

# CLAREMONT MORMON STUDIES

— N E W S L E T T E R —

FALL 2010 ♦ ISSUE NO. 3

## A Memorable Year for Mormon Studies

BY Jacob Baker

President, Claremont Mormon Studies Student Association

In a sense, the academic years Fall 2007 through Spring 2010 could be viewed as the (brief) Golden or Camelot years of Claremont Mormon studies. The Howard W. Hunter Chair and Claremont Mormon Studies Student Association, conjointly and independently, hosted dozens of scholarly lectures, visits, and conferences during these years; sometimes multiple events a month. Even the casual Mormon studies diletante was often faced with too many Mormon-centered events from which to choose.

This same Mormon studies diletante may have noticed (and the students of Mormonism in the Claremont area certainly have taken note) that the 2010–2011 academic year has been somewhat sparse by comparison. In fact, the intellectual and organizational “activism” during the infant years of Claremont Mormon studies (itself characteristically “Mormon” in nature) was so successful that the Hunter Chair was kindly asked by the School of Religion to scale back somewhat the public events and forums associated with the study of Mormonism;

nothing else related to the School was even coming close to the public visibility and frequency of Mormon-themed events. Understandably, the School of Religion was moderately concerned that the public face of the academic (and certainly non-denominational) School of Religion was becoming disproportionately Mormon. But, as Richard Bush-

man wrote in the last issue, the point has been well-established: Claremont truly has become the place—a national center, even—for

students and scholars to gather and discuss the major issues and concepts involving Mormonism. As always, the heart of Mormon studies at Claremont is the students that come here, for they are the ones that drive the interest and help to formulate and organize the events.

Are, then, the “Camelot” years behind us? The answer is decidedly, no. 2010–2011 has been and will be both a transitional period for Mormon studies in Claremont and a memorable year for Mormon studies in its own right. It is transitional because we see the Bushmans’ historic and regrettably brief tenure here coming

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to an end. I will have more to say about the Bushmans’ legacy in our final issue of the year, but suffice it for now to say that, having firmly established the foundations and the trajectory of Mormon studies in Claremont, the Bushmans are handing the reins to a young, passionate, and capable scholar from Notre Dame, Patrick Mason. All of the students with whom I have spoken are excited about Patrick’s novel ideas for the program and his enthusiasm, and we are confident that he will advance Mormon studies at Claremont to the next level.

But in its own right 2010–2011 promises to be a memorable year,

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# War and Peace Conference this Week

Under the sponsorship of the LDS Council on Mormon Studies and the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, a conference titled *War and Peace in Our Times: Mormon Perspectives* will convene on March 18–19. The program will address the critical issues of war and peace from a variety of Mormon perspectives, featuring a keynote presentation by Elder Lance B. Wickman, former member of the First Quorum of Seventy and a Vietnam veteran.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 18

*Albrecht Auditorium  
Claremont Graduate University*

### 1:00–1:15 PM Welcome

- Richard Bushman

### 1:15–2:00 PM Session 1 — The Book of Mormon, I

- F. R. Rick Duran, “Pax Sanctorum: From the Plates, a Pacifist Manifesto”
- Joshua Madson, “A Nonviolent Reading of the Book of Mormon”
- Robert Rees, “Children of Light: How the Nephites Sustained Two Centuries of Peace”

### 2:45–4:00 PM Session 2 — The Book of Mormon, II

- Morgan Deane, “The Lord Forbid? Offensive Warfare in the Book of Mormon”
- Graham St. John Stott, “Reading Gaza in the Book of Mormon”
- J. David Pulsipher, “The Ammonite Conundrum”

### 4:00–4:30 PM Plenary discussions of Sessions 1 & 2

### 4:45–6:00 PM Session 3 — Doctrine & Covenants 98

- Ron Madson, “Section 98: The Immutable ‘Rejected’ Covenant”
- Gordon Thomasson, “‘Renounce War and Proclaim Peace’: Reflections on Mormon Attempts at Peacemaking”
- Kerry Kartchner, “The Lord’s Promise to Fight Our Battles: A Commentary on D&C 98:33–37”



## FRIDAY EVENING

*Hampton Room  
Scripps College*

### 6:30–7:30 PM Dinner

### 8:00–9:00 PM Keynote Address

- Elder Lance B. Wickman, Emeritus General Authority and decorated Army veteran

## SATURDAY, MARCH 19

*Balch Auditorium  
Scripps College*

### 9:00–10:15 AM Session 4 — Historical Perspectives

- Jennifer Lindell, “Fall from Grace: Mormon Millennialism, Native Americans, and Violence”
- Mark Ashurst-McGee, “Zion as a Refuge from the Wars of Nations: Cultural Resources or Impediment?”
- Robert Hellebrand, “General Conference Addresses During Times of War”

