

R. Devan Jensen

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WORK

Executive Editor, Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University (October 2001–present)

- Managed publishing projects, including thousands of articles and more than 250 books or book-length projects, achieving seventeen awards (see list below)
- Helped increase annual production from two books to twenty, plus the *BYU Religious Education Review* magazine, the *Religious Educator* and *Studia Antiqua* journals, the *RSC Newsletter*, and a website with more than 4,000 articles
- Hired, trained, and mentored about seventy editing students—some became professional editors
- Oversaw social media accounts and students posting on the BYU Religious Education, BYU Religious Studies Center, and *Religious Educator* accounts
- Served on the university's Administrative Advisory Committee (chair), Athletic Advisory Committee, Office Professional Advisory Committee, BYU Church History Symposium Committee, BYU Religious Education Student Symposium Committee, BYU Easter Conference Committee, BYU Religious Education Website Committee, and Sperry Symposium Committee
- Wrote more than fifty published articles or reviews and five books
- Presented dozens of times at conferences in Guam, Idaho, Samoa, Taiwan, Texas, Utah, and Washington, DC
- Taught Book of Mormon, business writing, and editing as an adjunct instructor at two universities

President/Past Director of Conferences and Programs, Latter-day Saint Publishing and Media Association (October 2015–present)

- Helped plan October 2020 conference featuring Bruce and Marie Hafen, the Bonner Family, and Brandon Mull
- Helped plan October 2019 conference featuring John H. Groberg, Janice Kapp Perry, and T. C. Christensen, and others
- Helped plan September 2017 conference featuring Brandon Sanderson, Sheri Dew, John S. Tanner, and John W. Welch
- Organized September 2016 conference featuring Brandon Mull, Brad Wilcox, and others

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Mormon Studies* (June 2018–present)

- Nominated journal articles for awards
- Assisted Alex Baugh and Jessie Embry with editorial decisions
- Served on Mormon History Association 2020 program committee

Founding Board Member and Chair of Publishing/Presentations Committee, BYU Latter-day Saint Educators Society (September 2016–July 2019)

- Helped organize the board with LeGrand (Buddy) Richards and other members
- Helped plan three conferences featuring Kim B. Clark, Tad R. Callister, Robert Millet, and others

Editor, *Ensign* magazine (October 1996–October 2001)

- Served as liaison with the Materials Evaluation Committee to resolve doctrinal and historical issues before printing
- Supervised team of twenty-four editors to produce biannual conference issues, including posting the first conference talks on the internet

Associate Editor, Church Publishing Services Department (March–October 1996)

- Edited curriculum manuals and materials
- Taught business writing skills to Church employees

Editorial Assistant, Deseret Book Company (February 1994–March 1996)

- Evaluated manuscripts, edited, wrote marketing copy, proofread, checked digital proofs, and submitted books to press
- Recruited and trained a team of up to fifty freelance proofreaders and indexers for the text of Gospelink (now LDS Collectors Library)

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, English, Brigham Young University (August 1995), 3.9 GPA

Bachelor of Arts, English, Brigham Young University (August 1991), 3.8 GPA, *Cum Laude*

- Master's thesis: "Gender Stereotypes in Victorian Boys' Books"
- National Merit Scholar, Presidential Scholarship (four-year, full-tuition scholarship)

AWARDS FOR COPYEDITING OR EDITING

2019: Mormon History Association's Best International Book Award for James A. Toronto, Eric R. Dursteler, and Michael W. Homer, *Mormons in the Piazza: History of the Latter-day Saints in Italy*

2019: Harvey B. and Susan Easton Black Outstanding Publication Award (Gospel Scholarship, Ancient Scripture) for Ann M. Madsen and Shon D. Hopkin, *Opening Isaiah: A Harmony*

2019: Harvey B. and Susan Easton Black Outstanding Publication Award (Gospel Scholarship, Church History and Doctrine) for Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and David M. Whitchurch, *My Dear Sister: Letters between Joseph F. Smith and Martha Ann Smith Harris*

2018: Smith-Pettit Best Book Award (John Whitmer Historical Association) for Roy A. Prete and Carma T. Prete, eds., *Canadian Mormons: History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Canada*

