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Willes Center Awards Research Grants

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Willes Center Awards Research Grants

The Laura F. Willes Center for Book of Mormon Studies announces five faculty research grants for the 2008–2009 academic year:

Susan Easton Black and Andrew C. Skinner, “The Phrase ‘This Land’: Doctrinal and Geographical Implications for Latter-day Saints” (a book-length study).

S. Kent Brown, “Messiah: Behold the Lamb of God” (a seven-part documentary film on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, including his New World ministry).

Keith A. Crandall, “DNA and the Book of Mormon: Exploring Population Genetic Models” (a scientific article).

Alan K. Parrish, “A History of the Interest of Prominent Church Leaders and Scholars in Book of Mormon Geography and Archaeology” (a series of nine studies).

John W. Welch, “The Speeches of Alma” (a book-length study).

The Willes Center awards research grants to full-time faculty members to encourage important research on the Book of Mormon. Though the current awards will support research mainly on the BYU campus, an awardee can pursue research from any locale as long as the topic relates to the Book of Mormon.

One important stipulation requires that, within three months of completing the term of their award, those receiving scholarships are to submit a publishable paper on their research that can potentially appear in the *Journal of Book of Mormon and Restoration Scripture* or other relevant publications. This requirement applies also to those who receive an award for pursuing a media production such as a documentary film.

For long-term projects, awardees may apply for funds for a second year to complete their projects, although their applications will be competing with others for awards. Second-year applications are to include a one-page research report on the first year’s work.

Application forms are available at willescenter.byu.edu. The applications for 2009–2010 will be due on September 30, 2008. 

From Other Publishers

Defending the Faith by Daniel C. Peterson (Covenant). For better or worse, hardly a week goes by without the Church being mentioned in the news. Along with this increased level of visibility comes an increase in the amount of criticism directed toward the Church. In this two-CD set of engaging fireside talks, gospel scholar Daniel C. Peterson addresses some of the most common criticisms and helps members know best how to respond to each. Some of the issues he discusses include: the DNA question, the nature of the Godhead, deification, so-called “errors” in the Book of Mormon, Book of Mormon geography, the claim that Latter-day Saints aren’t Christians, and works vs. grace.

INSIGHTS

Paula W. Hicken, Jacob D. Rawlins, *Editors*

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M. Gerald Bradford, *Executive Director*

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John Gee, Carl Griffin, Kristian Heal, Daniel C. Peterson

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The Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship encourages and supports research on the Book of Mormon, the Book of Abraham, the Bible, other ancient scripture, and related subjects. The Maxwell Institute publishes and distributes titles in these areas for the benefit of scholars and interested Latter-day Saint readers.

Primary research interests at the Maxwell Institute include the history, language, literature, culture, geography, politics, and law relevant to ancient scripture. Although such subjects are of secondary importance when compared with the spiritual and eternal messages of scripture, solid research and academic perspectives can supply certain kinds of useful information, even if only tentatively, concerning many significant and interesting questions about scripture.

The Maxwell Institute makes reports about this research available widely, promptly, and economically. These publications are peer-reviewed to ensure that scholarly standards are met. The proceeds from the sale of these materials are used to support further research and publications.

