, Lawrence Research
Richard Bushman, Claremont Graduate University

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

The Mormons in American Religious Thought

"Antebellum Antagonisms:
Making Sense of the Early Mormons"
Grant Underwood, Brigham Young University

"How to Spot a Heretic"
Terryl Givens, University of Richmond

"An Unusual Excitement:
Latter-day Saints in American Christianity"
Brian Birch, Utah Valley University

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion

Grant Underwood, Brigham Young University
Terryl Givens, University of Richmond
Brian Birch, Utah Valley University

Mormonism in the Public Mind

Participants

LYNN ARAVE is the community edition editor and writer for the Deseret News and has covered a wide range of issues related to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints including Mormon culture, scholarship, and new media.

BRIAN BIRCH is director of the Religious Studies Program at Utah Valley University and editor of *Element: The Journal of the Society for Mormon Philosophy and Theology*. He is a member of the Board of Directors for *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* and serves on the Steering Committee for the American Academy of Religion's Mormon Studies Consultation.

CLAUDIA BUSHMAN teaches in the School of Religion at Claremont Graduate University and is the author of *Contemporary Mormonism: Latter-day Saints in Modern America* and co-author of *Building the Kingdom: The History of Latter-day Saints in America*. She is a co-founder of *Exponent II* and currently serves on the Board of Directors for *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*.

RICHARD BUSHMAN is the Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate University. His publications include *Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling*, *Joseph Smith and the Beginnings of Mormonism*, and the essays in *Believing History: Latter-day Saint Essays*. He is the Gouverneur Morris Professor of History Emeritus at Columbia University and winner of the 1968 Bancroft Prize in American history for *From Puritan to Yankee: Character and Social Order in Connecticut*.

JOEL CAMPBELL is the "Mormon Media Observer" for the Mormon Times and former reporter and editor for the Deseret News. He is also assistant professor of Communications at Brigham Young University and recipient of the Roy B. Gibson Freedom of Information Award and the Clifford P. Cheney Service to Journalism Award.

STEPHEN CARTER is director of publications for the Sunstone Education Foundation and editor of Sunstone Magazine. He is co-founder of the humorous publication *The Sugar Beet* and co-author of *The Mormon Tabernacle Enquirer*.

JENNIFER DOBNER is a writer for the Associated Press covering the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Her articles have covered a wide range of events and issues in Mormonism including the Mitt Romney presidential campaign and Mormon fundamentalism.

VAL EDWARDS is Director of Research and Analysis for the Public Affairs Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. With over twenty years in the department, he most recently coordinated the department's initial efforts with "new media."

TERRYL GIVENS is the Bostwick Professor English at the University of Richmond and author of *The Latter-day Saint Experience in America*, *The Viper on the Hearth: Mormons, Myths, and the Construction of Heresy*, and *People of Paradox: A History of Mormon Culture*. His forthcoming book is *When Souls Had Wings: Pre-Mortal Existence in Western Thought*.

KRISTINE HAGLUND is the editor of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*. Recently appointed following Levi Petersen's term, her first issue was released in February (Spring, 2009). A frequent commentator on Mormon blogs, she is currently a contributor to By Common Consent.

KIRK JOWERS is the Director of the Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah and the Associate Director of the Institute of Public and International Affairs. He also is a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm Caplin & Drysdale, Vice Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Strengthening Utah's Democracy, and a member of the Utah Constitutional Revision Commission.

GARY LAWRENCE founded Lawrence Research, an opinion polling firm in Santa Ana, California and is the author of *How Americans View Mormonism: Seven Steps to Improve our Image*. He is also a contributor to Meridian Magazine.

MICHAEL PAULSON is a religion reporter for the Boston Globe, and authors a religion blog, Articles of Faith at *www.boston.com/religion*. He was a co-recipient of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for public service and has won numerous other awards including the 2008 Templeton and Supple Awards for reporting on religion.

BOYD PETERSEN is the program coordinator for Mormon Studies at Utah Valley University and author of *Hugh Nibley: A Consecrated Life*. He is the president of the Association for Mormon Letters and a board member for Mormon Scholars in the Humanities.

CHARLES RANDALL PAUL is founder and president of the Foundation for Interreligious Diplomacy. He is currently completing two books, *Fighting about God: Why We Do It and How to Do It Better* and *Converting the Saints: An American Religious Conflict*.

JANA RIESS is an acquisitions editor at Westminster John Knox Press and author of *Mormonism for Dummies, What Would Buffy Do?*, and *American Pilgrimage*. She is the former Religion Book Review Editor at Publisher's Weekly.

DAVID SCOTT is chair of the Department of Communication at Utah Valley University specializing in religion and media. He is co-author of the forthcoming Religious Community on the Internet: An Analysis of Mormon Websites" and author of "Constructing Sacred History: Multi-media Narratives and the Discourse of 'Museumness' at Mormon Temple Square," both in the *Journal of Media and Religion*.

PEGGY FLETCHER STACK is a religion reporter for the Salt Lake Tribune and a widely consulted source for journalists covering the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She is also the co-author of *A World of Faith* and a former editor for Sunstone Magazine.

DANIEL STOUT is professor of journalism and media studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and co-author of *Religion and Mass Media: Audiences and Adaptations*, and *Religion and Popular Culture: Studies on the Interaction of Worldviews*. He is also co-editor of the *Journal of Media and Religion* and the *Encyclopedia of Religion, Communication and Media*.

MORRIS THURSTON retired in 2004 as a senior partner in the global law firm of Latham & Watkins and is co-author of *Breathe Life into Your Life Story: How to Write a Story that People Will Want to Read*. He lectures and writes concerning LDS legal history.

GRANT UNDERWOOD is professor of history at Brigham Young University and author of *The Millenarian World of Early Mormonism* and *Voyages of Faith: Explorations in Mormon Pacific History*. Prior to his current appointment, he served as a research historian in the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History at Brigham Young University. He currently serves as co-chair of the Mormon Studies Consultation in the American Academy of Religion.

DAN WOTHERSPOON is director of operations for the Foundation for the Foundation for Interreligious Diplomacy. He also served as editor of Sunstone Magazine and executive director of the Sunstone Foundation. He has lectured widely on Mormons in American thought and culture.