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10:30–11:45 AM **Session 5 — News from the Front**

- Chaplain Kathryn Stucki, “The Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Impact of Serving in the Military and in War on Modern Day Mormons”
- Eric Eliason, “Latter-day Saint Views on Current Conflicts: An LDS Chaplain’s Perspective”
- Major Jonathan Petty

12:00–12:45 PM **Session 6 — Perspectives from LDS National Security Professionals**

A discussion led by Eric Jensen and Kerry Kartchner

1:00–2:45 PM **Lunch**

View and discuss film *Trouble in Zion*

3:00–4:15 PM **Session 7 — Prominent Voices**

- D. Michael Quinn, “Pacifist Counselor in the First

Presidency: J. Reuben Clark, 1933–61”

- Boyd Petersen, “‘The Work of Death’: Hugh Nibley and War”
- Loyd Ericson, “Eugene England’s Theology of Peace”

4:30–5:15 PM **Session 8 — International Perspectives**

- Jesse Fulcher, “Nonviolent Responses and Mormon Attitudes: Reasons and Realities”
- Ethan Yorgason, “Negotiating War and Peace in Korea: A Comparison of U.S. Military and Korean Latter-day Saints”

5:15–6:00 PM **Closing Plenary Session**

With introductory comments by Kerry Kartchner, Richard Bushman, and Patrick Mason

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one that continues the tradition of academic excellence in Mormon studies. Last semester we had the chance to meet with and listen to lectures from both Dr. Mason (Notre Dame) and Kathleen Flake (Vanderbilt), and their visions for Mormon studies in Claremont and the Howard Hunter Chair generally. Both candidates were engaging both personally and with regards to their scholarship, which was exceptional. In November we met with Alexander Baugh, a professor of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University and one of the top historical experts on the Missouri period in Mormon history for a stimulating conversation about the Mormon-Missouri wars. In December 2010 Richard Bushman delivered a lecture to CGU students and faculty entitled, “The Imagination of Divine Acts: Joseph Smith’s Gold Plates,” in which he sought to locate and recover the cultural significance of the gold plates for Mormonism today and in the past.

In February of this year Clare-

mont hosted a conference on the contemporary lives of Mormon women entitled, “Women’s Lives, Women’s Voices: Agency in the Lives of Mormon Women.” Liz Mott, a PhD student in North American Religions and Mormons Studies and a member of CMSSA’s Leadership Council, provides a summary of this historic and very well-attended conference later in this issue. On March 10, Richard Bushman lectured at the Institute for Signifying the Scriptures on “A 21st Century Reading of the Book of Mormon,” suggesting how the book might be read by both

Mormons and non-Mormons alike in a contemporary context. And we still have several events to look forward to this semester: In April, BYU Humanities professor George Handley will conduct a reading and discussion of his critically acclaimed book, *Home Waters*. Later that month we will be pleased to host Joanna Brooks, a nationally acclaimed Mormon professor and author. Finally, the Howard W Hunter Chair will host its seminal bi-annual conference, this year on “War and Peace in Our Times: Mormon Perspectives.” ♦

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and provide your name and email address on the home page to be entered into our news and events system. You will receive the newsletter as a PDF file each semester. Please direct any questions to **newsletter@claremontmormonstudies.org**.

# Students Contribute to Mormon Studies

We asked students to provide some details about their recent academic work. Included here are some of their contributions to the field.

## LOYD ERICSON

“Where is the Mormon in Mormon Studies? Subject, Method, Object,” Claremont Mormon Studies Conference, Claremont Graduate University, 2010.

“The Problem of Evil and the Problem of Man,” *Sunstone* (June 2010).

## DAVID GOLDING

“Discursive Challenges Facing Mormon Studies at Claremont,” *Sunstone West Symposium*, 2010.

“The Foundations and Early Development of Mormon Mission Theory,” Master’s thesis, Claremont Graduate University, 2010.

“Joseph Smith’s Mission Theory and the Modern Missionary Movement,” Mormon History Association Annual Meeting, 2010.

Research Fellowship, Mormon Scholars Foundation Summer Seminar, Brigham Young University, 2010.

“A Savior Unto Israel: Bloodlines and Assurance in Early Mormon Salvation Theory,” Mormon Scholars Foundation Summer Symposium, Brigham Young University, 2010.

“Of One Heart and One Mind: Mormon Zion and the Celebration of the Irreconcilable,” Faith and Knowledge Conference, Duke University, 2011.

Review of *Missionaries, Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Exchange* edited by Patricia Grimshaw and Andrew May in *Anglican and Episcopal History*, 2011.

## CAROLINE KLINE

“Divided Loyalties and Competing Demands: Self and Other in a Mormon Context,” *Women’s Lives, Women’s Voices: Agency in the Lives of Mormon Women* Conference, 2011.

