Rees Named Director of Mormon Studies

Robert A. Rees has been appointed director of Mormon studies at the GTU. Dr. Rees has taught at UCLA, UC Santa Cruz, and UC Berkeley, and was a Fulbright Professor of American Studies at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania. Rees has taught classes in Mormon studies at the GTU since 2010, and has published widely on Mormon and religious studies, as well as on issues of politics, culture, literary studies, and gender and sexuality studies.

Dr. Rees served as director of continuing education in the arts and humanities at UCLA, where he was also assistant dean of fine arts and director of the UCLA-Cambridge Program and the UCLA Royal College of Art and Royal College of Music programs in London. Long active in interfaith work, Rees served as president of the University Religious Conference at UC Santa Cruz and, more recently, on the board of the Marin Interfaith Council. He is the cofounder and vice president of the Liahona Children’s Foundation, a humanitarian organization that addresses malnutrition in the developing world.

Bob is a key member of the Bay Area Mormon Studies Council, which is working with the GTU and the wider Mormon community to establish an academic chair in Mormon studies at the GTU. We are pleased to welcome Robert A. Rees into this new role as the GTU’s director of Mormon studies.

Sustainable Societies: Interreligious, Interdisciplinary Responses

In the face of unprecedented national and international challenges, when the linked injustices of economic, social, and environmental inequity are on the rise, what answers can our religious traditions provide? We’ll explore these questions at “Sustainable Societies: Interreligious, Interdisciplinary Responses,” a two-day GTU conference with over 40 scholars presenting on major topics in Religion and Sustainability.

Cosponsored by the GTU and its Center for Dharma Studies, this event will feature panel conversations and presentations from dozens of renowned educators, including more than 20 scholars from the GTU and its member schools and centers. Featured plenary speakers include internationally known scholar of ecology and religion Prof. Mary-Evelyn Tucker of Yale University, and the renowned pioneer of major global initiatives on interreligious collaboration, Prof. Anantantand Rambachan of St. Olaf College & the Vatican Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Join us for this exceptional event on April 28-29 at the GTU’s Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Rd., Berkeley. Visit gtu.edu/events/sustainable-societies for more details, including the event schedule with all presenters. Registration is free, but space is limited—so register now at https://gtu-sustainable-societies.eventbrite.com/