2018: Harvey B. Black and Susan Easton Black Outstanding Publication Award (Gospel Scholarship for LDS Audiences, Church History and Doctrine) for Fred E. Woods, *Kalaupapa: The Mormon Experience in an Exiled Community*

2017: Harvey B. Black and Susan Easton Black Outstanding Publication Award (Gospel Scholarship for LDS Audiences, Church History and Doctrine) for Michael Hubbard MacKay, *Sacred Space: Exploring the Birthplace of Mormonism*

2016: BYU President's Appreciation Award for work as executive editor, given to four BYU administrative employees annually

2015: Religious Education Dean's Award for "vital work as executive editor, including training and mentoring student editing interns and ensuring high quality of publications with his sound judgment, careful eye, and editing 'magic wand'"

- 2015: Harvey B. Black and Susan Easton Black Outstanding Publication Award (Church History and Doctrine, Gospel Scholarship) for Kip Sperry, *Nauvoo and Hancock County, Illinois: A Guide to Family History and Historical Sources*
- 2014: Harvey B. Black and Susan Easton Black Outstanding Publication Award (Ancient Scripture) for Daniel L. Belnap, ed., *By Our Rites of Worship: Latter-day Saint Ritual in Scripture, History, and Practice*
- 2013: Religious Education Exceptional Performance Award for work as executive editor
- 2013: MHA's Best International Article Award for Ronald E. Bartholomew, "The Role of Local Missionaries in Nineteenth-Century England," in *Go Ye into All the World*, ed. Reid L. Neilson and Fred E. Woods
- 2013: Harvey B. Black and Susan Easton Black Outstanding Publication Award (Church History and Doctrine, Gospel Scholarship) for Kenneth L. Alford, ed., *Civil War Saints*
- 2012: Harvey B. Black and Susan Easton Black Outstanding Publication Award (Ancient Scripture) for Robert L. Millet, ed., *No Weapon Shall Prosper: New Light on Sensitive Issues*
- 2010: MHA's Geraldine McBride Woodward Award for Best Publication in International Mormon History for Roger P. Minert, *In Harm's Way: East German Latter-day Saints in World War II*
- 2009: MHA's Geraldine McBride Woodward Award for Best Publication in International Mormon History for Mark L. Grover, *A Land of Promise and Prophecy: Elder A. Theodore Tuttle in South America, 1960–1965*
- 2006: MHA's Steven F. Christensen Best Documentary Award for Donald G. Godfrey and Kenneth W. Godfrey, eds., *The Diaries of Charles Ora Card: The Utah Years, 1871–1886*

ARTICLES, CHAPTERS, OR REVIEWS

- Jensen, R. Devan, and Petra Javadi-Evans. "Elbert D. Thomas: Advocate for the World." In *Latter-day Saints in Washington, DC: History, People, and Places*, edited by Kenneth L. Alford, Lloyd D. Newell, and Alexander L. Baugh, 223–39. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2021.
- Crookston, Richard B., and R. Devan Jensen. "Historic Sites in Washington, DC: A Photo Essay." In *Latter-day Saints in Washington, DC*, 465–86.
- Jensen, R. Devan, Michael A. Goodman, and Barbara Morgan Gardner. "'Line upon Line': Joseph Smith's Growing Understanding of the Eternal Family." In *Raising the Standard of Truth: Exploring the History and Teachings of the Early Restoration*, ed. Scott C. Esplin, 283–308. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2020. Reprint.
- Jensen, R. Devan. "Rise of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Guam and Micronesia." *Mormon Historical Studies* 21, no. 1 (2020): 41–56.
- . "Bullet Shell Sacrament Cups and Other Stories of the Gospel in Micronesia." *LDS Living*, 6 December 2019.
- . "The Mail, the Trail, and the War: The Brigham Young Express and Carrying Company." In *Business and Religion: The Intersection of Faith and Religion*, edited by Matthew C. Godfrey and Michael Hubbard MacKay, 151–74. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2019.
- . "From the Diary of Frederick Kesler: Baptism of American Indians on Dimick B. Huntington's Property." *Pioneer* 66, no. 1 (2019): 7.
- Jensen, R. Devan, Scott R. Christensen, and Darren Parry. "'Like Fire in the Dry Grass': Mass Shoshone Conversions and the Christensen Teaching Scroll." *Pioneer* 66, no. 1 (2019): 38–47.

