



# Charles Redd Center for Western Studies

Fall 2025 Newsletter (Vol. 16)

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**BYU**

# Fall 2025 Lectures

Follow on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) to find which of these lectures will be livestreamed. Lecture titles are tentative and room locations are tentative. Updates will be posted on the individual Facebook Event page (linked below). View all upcoming events [here](#).

Like our Facebook page or RSVP for the events to receive notifications when the dates approach.



## November 6

### Yolonda Youngs

*Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, CSU San Bernadino*

#### Framing Nature: The Creation of an American Icon at the Grand Canyon

*Annual Ronald and Nelani Walker Lecture*

11:00 AM, B192 JFSB (Education in Zion Auditorium)

[FHSS Event page](#)



## November 20

### Amy Kohout

*Associate Professor, Co-Chair of EV Studies & Science Program, Colorado College*

#### Taking the Field: Soldiers, Nature, and Empire on American Frontiers

*Annual William Howard and Hazel Butler Peters Lecture*

11:00 AM, B192 JFSB (Education in Zion Auditorium)

[FHSS Event page](#)

For previous lectures, visit our [YouTube Channel](#).



# Recent Redd Center-Funded Awards

## Publication Grants

The Redd Center regularly awards publication grants to support presses publishing books on the American West. Presses use these subventions for a variety of purposes such as including additional images or maps, improving production quality, or lowering list price.

In March 2025, the University of Illinois Press was awarded a publication grant for *C.C.A. Christensen: A Mormon Visionary* by Jennifer Champoux.

In March 2025, the University of Nebraska Press was awarded a publication grant for *Painting Native America: Indigenous Artists in the Twentieth Century* by Nicholas G. Rosenthal.

In June 2025, the University of North Carolina Press was awarded a publication grant for *How Gray Wolves, Monarch Butterflies, and Giant Sequoias Transformed Large Landscape Conservation* by Will Wright.

In July 2025, the New York University Press was awarded a publication grant for *Mormon Barrio* by Sujei Vega.

In July 2025, Greg Kofford Books was awarded a publication grant for *The Juvenile Instructor Office: The Growth of Specialized Publishing in Utah in the 1880s* by Craig Smith.

## Senior Seminar/Capstone Project Grants

The Redd Center offers senior seminar/capstone project grants to support students who are writing papers on some aspect of the American West.

In February 2025, Kaemon Cole was awarded for his research on the impact of accessibility on conservation of National Parks.

## Jessie L. Embry Internship Grants

The Redd Center offers senior seminar/capstone project grants to support students who are writing papers on some aspect of the American West.

In March 2025, Zeb Mendenhall was awarded for "Interspecific Dynamics of Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) and Great Basin Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus longaeva*) in the Ruby Mountains of Nevada."

# External Association Awards

Every year the Redd Center provides funding to sponsor awards administered by a number of organizations. This is a powerful way to extend the benefits of Redd Center resources beyond the scope of what our limited staffing allows us to administer.

## BYU Department of History

### IGNACIO GARCIA SCHOLARSHIP

Jocelyn Giuliani

### WILLIAM J. SNOW SCHOLARSHIPS

Elise Douglas, Max Farnsworth, Lauren Jacob, Clara Jamison, and Jared Cluff (half)

### JAMES B. ALLEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Eve d'Evegne, Zoe Moore, Kaitlyn Robison, Sydney Williams, Nicholas Allen, and Jared Cluff (half)

### BERTIS L. AND ANNA E. C. EMBRY AWARD IN GLOBAL LATTER-DAY SAINT HISTORY

Ammon Smith, "Passenger Ship Lists"

### EUGENE E. CAMPBELL AWARD IN UTAH HISTORY

Brooklyn Willis, "Empathy in Confinement: The Topaz Branch and Interfaith Interactions."

### FRED R. GOWANS AWARD IN 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN WEST HISTORY

Matthew Howard, "Faith and Frustration."

### AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES INDIGENOUS HISTORY AWARD

George Smith, "Dam Negotiations: Water, Diné Sovereignty, and the Navajo Dam."

