

# GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

BY GRADUATE STUDENTS, FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

**GENERAL MEETING, MAY 2, 2023**



# MAY MEETING OUTLINE

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Guest Speakers: Elizabeth Sink and Dr. Alan Rudolph
3. Officer Reports
4. General Announcements
5. Housekeeping

# CSU LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Colorado State University acknowledges, with respect, that the land we are on today is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute Nations and peoples. This was also a site of trade, gathering, and healing for numerous other Native tribes. We recognize the Indigenous peoples of this land and all the relatives within it. As these words of acknowledgment are spoken and heard, the ties Nations have to their traditional homelands are renewed and reaffirmed.

CSU is founded as a land-grant institution, and we accept that our mission must encompass access to education and inclusion. And, significantly, that our founding came at a dire cost to Native Nations and peoples whose land this University was built upon. This acknowledgment is the education and inclusion we must practice in recognizing our institutional history, responsibility, and commitment.

# HOUSEKEEPING

1. Friendly reminder to use the mics for virtual folks.





# Exploring Spiritual, Secular and Religious Identity Development & Interfaith Engagement at CSU



Ria Vigil

They/them/Ria

Assistant Vice President for  
Inclusive Excellence



Jody Donovan

She/her

Associate Vice President for  
Student Affairs



Elizabeth Sink

She/her

Communication Studies  
Faculty  
Presidential Leadership  
Fellow



Viviane Ephraimson-Abt

She/her

Manager of Well-Being Initiatives

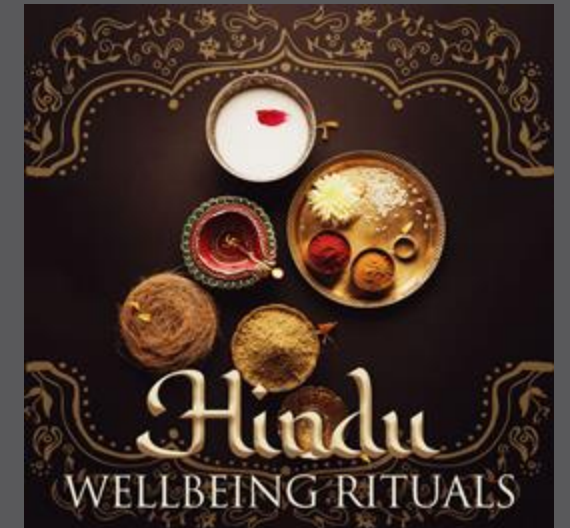
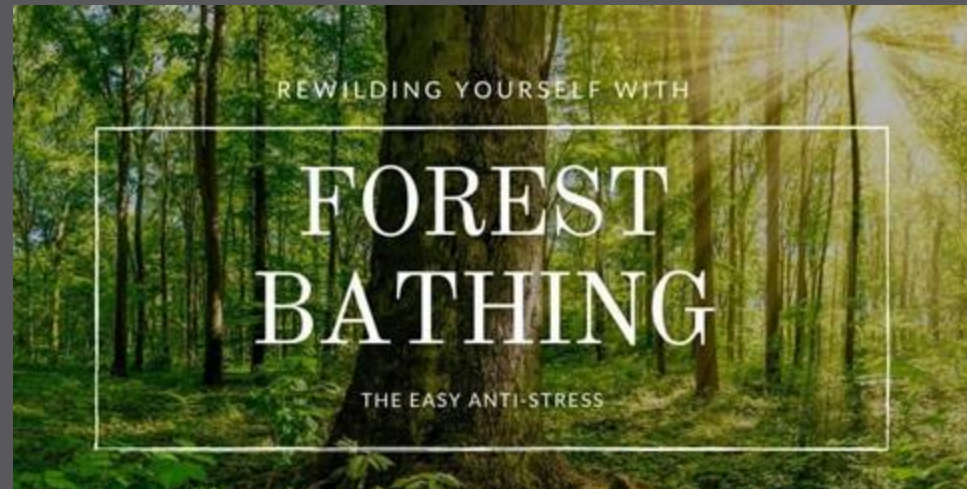


John Henderson

He/Him

Associate Dean of Students

# Wellness through Spiritual Practice



# Interfaith Action around Environmental Justice





Muslim

Jewish

Wiccan

Hindu

Humanist

Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter  
Day Saints

## Why Voting is Sacred:

An Interfaith Response to  
Protecting Our Democracy



# The Global Religious Composition Landscape

Here's a look at the religious composition of the most practiced religions in every country around the world.

Religion is one of the strongest unifiers prevalent across the globe. Worldwide, nearly 84% of the global population identifies with a religious group. Faith comes in many forms and varying degrees and is shared by people regardless of their social, political or economic spheres.