## ELIZABETH J. MOTT

“A Case Study of the Impact of Filmmaker Decisions in the Construction of a Documentary: Helen Whitney’s (2007) *The Mormons*,” Mormon Media Studies Symposium, Brigham Young University, 2010.

“From Radio to Internet: Church Use of Electronic Media in the Twentieth Century” in *A Firm Foundation: Church Organization and Administration*, Religious Studies Center, forthcoming.

Short biography on Elizabeth Lane Hyde in *Women of Faith in the Latter Days*, Deseret Book, forthcoming.

## JACOB RENNAKER

Review of *Out of the Whirlwind: Creation Theology and the Book of Job* by Kathryn Schifferdecker in *Religious Studies Review* 36, no. 2 (2010).

“Radically Revelatory: Bridging the Gap Between Extra-Textual Revelation and Written Scripture,” *Sunstone West Symposium*, 2010.

“Through a Glass, Darkly? Biblical Studies, Mormon Studies, Parallels, and Problems,” Claremont Mormon Studies Conference, Claremont Graduate University, 2010.

Platt Fellowship for Archaeological Field Research, American Schools of Oriental Research, 2010.

Research Fellowship, Mormon Scholars Foundation Summer Seminar, Brigham Young University, 2010.

“‘Have Reference to a Personage Like Adam.’ Literal and Figurative Interpretations of Adam in Early Mormonism,” Mormon Scholars Foundation Summer Symposium, Brigham Young University, 2010.

“Up, Up, or Away? Exploring Vertical and Horizontal Conceptualizations of Sacred Space in Ezekiel 40–

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42,” Society for Biblical Literature Western Regional Conference, 2011.

CHRISTOPHER C. SMITH

“What Hath Oxford to do with Salt Lake?” Claremont Mormon Studies Conference, Claremont Graduate

University, 2010.

“The Original Length of the Scroll of Hôr,” *Dialogue* 43, no. 4 (Winter 2010).

“Sacred Sci-Fi: Orson Scott Card as Mythmaker,” *Sunstone* (March 2011).

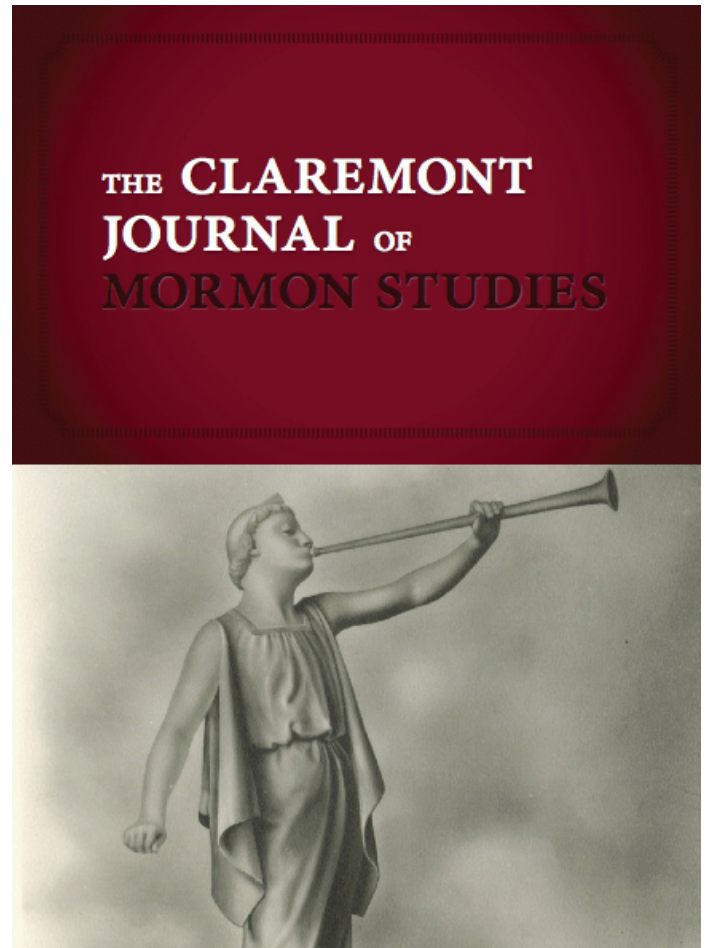
# Announcing the Claremont Journal of Mormon Studies

This April, the Student Association will publish a new periodical committed to the advancement of the field of Mormon studies and to fostering academic discussion and research among graduate students. The purpose of this journal is to establish a proficient and easily accessible forum for ongoing research in Mormon studies among qualified graduate students, exemplifying new research being done in various fields.

Digital issues and print editions will be available for download and order via the Claremont Mormon Studies website. Issues will run twice annually, once per semester.

