Vice Chancellor’s intro to Professor Mohamad Abdalla at CITE launch

Time: 6:30pm for 6:45pm start
Date: Tuesday 16 August, 2016
Place: Allan Scott Auditorium
Interconnectedness: Our Shared Narrative

CITE Launch and Inaugural Lecture

To be delivered by Professor Mohamad Abdalla, Director, Centre for Islamic Thought & Education (CITE)

DATE:  Tuesday 16 August 2016

VENUE:  Allan Scott Auditorium, UniSA City West campus, Hawke Building

TIME:  6.15pm for a 6.45pm start

Contact numbers:

Jacinta Thompson, Executive Director, The Hawke Centre 0402 175 895
jacinta.thompson@unisa.edu.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Hawke Centre set up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Speaker arrives at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Run-through proceedings – attach headset mic/sound check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.15pm</td>
<td>Doors open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.35pm</td>
<td>Arrival of the Hon Zoe Bettison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Multicultural Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minister will be met by Nigel Relph at the entrance to Fenn Place and escorted to the Allan Scott Auditorium – reserved seating will be available at the front of the auditorium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.45pm</td>
<td>Welcome and acknowledgements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor David Lloyd, Vice Chancellor, University of South Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Kaurna acknowledgement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Welcome on behalf of UniSA and Hawke Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prayer rooms are available from 4pm in the George Kingston Building, UniSA City West campus for those wanting to pray prior to or during this event. GK2-18 (female) and GK2-19 (male).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Vice Chancellor’s Welcome to Professor Abdalla at CITE launch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.50pm</td>
<td><strong>Speaker presentation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Approx. 50 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.40pm</td>
<td><strong>Questions managed by Vice Chancellor</strong>&lt;br&gt;Following questions, VC invites Mr Hawke to give the Vote of thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.55pm</td>
<td><strong>Vote of Thanks</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Hon Bob Hawke, Former Prime Minister of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Event close</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor David Lloyd, Vice Chancellor, University of South Australia&lt;br&gt;• Thanks Mr Hawke&lt;br&gt;• Advises podcast and video available on Hawke Centre website shortly&lt;br&gt;• Closes event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.05pm</td>
<td><strong>Post-lecture reception for invited guests in the Kerry Packer Civic Gallery</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Ngangkirna, Miyurna! Naa marni Ngai nari David

• Ngai yarta-nungku yaku, ngai kunturrkinthi taakanthi ngaiityu wardli

• Ngai puldunthi naa-itya, ngai wangkanthi warra Kaurna meyurna, miipuldunthi ngaiityu kuinyuntapinthi

• What I just said, for those of you who don’t understand the Kaurna language, particularly when it’s spoken with an Irish accent, is that my name is David and while I am not originally from this country, I am proud to call it my home and I do so in the language of the Kaurna people as a mark of my respect.

• The meeting this evening is taking place on Kaurna land.
• The Kaurna people have performed ceremonies on this land for many centuries, and we pay respect to their living culture and the unique role they continue to play in the life of the Adelaide region.

PAUSE

• The Hon Bob Hawke, Former Prime Minister of Australia;

• The Hon Zoe Bettison, Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Multicultural Affairs;

• Senator Sarah Hanson-Young;

• Mr Jim McDowell, Chancellor, University of South Australia;

• The Hon Grace Portolesi, Chair, South Australian Multicultural & Ethnic Affairs Commission;

• And leaders of the various faith traditions; elders and community leaders;
• distinguished guests;

• ladies and gentlemen.

• Good evening and welcome.

• I am especially pleased to welcome you on behalf of the University of South Australia to the launch of the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education and

• to the inaugural lecture delivered by its leader, Professor Mohamad Abdalla.

• This event is jointly presented by the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education.

• Before we begin I would ask that you turn off your mobile phones because this evening’s lecture, like all our momentous events, is being recorded and doesn’t need a soundtrack of insistent mobile phones.
PAUSE

• If all you did was read newspapers and watch TV you would be forgiven for believing that Islam is at war with the west.

• Almost every day the media serves up some new atrocity pitting Muslims against non-Muslims, putting Australian values to the sword and even threatening the tenets of western civilisation.

• Events post September 11, 2001, the rise of radical Islam and the violent extremism of its proponents, have created a them and us divide that is not only terribly destructive but ignores centuries of fruitful interaction between the them and the us.

