Kerry calls for religious values in the global scene

By Douglas Kindschi
Director, Kaufman Interfaith Institute, GVSU

I
n a recent lecture at Rice University, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry made the case for understanding the role of religion in order to understand the global political scene. Kerry stressed the enormous impact religious belief and religious identity have on world events.

He said if he had college to do again, he would be sure to study comparative religion, adding: “Consider that four out of five people on Earth align themselves with one religious tradition or another.”

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But Kerry went beyond just the case for understanding the role of religion in order to understand the global political scene. Kerry stressed the enormous impact religious belief and religious identity have on world events. He said if he had college to do again, he would be sure to study comparative religion, adding: “Consider that four out of five people on Earth align themselves with one religious tradition or another.”

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Kerry acknowledged “all of the major religions share a sense of universal values. They seek to define the things that make life worthwhile, a moral truth based on the dignity of all human beings.”

The video of this talk and the transcript can be found at bakerinstitute.org/events/1790. How refreshing to hear a major political leader speak seriously and meaningfully about the importance of religion in the global scene. His call for understanding and engagement should inspire us to see how our deep religious beliefs and values can be central to building a flourishing and peaceful world.

— Contact interfaith@gvsu.edu