- Jensen, R. Devan, and Kenneth L. Alford. "Militiaman William Stowell and the Utah War." *Pioneer* 65, no. 3 (2018): 22–31.
- . "Philo Dibble's Dream of 'a Gallery in Zion.'" *Journal of Mormon History* 44, no. 4 (October 2018): 19–39. (nominated for John Whitmer Historical Association best article award)
- . Book notice for *At Sword's Point, Parts 1 and 2*. *BYU Studies Quarterly* 57, no. 1 (2018): 220–21.
- . Review of *Documents, Volume 5: October 1835–January 1838*, vol. 5 of the Documents series of *The Joseph Smith Papers*. *Journal of Mormon History* 44, no. 1 (January 2018): 186–88.
- Top, Brent L., and R. Devan Jensen. "Key Priorities and Initiatives Related to Our Mission." *BYU Religious Education Review*, Winter 2018, 20–25.
- Jensen, R. Devan, and Kenneth L. Alford. "I Was Not Ready to Die Yet": William Stowell's Utah War Ordeal." *BYU Studies Quarterly* 56, no. 4 (2017): 29–52. (nominated for Mormon History Association best article award)
- . Review of *At the Pulpit: 185 Years of Discourses by Latter-day Saint Women*. *JWHA Journal* (Fall/Winter 2017): 138–40.
- Nordgren, Brent R., and R. Devan Jensen. "Around the World with the Religious Studies Center," *BYU Religious Education Review*, Fall 2017: 6–7.
- Jensen, R. Devan. Review of *At the Pulpit: 185 Years of Discourses by Latter-day Saint Women*. *Mormon Historical Studies* 18, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 80–82.
- Woods, Fred E., and R. Devan Jensen. "'We Rang the Bell': The Launch of Mormonism in Tonga." *Mormon Historical Studies* 18, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 43–63.
- Woods, Fred E., and Devan Jensen, with Katie Lambert. "The Country with the Largest Number of Mormons Per Capita and How Members Live Their Faith." *LDS Living* (online), April 19, 2017.
- . "The Church in Tonga." *LDS Living*, March/April 2017, 59–64.
- Wilson, Keith J., Richard G. Moore, and Devan Jensen. "The Community of Christ and Other Restoration Movements," *BYU Religious Education Review*, Winter 2017, 18–23.
- Jensen, R. Devan. "Sharing Love with Friends," *Liahona*, February 2017, 68–69.
- . "Sharing Love with Friends." *Friend*, February 2017, 15–16.
- . Foreword to *Zion's Trumpet: 1856 and 1857 Welsh Mormon Periodical*. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2017.
- . "Keeping Faith Afloat." *New Era*, December 2016, 14–17.
- . "Micronesia's Coming of Age: The Mormon Role in Returning Micronesia to Self-Rule." *Pacific Asia Inquiry* 7, no. 1 (Fall 2016): 1–20. (nominated for Mormon History Association best article award)
- . "The Role of Mormon Politicians in Micronesia's Return to Self-Rule." *Mormon Historical Studies*, October 2016, 43–62.
- . "The RSC as a Training Ground," *BYU Religious Education Review*, Fall 2016, 26–27.
- Thomas A. Wayment, R. Devan Jensen, and Brent R. Nordgren. "Elder Holland Helps Celebrate RSC's Fortieth, Looks to Future." *BYU Religious Education Review*, Winter 2015, 14–19.
- Jensen, R. Devan. "Innovations in Education: Religion Cornerstone Classes Being Developed." *BYU Religious Education Review*, Winter 2015, 26–27.
- . "Publishing Mormon History: A Conversation with Alexander L. Baugh." *Religious Educator* 16, no. 1 (2015): 151–61.
- . "Book Review: *The Mormon Image in the American Mind: Fifty Years of Public Perception*." *Religious Educator* 16, no. 1 (2015): 163–66.

