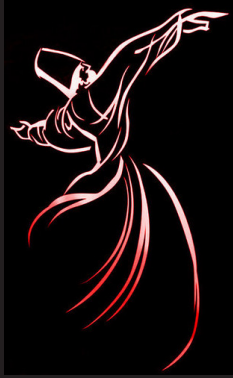


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The Dr. Raana Akbar Memorial Lecture Series  
in partnership with  
The SVSU Edwards Lecture Series and  
The Dow Visiting Scholars Lecture Series  
presents . . .



# Teachings of Rumi for Today's World

*The great Sufi mystic Rumi (d. 1273) has become the best-selling poet in the English language. People in his native Persia, as well as in Turkey, South Asia, and now Europe and America turn to him for inspiration and spiritual guidance. Safi's talk will offer an in-depth dive into the ocean of divine love that animates Rumi, his poetry and teachings. We will explore his astonishing love poetry, his unforgettable life stories and the legacies that are connected to him with an eye toward what these teachings have to say to us today. At a time that so many of us are running ragged and find ourselves so overwhelmed, what do the love mystics of this tradition have to offer today, here and now?*



with guest speaker

**Omid Safi, Ph.D.**  
Duke University

**Wednesday, March 28**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Curtiss Hall, Banquet Room A**  
Saginaw Valley State University

Omid Safi is a leading Muslim public intellectual and is the director of the Duke Islamic Studies Center (<http://islamicstudies.duke.edu/>).

Dr. Safi is a professor of Islamic Studies who specializes in contemporary Islamic thought and Islamic spirituality. He has served on the board of the Pluralism project at Harvard University and is the co-chair of the steering committee for the Study of Islam and the Islamic Mysticism Group at the American Academy of Religion, the largest international organization devoted to the academic study of religion. Committed to the intersection of love and justice, he was recently invited by the family of Dr. Martin Luther King to speak from Ebenezer Church in Atlanta during the 49th annual commemoration for Dr. King.

Dr. Safi has been among the most frequently sought speakers on Islam in popular media, appearing frequently in the New York Times, Newsweek, Washington Post, and on PBS, NPR, NBC, BBC, CNN, and international media. He regularly blogs at On Being (<https://onbeing.org/author/omid-safi/>).

Please join us  
for a reception  
and book signing  
immediately following  
the lecture.

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[svsu.edu/publiclectures](http://svsu.edu/publiclectures)

The **Raana Akbar Memorial Lecture on Islam and Culture** was established in 2011 by Dr. Waheed Akbar in memory of his wife Raana, a former member of the SVSU Board of Control, physician and community leader.

The **Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists** program was established through an endowment from The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to enrich our regional cultural and intellectual opportunities.