The journal encourages graduate students in particular to submit Mormon studies-related papers completed during the course of class work in graduate school. Articles and reviews may be submitted by email at [journal@claremontmormonstudies.org](mailto:journal@claremontmormonstudies.org). Submission guidelines are available at the Journal’s home website, [www.claremontmormonstudies.org/journal](http://www.claremontmormonstudies.org/journal).

By bringing together articles from a diverse range of disciplines, the journal will broaden the forum for Mormon studies. Claremont is uniquely positioned to encourage and maintain this forum due to the interdisciplinary approach of the School of Religion at CGU and its reputation as a national center for the field of Mormon studies. The journal is one extension of the academic work coming out of the Mormon studies program and will offer a snapshot of the graduate work going on in our classes and conferences. ♦



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# Agency in the Lives of Mormon Women Conference

BY Elizabeth Mott

On February 5, 2011, the community had the privilege of hearing a keynote address about the importance of recording and sharing women's life stories from Aileen Clyde, former second counselor in the General Relief Society Presidency, and her granddaughter, Emily Clyde Curtis, co-editor of the *Exponent II* magazine. *Women's Lives, Women's Voices: Agency in the Lives of Mormon Women* was organized by Caroline Kline and Lisa Clayton, both CGU School of Religion students.

So many women registered for the conference that the venue had to be changed to the Balch Auditorium at Scripps College, and the auditorium was filled to capacity for the conference. Claudia Bushman's oral history project enabled interviewers and participants to record more than 100 life histories of women in the twentieth century. This participation led to a greater awareness in the community of Southern California of the work being done for Mormon women's history at the CGU School of Religion.

Aileen Clyde entitled her remarks, "Running With It," and said that

by sharing their stories with each other, Mormon women come to better understand one another and value individual perspectives; this understanding leads to stronger unity and mutual support. She told about how she came to know of her grandmother's experiences on the Utah frontier. Aileen took to heart the independence and fortitude of her grandmother. Similarly, Aileen's granddaughter, Emily, seconded the call for women's stories, asserting that modern readers might see Jezebel differently if her perspective had been included in the Bible. She shared a memorable story of working as a chaplain at a hospital and finding herself in the predicament of being an LDS woman expected to perform Catholic baptisms for dying children. In the moment of crisis, she resolved the conflict by inviting the father of a sick child to perform the baptism, and she instructed him on how it was to be done. This provided a significant example of agency in her life.

Additional speakers provided further reasons for Mormon women to record their individual stories. Arguing that women's agency has

only been understood in terms of resistance to authority, Amy Hoyt said that Mormon women in the U.S. use their agency to both support and resist authority simultaneously. Deidre Green emphasized that women can find themselves in a stronger position by naming themselves, the world, and God. Narratives give the power to women to define for themselves what it means to them individually to be Mormon; they would no longer be defined by the Church, or its critics. Caroline Kline presented a paper on the way that women in the oral histories balanced their individual needs with the demands of family, and argued that self-respect was the healthiest approach, discrediting both extremes of selfishness and selflessness. Elisa Pulido expressed the positive and negative aspects of the "great expectation" Mormon mothers have that their children, particularly their sons, will serve faithful missions. The conference ended with a panel of four women who were interviewed for the oral history project. They shared how they had used their agency in their diverse experiences. ♦

# Looking Back on Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate University

BY Loyd Ericson

*Vice-President of the Claremont Mormon Studies Student Association*

As I near completion of my final semester here at Claremont Graduate University, I can look back at the great experiences I have had over these last two and a half years. At the top of these is the camaraderie I have found between fellow students interested in Mormon Studies that the Claremont Mormon Studies Student Association and the Howard W. Hunter Chair has made possible. The opportunity to sit down with friends and discuss new research, ideas, and the insights (and sometimes struggles) these bring to my faith has been an invaluable asset that few other schools can match. Alongside these friendships has been the opportunity to meet with and build connections with scholars across the country and world interested in Mormonism.

While the number of events sponsored by the Hunter Chair have needed to decrease, the activity and presence of Mormon Studies at Claremont has only increased. Students here are publishing their works at a constant rate and representing the

school at Mormon Studies conferences across the country. Last spring I was able to help organize a conference where we asked the question “What Is Mormon Studies?” and brought in some of the best scholars and voices (including our keynote speaker, Jan Shipps) to explore the various answers. Our conferences on Mormon women have been widely attended and reflective of the growing interest in Claremont’s Mormon Women’s Oral History Project. And this semester, I have had the great opportunity to work with Richard

Bushman and our incoming Hunter Chair, Patrick Mason, to organize a conference on contemporary Mormon perspectives of war and peace. Besides these conferences, the Claremont Mormon Studies Student Association has

brought in speakers such as Alexander Baugh and Jana Reiss to discuss their work, and we are about to publish the first issue of the Claremont Journal of Mormon Studies.

Needless to say, this has been a great time to be a student at Claremont Graduate University. ♦

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