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New Director Appointed for the Willes Center and the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies

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INSIGHTS

The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship

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New Director Appointed for the Willes Center and the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies

Recently the Brigham Young University administration announced the appointment of Professor Paul Y. Hoskisson as the new director of the Laura F. Willes Center for Book of Mormon Studies and the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies at the Maxwell Institute, effective September 1. Professor S. Kent Brown, who previously headed up these operations, retired from the university at the end of August.


M. Gerald Bradford, Maxwell Institute executive director, noted that “Kent did an outstanding job charting the initial course for the Willes Center in regard to its fostering study of the Book of Mormon and he furthered the work of the Foundation in its support of work on other restoration scripture, especially the Book of Abraham. His vision and leadership will be sorely missed.”

At the same time, Bradford pointed out that “Paul is more than well suited to assume his new responsibilities. All of us associated with the Maxwell Institute are excited about his appointment and look forward to working closely with him.” Hoskisson is professor of ancient scripture at BYU, a scholar of the Book of Mormon and an authority on the Bible and the ancient world of the Bible. He

has served as associate dean of Religious Education and recently was the Richard L. Evans Professor of Religious Understanding.

Since 1981 when he joined the BYU faculty, Hoskisson has taught courses on the Book of Mormon, the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Pearl of Great Price, the history of civilization, as well as a number of language courses, including Ugaritic, Akkadian, and Hebrew. Before coming to BYU, he worked at the Universität Zürich, Switzerland, and the Universität Tübingen, Germany. He earned his PhD from Brandeis University in ancient Near Eastern Studies and his master’s and bachelor’s degrees from BYU. He is a member of a number of professional academic associations such as the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Oriental Society, the American Schools of Oriental Research, and the Mormon History Association.

Dr. Hoskisson has many publications to his credit, including “Aaron’s Golden Calf,” in *The FARMS Review*; “Looking Beyond the Mark,” in *A Witness for the Restoration: Essays in Honor of Robert J. Matthews*; and “Neo-Assyrian Rhetoric: The Example of the Third Campaign of Sennacherib (704–681 B.C.),” with Grant Boswell in *Rhetoric Before and Beyond the Greeks*. He has edited a number of books, including *Historicity and the Latter-day Saint Scriptures*.

Professor Hoskisson is married to Joaquina V. Hoskisson and they are the parents of four children. 

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From Elder Neal A. Maxwell

The Book of Mormon will be with us “as long as the earth shall stand.” We need all that time to explore it, for the book is like a vast mansion with gardens, towers, courtyards, and wings. There are rooms yet to be entered, with flaming fireplaces waiting to warm us. The

rooms glimpsed so far contain further furnishings and rich detail yet to be savored, but decor dating from Eden is evident. There are panels inlaid with incredible insights, particularly insights about the great question. Yet we as Church members sometimes behave like hurried tourists, scarcely venturing beyond the entry hall. (“Not My Will, but Thine” [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], 33, as quoted in *The Neal A. Maxwell Quote Book*, ed. Cory H. Maxwell [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1997], 33.)