## BYU College of Family, Home and Social Sciences

### MARY LOU FULTON CONFERENCE AWARDS

for best student posters dealing with the Intermountain West

### Spring 2025

1st place:

**Travis Ashby and Kathryn Blau**, "The Rambler: A Space for Student Dissent in the Topaz Internment Camp."

2nd place:

**Travis Ashby and Kathryn Blau**, "'Because We Shared Topaz': Shared Identity and Interracial Memory of an Internment Camp School."

3rd place:

**Hannah Hendricks**, "'Please Respect the Balance Between Progress and Protection': Content Analysis of Public Comments Regarding The Bears Ears National Monument Designation."

Honorable Mention:

**Alexa Merrill**, "Let Utah Manage Whose Land?"

## Mormon History Association

### BEST INDIGENOUS STUDIES AWARD

**Hemopereki Simon**, "Genealogical Violence: Mormon (Mis)Appropriation of Maori Cultural Memory through Falsification of Whakapapa," *Genealogy* 8.1 (2024).

# External Association Awards

## American History Association Pacific Coast Branch

**STUDENT CONFERENCE GRANTS** for graduate students presenting a Western North American topic at the annual AHA-PCB conference

**Samantha Almeida**, University of California, Merced, "Black America's Road Through Hard Time: Photography, Jail, and the Carceral Crisis."

**Megan Bosch**, Sonoma State University, "Toward a Collective History of Sonoma County Welfare Rights Activism (1960-1980)."

**Jessica Chiriboga**, University of Oxford, "'Los Angeles Against the Mountains,' Revisited: A History of Fires and Floods in the San Gabriel Mountains."

**Carrie Crisman**, Washington State University, "Looking Forward: Gender and Family in Equality Colony and Home, 1896-1920s."

**Drew Gamboa**, Washington State University, "Envisioning 'Multiple Realities': The Bilingual Bicultural Training Institute, 1974-1978."

**C. McCombs**, University of Nevada, Reno, "The Biggest Little Queer Utopian Project: Stonewall Park and Reno Queer Culture, 1983-1987."

**Jose Castro Padilla**, University of California, Los Angeles, "Brownson Settlement House: Americanization and Social Justice in Los Angeles during the Progressive Era."

**Muhammad Rafi**, University of California, Irvine, "Policing an Image: Los Angeles and the 1984 Olympics."

**Quinton Willbanks**, Liberty University, "The Battle of Picacho Pass: The End to an Ocean-to-Ocean Confederacy."

**Xinli Zhang**, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa, "Sandalwood Mountains in the Chinese Narrative."

## Western Literature Association

**CHARLES REDD TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD** for schoolteachers attending the annual conference

**Kylie Nicole Jennings**, Southmoore High School, Moore, OK, "*In Cold Blood: Analyzing the Impact and Ethicality of the True Crime Genre.*"

## College of Humanities

**BEST ENGLISH PAPER IN WESTERN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE BYU ENGLISH SYMPOSIUM**

1st place:

**Aubrey Charlesworth**, "*The Immortal Outlaw Hero.*"

Honorable Mentions:

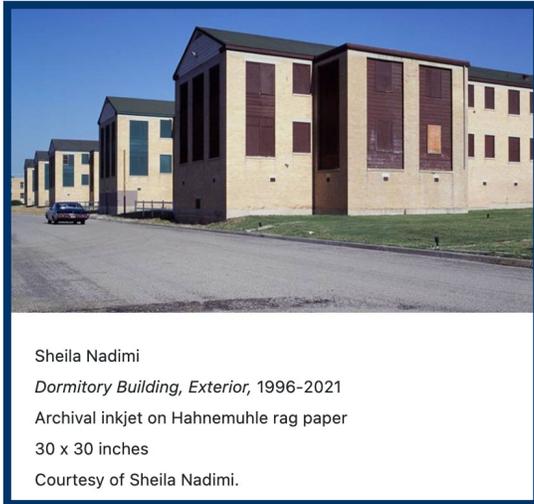
**Lucy Draper**, "*Linked and Unlinked.*"