- . “The First Branch President in Austria: A Conversation with Roger P. Minert.” *BYU Religious Education Review*, Fall 2014, 22–23.
- . “MHA Historians Remember the Alamo in San Antonio.” *BYU Religious Education Review*, Fall 2014, 27–28.
- , and Paul A. Hoffman. “From Mormon Battalion Member to Civil War Soldier: The Military Service of Henry Wells Jackson.” *Mormon Historical Studies* 15, no. 1 (Spring 2014): 83–109.
- Jensen, R. Devan. “Book Review: *Mapping Mormonism: An Atlas of Latter-day Saints History*.” *Religious Educator* 15, no. 2 (2014): 155–59.
- . “Book Review: *The Mormons*.” *Religious Educator* 15, no. 1 (2014): 209–11.
- . “What’s on the Other Side? A Conversation with Brent L. Top on the Spirit World.” *Religious Educator* 14, no. 2 (2013): 42–63.
- . “Ken McCarty: More Than a Man of Steel, Brick, and Mortar.” *BYU Religious Education Review*, Winter 2013, 24–25.
- . “A Mormon Moment: A Conversation with J. B. Haws.” *BYU Religious Education Review*, Winter 2012, 21–22.
- , and Brent R. Nordgren. “B. West Belnap: ‘Charity Endureth.’” *BYU Religious Education Review*, Winter 2011, 10–15.
- Jensen, R. Devan. “BYU-Trained Chaplain Candidates.” *BYU Religious Education Review*, Winter 2011, 16–17.
- . “Beyond Classroom Walls.” *BYU Religious Education Review*, Winter 2010, 6–7.
- . “Student Journal Explores the Ancient World.” *BYU Religious Education Review*, Spring 2009, 22–23.
- . “President Packer’s Teachings: Interview with Clyde J. Williams.” *Religious Educator* 10, no. 2 (Spring 2009): 19–30.
- . “A Conversation with Arnold K. Garr.” *BYU Religious Education Review* 1, no. 2 (Fall 2008): 16–17.
- . “Thirty Years of Pioneers on Pohnpei, Micronesia.” In *Regional Studies in Latter-day Saint Church History: The Pacific Isles*, ed. Reid L. Neilson, Steven C. Harper, Craig K. Manscill, and Mary Jane Woodger, 93–105. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2008.
- . “A Conversation with Dennis L. Largey.” *BYU Religious Education Review* 1, no. 1 (Winter 2008): 16–17.
- . “Beholding Salvation: A Conversation with S. Kent Brown.” *RSC Newsletter* 22, no. 1 (2007): 1, 4–5.
- . “We Believe in Being Honest: Use of Copyrighted Material in Teaching.” *Religious Educator* 6, no. 3 (2005): 137–48.
- . “From Father to Son: Joseph F. McConkie on Gospel Teaching.” *Religious Educator* 6, no. 3 (2005): 23–32.
- . “The State of Religious Education: An Interview with Andrew C. Skinner.” *RSC Newsletter* 20, no. 2 (2005): 1–6.
- . “From the Last Supper through the Resurrection: An Interview with Thomas A. Wayment.” *RSC Newsletter* 19, no. 3 (2004): 1–5.
- . “The Book of Mormon Reference Companion: An Interview with Dennis L. Largey.” *RSC Newsletter* 19, no. 1 (2004): 1–5.
- . “Three Cheers for Hobbits!” *Collegiate Post*, January 2004, 2, 5.

- . “Balancing Faith and Intellect: An Interview with President Cecil O. Samuelson.” *Religious Educator* 4, no. 3 (2003): 1–14.
- . “Follow the Liahona.” *Ensign*, August 2002, 73.
- . Review of *Secret City, U.S.A. Children’s Book and Media Review* 12, no. 3 (1991).