• This, after all, is not only one of the world’s great religions, it is one of the world’s great cultural institutions,
• one which places great value on education and emphasises the importance of acquiring knowledge.

• As both a religion and a cultural institution, in its so-called ‘golden age’ between the 8th and the 13th centuries, Islam advanced and increased the world’s knowledge of philosophy, science, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, social sciences, healthcare, culture, commerce, architecture and education.

• And there’s a certain elegant symmetry that sees the promotion of understanding of an old religious and cultural institution being hosted by one of the world’s best young universities.

• According to no less a source than the Guinness Book of World Records, the University of Al Quaraouiyine (AL KARRO WEEN) in Morocco, founded in 859 AD is the world’s oldest degree-granting university.
• We turned 25 this year.

• As a university we have the obligation to help extend the depth and breadth of human understanding and that cannot be confined to people who think alike and who share similar histories.

• Many of us have been subjected to sectarian violence of one kind or another.

• This very university is headed by a Chancellor and a Vice Chancellor – Jim McDowell and me - who grew up on opposite sides of the Irish divide that sought hard to create a civil war between Catholics and Protestants.

• Were it not for determined parents and a good education, we both might have ended our days like so many of our compatriots, in prison – or worse - for some freedom-related activity involving bombs and bullets.
• So the opportunity to work closely with the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education was an opportunity to use education to help steer a better understanding between the Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

• In welcoming Professor Mohamad Abdalla and his academic colleagues to the University of South Australia, we are playing an active role in building awareness of Islam and empowering the community – both them and us – through research, education and engagement.

• The Centre of Islamic Thought and Education at the University of South Australia will be a global knowledge hub that will focus on genuine and meaningful engagement between the Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

• It will help develop meaningful two-way conversations and insights and perhaps the us and the them will eventually become all of us.
• The Centre will bring together academics specialising in Islamic civilisation, psychology, ethics, leadership, management, sociology, finance and education.

• Crucially, the staff of the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education have extensive community experience and that will allow for genuine and grounded engagement.

• At the heart of the Centre’s philosophy is our deep conviction that academic research and teaching will positively impact on our engagement with the community, with media, government and non-government organisations.

• Professor Abdalla, as many of you already know, is an expert on Islamic civilisation and how it connects with Western civilisation.
• It is the interconnectedness that he will talk about tonight, drawing lessons from the interactions between Islamic civilisation, Greek and Western civilisations and the impact they have on one another.

• The British Pakistani novelist Nadeem Aslam said it best in his novel, The Wasted Vigil:

  Pull a thread here and you’ll find it’s attached to the rest of the world.

• We have much to learn from, and with, each other but the divide that separates Islam and the West is a threat.

• It undermines the interconnectedness of Islamic civilisation and its Western counterpart.

• It’s that interconnectedness that we must focus on.
• We have much that we share with the Islamic community and there are many opportunities to raise awareness and drive engagement with the wider community.

• And in the spirit of beginning to share our narratives, would you join me in welcoming one of Australia’s most prominent and respected Muslim leaders -

• who is at the same time an academic, a scholar, a public intellectual, a religious leader and a commentator;

• a man who established Islamic Studies as a discipline at Griffith University where he was founding director of the Griffith University Islamic Research Unit;

• a man who was director of the Queensland node of the National Centre for Excellence for Islamic Studies;

• a man who has, over the years, held many distinguished community roles and has received multiple civic awards.
• It is my great pleasure to welcome Professor Mohamad Abdalla to the University of South Australia and to what I know will be an important part of the interfaith peace process.

PROFESSOR MOHAMAD ABDALLA’S PRESENTATION

(At the end of the presentation Professor Lloyd will manage Q&A session. Following this, invite Mr Hawke to give a vote of thanks.)

• I would now like to invite the Patron of the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, former Prime Minister and the most electorally successful Labor Leader in Australia’s history, Mr Bob Hawke to give the vote of thanks.

BOB HAWKE SPEAKS;

VC Follows:
• Once again I would like to add my thanks to our guest speaker Professor Mohamad Abdalla and his team and to welcome them all to the University of South Australia where I am sure the work they do will add immeasurably to the font of global knowledge about Islam and the interconnectedness between our civilisations.

• As I mentioned earlier, this evening’s lecture was recorded.

• A podcast and video will soon be available on the Hawke Centre website so that you can revisit the lecture and share it with those who were not able to make it tonight.

• Thank you all for coming and I wish you all Safe Home,

• Good night.