**Ilse Eskelsen**, "*Their Reputations Precede Them.*"

**Jacob Farnsworth**, "*Marilynne Robinson's Housekeeping and the American Frontier.*"

# Publications from Past Redd Center Awards

The Redd Center asks awardees to notify the center if their center-funded research leads to publications



Sheila Nadimi's book *Eagle Village: A Deep Mapping of Fallow Architecture* has just been published as a limited edition. She had a book launch event at McGill University in June, and her photographs are currently on view at the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art as a solo exhibition until December 2026. Nadimi shared, "I will be forever grateful for the time at BYU as visiting scholar to have had the chance to give my full attention on this project." To acquire a copy, please [email sheila.nadimi@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.nadimi@gmail.com).

Daniel D. Arreola's Redd Center-funded project about Mexican restaurants in Idaho and Colorado is referenced in "The Mexican Restaurant in America," *Historical Geography* Vol 51 (2023): 1-24. The publication was an invited Distinguished Lecture to the Historical Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers.



Brent L. Nielsen's Redd Center-funded project resulted in the publication of "Characterization of halotolerant *Kushneria* isolates that stimulate growth of alfalfa in saline conditions," *PLoS ONE* 20(4): e0322979.

# Redd Center Seminar



In August, Associate Director Brenden Rensink hosted a seminar at the Redd Center, welcoming sixteen scholars to workshop papers for a forthcoming edited volume on outdoor recreation history in the North American West. The response to the call for proposals far exceeded capacity, highlighting strong interest across disciplines in this growing field.

As outdoor recreation surges in popularity and western public lands face increasing pressures, from limited management funding to environmental stress, the collection aims to offer historical context for today's challenges and explore the region's enduring appeal to recreationists. Topics covered include skiing, climbing, trail running, rafting, fishing, surfing, wilderness therapy, and more.

After two days of breakout sessions, group discussions, and hikes, participants left with detailed feedback for revisions. Rensink will continue working with authors through the editorial process. The volume is tentatively slated for publication in the University of Washington Press's new series *The Outdoors: Recreation, Environment, and Culture*.



# College Recognition for the Center

At the Family Home and Social Sciences college meetings, Redd Center Office Supervisor Amy Carlin was honored with a Platinum Service Award—a recognition given to individuals who have excelled in service to their unit or the college. Recipients must also demonstrate one or more of the core values adopted by the President's Council:



- Competency
- Respect for Sacred Resources
- Integrity
- Teamwork
- Exceeding Customer Expectations
- Respect for All Individuals
- Innovation
- Accountability

These values form the acronym CRITERIA, reflecting the high standards of service and character expected of awardees.

Former Redd Center Director Brian Cannon was also recognized as the new [Lemuel Hardison Redd Jr. Professor in Western American History Endowed Chair](#). His initial three-year term began July 1.

The Lemuel Hardison Redd Jr. Chair in Western American History was established in 1972 by Charles and Annaley Redd, prominent Utah ranchers and philanthropists, to promote and honor research, publication, and teaching in western American history. The chair is named in honor of Charlie Redd's father, who settled and developed Latter-day Saint communities in southeastern Utah's slickrock desert and established a sprawling livestock empire. Previous chair holders include noted historians Leonard J. Arrington (1973–1987), James B. Allen (1987–1992), Thomas G. Alexander (1992–2006), and Ignacio M. Garcia (2006–2025).