BOOKS

- Author, *God’s Greatest Gifts: 10 Reasons to Rejoice*. Springville, UT: Cedar Fort, 2010.
- Compiler (with Jack M. Lyon and others), *Best-Loved Poems of the LDS People*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996. Reprinted in 2008.
- Compiler, *Gradguide* (book given to all BYU graduates in 2002–4).
- Compiler (with John W. Welch), *Latter-day Saint Essentials: Readings from the Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. Provo, UT: BYU Studies; BYU Religious Studies Center, 2002.
- Compiler (with Jack M. Lyon and others), *Poems That Lift the Soul: A Treasury of Faith and Inspiration*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1998.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 (November): BYU–Hawaii, Laie, “Stories of Saints in Micronesia and Their Journeys to the Temple”
- 2019 (November): Utah Valley Historical Society, Provo, “Utah’s Panorama Fever”
- 2019 (October): Western History Association Conference, Las Vegas, “Dimick Huntington and George Washington Hill: Early Missionaries to Native Americans”
- 2019 (October): Learn Our Religion, West Valley, “‘Line upon Line’: Joseph Smith’s Growing Understanding of the Eternal Family”
- 2019 (June): Church History Symposium, Washington DC Visitors’ Center, “Senator Elbert D. Thomas: Advocate for Japanese Nationals, Jewish Refugees, and American G.I.s”
- 2019 (June): Postconference tour to northern Utah, southeast Idaho, and Bear River Massacre site
- 2019 (June): Mormon History Association Conference, Salt Lake City, “Dimick Huntington and George Washington Hill: Early Missionaries to Utah’s Indians”
- 2018 (November): LDSPMA National Conference, Provo, “How to Edit Authors—and Still Be Friends”
- 2018 (September): Utah State Historical Conference, West Valley City, “Mail before the Rail: Rise and Demise of the Brigham Young Express and Carrying Company”
- 2018 (June): Mormon History Association Conference, Boise, “Settling Preston: A New Homeland for Immigrants”
- 2018 (May): Sons of Utah Pioneers National History Symposium, Salt Lake City: “Militiaman William Stowell’s Utah War Ordeal”
- 2018 (March): BYU Church History Symposium, Salt Lake City, “The Mail, the Trail, and the War: Rise and Fall of the Brigham Young Express and Carrying Company”
- 2017 (September): LDSPMA Conference, Salt Lake City: “Building Worlds: An Interview with Brandon Sanderson” and “Climbing the Publishing Mountain (Journals and Magazines)”
- 2016 (October): Mormon Pacific Historical Society, Laie, Hawaii, “‘We Rang the Bell’: Early Beginnings of Mormonism in Tonga”
- 2016 (June): Mormon History Association, Snowbird, Utah, “Line upon Line: Joseph Smith’s Growing Understanding of Families and Heaven” (featured in *Church News*)
- 2016 (April): Independent Book Publishers Association, Salt Lake City, “Magazines and Journals: Seven Steps in the Thousand-Mile Journey”
- 2016 (May): Pacific History Association Conference, Barrigada, Guam, “Decolonizing Micronesia after World War II: The Mormon Factor”
- 2015 (November): Dedication Ceremony for Henry Wells Jackson Plaque, Pioneer Memorial Museum, Salt Lake City (mentioned in *Provo Daily Herald*)
- 2015 (August): LDSPMA Conference, Provo, “Test-Drive Your First Job: Internships, Experience, and Mentors”
- 2015 (June): Mormon History Association Conference, Provo, “Philo Dibble’s Dream of ‘a Gallery in Zion’” (featured in *Church News*)
- 2014 (December): Pacific History Association Conference, Taipei, Taiwan, “Casting the Net: Latter-day Saint Missionaries in Micronesia in the 1970s”
- 2014 (September): Utah State History Conference, Salt Lake City, “Gold Panner to Mail Pioneer: Henry Wells Jackson’s Unlikely Path to the Civil War”
- 2014 (June): Mormon History Association Conference, San Antonio, “‘Pray God That My Life Be Spared’: The Military Service of Henry Wells Jackson” (featured in *Church News*)

2013 (March): BYU Church History Symposium, Salt Lake City, “Personal Glimpses of Joseph F. Smith: Adolescent to Prophet”

2011 (August): BYU Campus Education Week, Provo, “Finding Peace in the Storm”

2010 (August): BYU Campus Education Week, Provo, “God’s Greatest Gifts”

2008 (May): Regional Studies in Latter-day Saint Church History, Apia, Samoa, “Thirty Years of Pioneers on Pohnpei, Micronesia”

SONGS

Lyrics by Devan Jensen, music by Dan Carter. “Long Ago, within a Garden.” HolySheetMusic.

Lyrics by Devan Jensen, music by David Zabriskie. “Taught by Their Mothers.” LDSMusicSource.

Lyrics by Devan Jensen, music by David Zabriskie. “With Thankful Hearts.” LDSMusicSource.

HOBBIES

- Cyclist, hiker, historian, magician (performed for thousands), pianist, Scout leader, singer (Millennial Choirs & Orchestras)