Predominant religion for every country in the world:

Christianity Islam Unaffiliated Buddhism Hinduism Folk Religions Judaism

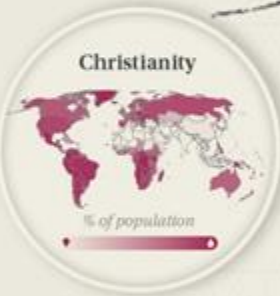
Christianity is the largest religious group globally, making up nearly a third of the world population. Interestingly though, the number of Christians are declining across European countries.

The Czech Republic (78%) and Estonia (60%), are the only countries in Europe where most people identify as unaffiliated.

97% of all Hindus live in the world's three Hindu-majority countries (India, Mauritius and Nepal)

The population of Jews is on the decline across the world. Even in Israel, which has 74% of the world's Jewish population, the number has dropped by 1.6% in the last decade.

Folk religions are closely tied to a particular people, ethnicity or tribe. Examples of folk religions include African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.



The religiously unaffiliated population includes atheists, agnostics and people who do not identify with any particular religion. They are highly concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region and North America.

As of 2020, the population of Buddhists around is above 506 million. Unsurprisingly, 99% of Buddhists live in the Asia-Pacific region. 97% of Cambodians and 93% of Thais identify with Buddhist religious beliefs.

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COLLABORATORS RESEARCH • WRITING Anshul Deshmukh | ART DIRECTION • DESIGN Rosey Eason, Harrison Schell, Christina Kostandis  
Source: Pew Research Center. The breakdown of % population for each religion ranges from 0-100 unless specified otherwise.

Visual Capitalist,  
(2022)  
Based on  
Pew Research  
Data

# Interfaith / Multi-faith / Belief / Worldview Engagement

“The engagement of people from diverse belief systems, such as Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Secular Humanism, Judaism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Baha’i, atheist, agnostic, and all other religious, non-religious, and philosophical traditions.”