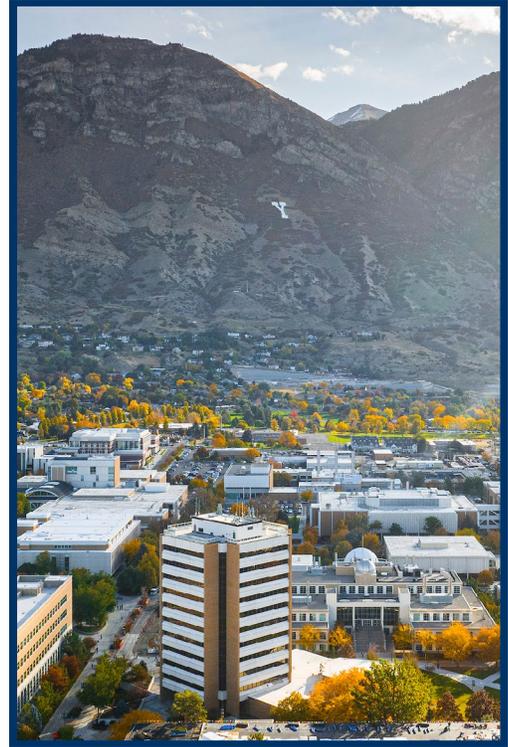
# 2026 Awards Cycle

Each year these funding opportunities support Western-focused research, programming and events, publications, and other activities across the world.

There are specific categories for students and faculty (at BYU and Off-Campus anywhere), independent scholars, public institutions and programming initiatives, etc. Priority is given to research on the Intermountain regions Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming. All disciplines (history, literature, sociology, geology, botany, range science, etc., literally any discipline or approach) are eligible as long as the proposed work will increase understanding about the region.

Applications are due March 15, 2025.

Follow the link for further information and application instructions: [reddcentergrants.byu.edu](http://reddcentergrants.byu.edu).



# Writing Westward Podcast Update

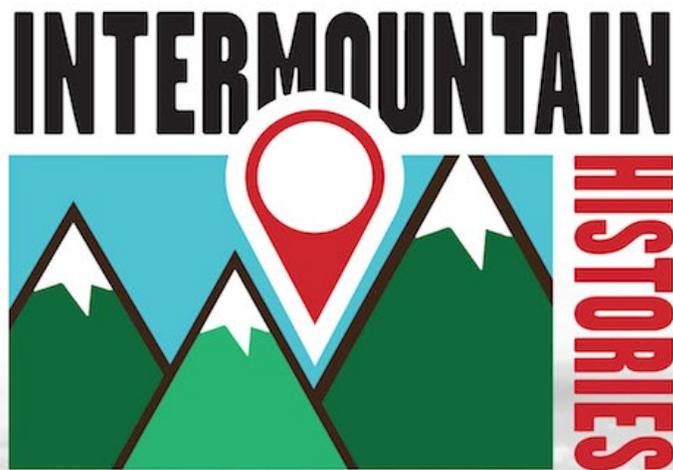
The Writing Westward Podcast is a monthly author-interview podcast. Each episode features a conversation with writers of new work on the North American West, sampling from a variety of disciplines and subfields. Full episode list at [writingwestward.org](http://writingwestward.org).



The podcast is hosted and produced by Redd Center Associate Director Professor Brenden W. Rensink.

**Listen on**



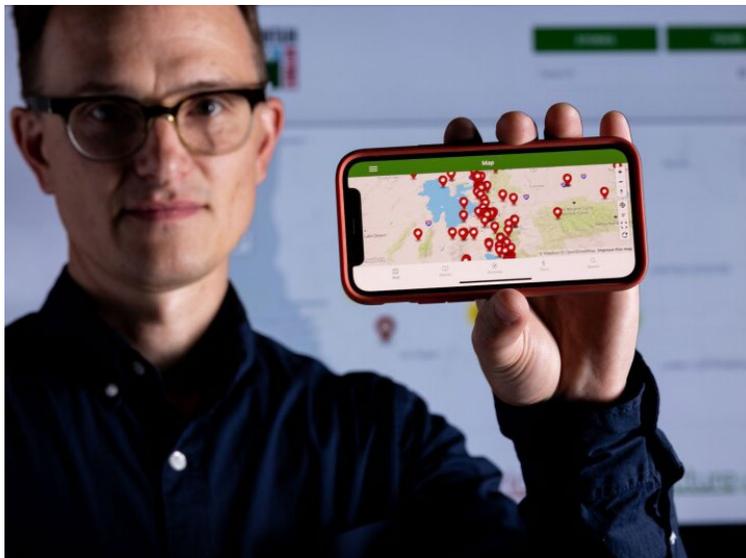


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## Intermountain Histories Update

The Intermountain Histories project curates local histories on a website (<http://www.intermountain-histories.org>) and free mobile apps (iOS and Android). Stories are written by students from universities around the Intermountain West, and in collaboration with various professors.



