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## City's Muslim community to celebrate faith

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Anthea Gleeson | 18th May 2013 10:07 AM |

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Professor Shahjahan Khan of USQ with fellow Muslim Syed Ghazaly leads a seminar about the annual ritual of Ramadan. Nev Madsen  
 AT THIS time of the year, the city's Muslims calm their minds and prepare for the fasting month of Ramadan.

Toowoomba is home to more than 1000 Muslims, some of whom worship at the Islamic Centre located at the University of Southern Queensland.

As Muslims prepare for the start of Ramadan on July 10, co-ordinator of the centre Professor Shahjahan Khan invited members of the community to visit and learn more about the annual event at a seminar.

"Ramadan is an annual ritual performed by Muslims, which attracts much attention globally," Professor Khan said.

"It is one of the five pillars of Islam.

"Ramadan encompasses many of the fundamental tenants of Islam like forgiveness, sincerity, mercy, sacrifice, charity, steadfastness, patience, respect, self control and modesty.

"Muslims exhibit changes in their eating habits, behaviour and religious duties during this month."

A variety of people from the community gathered for the seminar including representatives from other faiths and police officers.

"Ramadan is a time of worship and devotion to God," Prof Khan said.

Practically, it is also a time that healthy, adult Muslims refrain from eating and drinking during daylight hours.

"There's no lunch, morning tea or afternoon tea, so your routine changes," he said. "So you can add in extra prayers and to prepare to break the fast with your families."

### What is Ramadan?

- Annual month-long rite of Muslims
- Starts on July 10, 2013
- It is the ninth month of the Islamic Lunar calendar

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