

**March 15**

**Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Dear Faculty and Staff,

is designed for community members who come to meals by themselves or in small groups and wish to socialize with others to promote faculty and staff community. I look forward to seeing you there and hope you will join me for a relaxed lunch and conversation.

### **Reminder: Students observing Ramadan**

March 10 marked the beginning of the month of Ramadan, an important holiday in Islam. The time of observation is expected to end on April 9, culminating with the Eid-al-Fitr holiday; depending on the sighting of the moon, the holiday may move to one day before or after. During the blessed month of Ramadan, observant Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, abstaining from food and beverages, even water. Observant Muslims eat a substantial meal (suhour) before dawn and break the fast (iftar) with a feast at sunset. During this period, late afternoon classes and tests may be challenging for students who are fasting.

The final 10 days, March 31-April 9, of Ramadan are the most auspicious days. Many observant Muslims pray and recite the Quran late into the evening with their religious community following the iftar meal. Early morning classes and tests may be challenging for students who participate in these rituals.

We encourage faculty to support students who need to miss class for religious observance in the coming weeks by making arrangements for students to access course materials and make up missed work in a timely manner.