### Recent Stats:

Appx. 850 stories and 72 multi-story tours with more being added regularly

17 Collaborating Professors at  
10 Universities

Over 600 student authors

19 BYU Student Interns and 11 BYU  
Student Research and Editorial Assistants  
Appx. 22,000 website users per month



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# New Faces at the Redd Center

## Fall 2025 Visiting Scholar

**Christy Spackman** grew up in Northern Utah near the Idaho border, attended BYU for her undergraduate degree (Chemistry), UIUC for her Master's (Food Chemistry) and NYU for her PhD (Food Studies). Spackman is currently Associate Professor of Art/Science\* at Arizona State University. She's come to BYU to research how the development of a local sugar economy in the intermountain west during the 20th century may—or may not—have contributed to the popular claim that folks in Utah use sugar the way other people use drugs or alcohol. In her free time, she's either baking bread, biking, hiking, or making and sharing sweet treats.

\*Yes, she too is curious about the mysterious workings that allow one to go from training in Chemistry to working at the intersection of art and science.



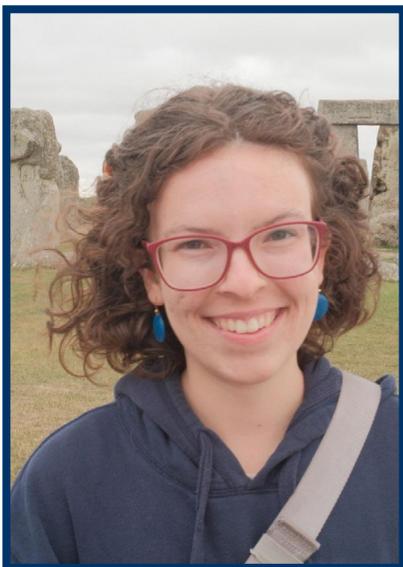
**Kendall Bailey** grew up in Lindon, Utah as the oldest of five children. She went to her first BYU game at two weeks old and has been cheering on the Cougars ever since. Kendall's mom says she can't remember a time when Kendall wasn't reading. Her love of reading well-researched historical fiction is part of the reason she became a history major. Kendall is passionate about understanding what women's roles have been throughout history and how their stories can help us shape a better future for all women and girls. Apart from history, Kendall loves playing board games and walking to the Lindon temple with her family, listening to musicals, and doing crossword puzzles. Once she graduates, Kendall hopes to find a job that indulges her love of a well-told story.



## Fall 2025 Intermountain Histories Intern

**Josephine Cambell** grew up in the military, traveling the country and exploring overseas. She developed a love for history and culture throughout her travels, influencing her to study history at BYU. Through this, she has come to appreciate the meaning and depth history gives to our lives and hopes to share that with others.

**Isabelle “Izzie” Cook** is a senior at Brigham Young University majoring in history. She is from Murrieta, California. Izzie enjoys reading, watching movies, and spending time with her adorable dog, Loki. After graduating this December, she hopes to pursue a career in academic advising or museum work, where she can continue to share her passion for learning and helping others.



**Lana Ostaszewski** is from a small town in Massachusetts—about an hour outside of Boston—and comes from a family of five and grew up alongside a lot of her cousins. She has always loved history, especially revolutionary and European history. Lana is currently pursuing a degree in Social Studies Education and hopes to teach AP European or US History in local high schools.

**Leah Tiare Smith-Esplin** is from Idaho Falls and is majoring in Plant and Landscape Systems with a minor in American Indian Studies. She enjoys hiking, reading, and spending time with her family. As a member of the Navajo Nation, she is passionate about learning more about her people and hopes to help future generations connect with and understand their ancestors' history, culture, and traditions.



**Olivia Ware** is a junior at BYU studying Social Science Teaching with a minor in Statistics. She is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania which has helped her gain a love for history. In her free time, she loves to travel, go on hikes, and cook. This summer she was able to make it to Acadia National Park, Glacier, St. George, Lake Powell, Oregon, Redwoods, Philadelphia, Chicago, etc.