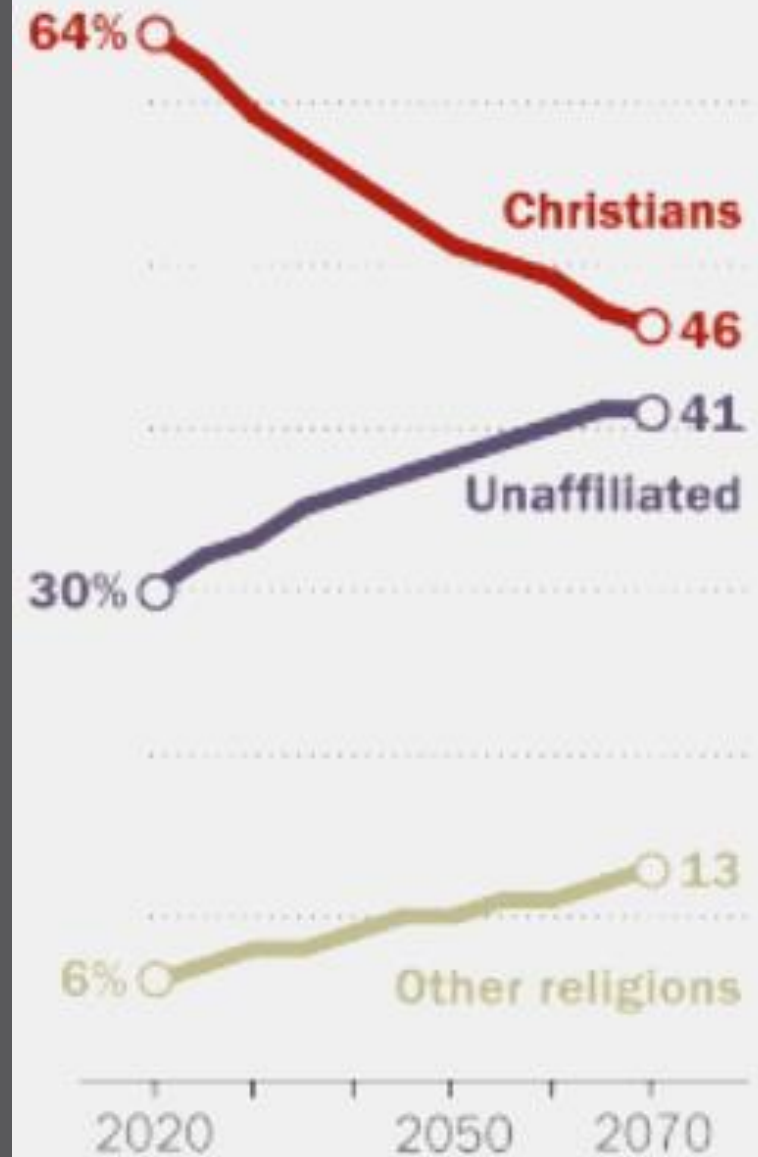
Interfaith America, 2023

Region	Christians	Muslims	Unaffiliated	Hindus	Jews	Buddhist	Folk/Indigenous
North America	74.6%	1.3%	19.2%	0.8%	1.6%	1.2%	0.4%
Latin America-Caribbean	89.7%	0.1%	8.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	1.8%
Europe	72.2%	6.8%	20.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Middle East-North Africa	3.6%	93.1%	0.6%	0.6%	1.6%	0.2%	0.3%
Sub-Saharan Africa	62.0%	31.4%	3.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	3.2%
Asia-Pacific	7.2%	25.7%	20.0%	26.0%	0.1%	11.3%	8.6%
World	31.0%	25.0%	15.6%	15.2%	0.2%	6.6%	5.6%

The Guardian (2022)

# U.S. Projections of Belief Affiliation Trends

Source: Pew Research Trust 2022







*Consistently* 85 percent of CSU students polled agreed

“Appreciating and engaging with religious/spiritual/secular diversity is *as* important as other forms of diversity, including gender identity, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity.”

Interfaith Diversity Experiences & Attitudes Longitudinal Survey  
“IDEALS” 2015-2019

*For students, staff and faculty*

## Potential Mission Statement:

The proposed Interfaith & Belief Program at CSU aims to focus greater attention on diverse spiritual, religious and secular (non-religious) belief identities by educating, programming, providing resources and promoting constructive engagement across belief differences.

# Interfaith & Belief Program: Potential Focuses / Initiatives

- Increasing educational opportunities to learn about various beliefs and traditions, emphasizing a global perspective.
- Programming that celebrates diverse beliefs such as Passover, Holi, Yule, Ramadan, “Ask an Atheist” day, with an emphasis on collaborating and elevating programming of CSUs cultural and faith-based groups.
- Holding solicitation-free (no preaching) spaces where students can discuss complex questions about belonging, purpose, meaning, belief-traditions and worldviews, guided by trained facilitators with the goal of preventing harm and trauma.

## Interfaith & Belief Program: Potential Focuses / Initiatives

- Facilitation of cooperative interfaith engagement across differences, such as collaborative service projects anchored in adding to the greater good of the community.
- Maintaining, improving and expanding reflection and prayer spaces on campus.
- Establishing a vetted multi-faith and belief leaders network that can support groups or individuals (including students, faculty, and staff) in times of crisis and transitions, and can assist in specific education/literacy needs.





TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT  
SPIRITUAL, SECULAR, AND RELIGIOUS  
DIVERSITY AT CSU



TAKE THIS  
SURVEY AND  
LEARN MORE



Supported by The Division of Student Affairs  
and The Office of Inclusive Excellence



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Your Thoughts?

- What would you like to see CSU doing in the area of spiritual, secular and religious identity exploration, development and engagement?

# Guest Speaker



Dr. Alan Rudolph  
Vice President for Research

# COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

# OFFICER REPORTS



Derek Newberger (he/him)  
**President**

# PRESIDENT UPDATES

1. Graduate Student Council won Registered Student Organization of the Year
2. (Débora) Found graduate student for the UTFAB and UFFAB
3. Two graduate student senators for ASCSU
4. New email will possibly be [GradStudentCouncil@colostate.edu](mailto:GradStudentCouncil@colostate.edu)
5. Graduation cords



# ADVOCACY UPDATES



- Attended events for:
  - Graduate Students of Color: Office of Inclusive Excellence
  - Graduate QTs: Elections

# OFFICER REPORTS



Brittany Lynner (she/her)  
**VP of Engagement**

# ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

- Let me know if you have any Wellness Wednesday ideas and/or if you want to join the Wellness Wednesday Planning Committee for Fall 2023

# OFFICER REPORTS



Vigor Lam (he/him)  
**VP of Information**



*Vigor is currently in class!*

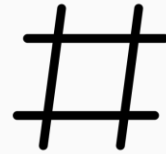
# VP OF INFORMATION UPDATES

1. Visited CSU in April 2023 – attended Council of Student Leaders meeting with Derek and Nancy, hosted by VP of Student Affairs, Dr. Blanche Hughes
2. Updating new website with resources – let me know if you have any ideas!
3. Planning for summer projects/activities with officers (e.g. retreat, constitution updates, etc.)

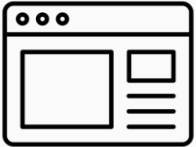
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gscsu@gmail.com



**Next Meeting**  
May 2, 2023