

Selim Center

for Lifelong Learning
Learning Post December 2025



Reflecting on '25, Looking Ahead to '26

2025 was a year of changes for the Selim Center. We welcomed our new Director, Dr. David Williard, in July. We also said goodbye to our longtime Program Manager, Susan Anderson-Benson, who retired after more than 20 years of dedicated work at the Center. Her successor, Luke Hallbeck, joined the team in September.

While some of the faces may be different, what has not changed is the Selim Center's commitment to providing high-quality lifelong learning opportunities for our students. We will continue striving to Make Your Brain Happy, just as we have done for over 50 years!

Looking ahead to 2026, we invite you to take part in our at-home online Winter programs occurring in February (p.2) as well as to take a sneak peak at what we have in store for Spring (p.3).

As we reflect on 2025 and look forward to 2026, we wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all of our students who have taken classes and made generous donations to the Selim Center. Here is to another great year of Lifelong Learning!

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Winter 2026 Online Programs

Stay warm at home this Winter while continuing to Make Your Brain Happy with these two great online learning programs! Register today by clicking the icons or the link below.



With Dr. Renee Buhr
Tuesdays 1:00-2:45pm
February 10, 17, 24



With Dr. Brett Bruininks
Thursdays 1:00-2:45pm
February 12, 19, 26

**[Read more & register at
www.stthomas.edu/selim-center/programs](http://www.stthomas.edu/selim-center/programs)**



Spring 2026 Program Teaser

A message from Director Dr. David Williard:

While frigid temperatures may have spring feeling distant, our lineup of programs is taking shape quickly. Among other highlights, the Selim Center's Spring 2026 lineup will build on questions concerning the contemporary economy, emerging technology (including "generative AI"), and the science of cognition that were well received this fall. In addition, we will deepen our capacities for understanding the cultures in places that feel distant with presentations from St. Thomas's curator of Asmat art, consider the judicial philosophy that remade the contemporary U.S. Supreme Court, and take stock of fifty years of women in American media through an immersion in the archive of Ms. Magazine.

Our signature series for the Spring will explore the many meanings of "the United States at 250." Using the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence as our point of departure, a lineup of both St. Thomas faculty and nationally renowned scholars will discuss the past, present, and potential future states of the American nation in historical memory, society, and culture. As the year comes to a close, we look forward with excitement to coming together once more in the new year. See you in March!

Read more & register at

www.stthomas.edu/selim-center/programs

Year-End Giving

This year, a record number of individuals made donations to the Selim Center for Tommie Give Day 2025. We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of all of you who helped us reach and exceed our giving goal!

There is still time to be a part of the giving and to help us continue to provide lifelong learning programs to the community. Consider making a year-end donation to the Selim Center today! For more information on giving, please see our website at the link below.



Giving Information

Read more & register at
www.stthomas.edu/selim-center/programs

Go To College: Auditing of Undergraduate Classes

Lifelong learners (age 40-plus) are encouraged to continue their education by taking regular undergraduate classes along with younger students. Participants are able to enroll as auditors in a variety of courses, on a space-available basis. Students through this program may participate in class discussions, without writing papers or taking exams. No college credit is earned, and courses taken do not count toward completion of degree or certificate programs.



More details about the program:

- The registration fee is \$400.00 with a limit of one course per student; payable by check or cash, only.
- Auditors through this program take their courses free of tuition charge, but pay the registration fee, plus pay for books, photocopying or other fees. Students also pay for on-campus parking.
- This program registers by appointment, only. Visit the Center's website for complete registration details, including information about available classes.



Read more & register at
www.stthomas.edu/selim-center/programs



Happy Holidays



Thank you for your support of the Selim Center's work during 2025. We appreciate your presence at our programming, telling your friends and family about our programs, and your kind and generous donations.

Sending you and yours our best for the upcoming holidays.

We look forward to continuing to support your lifelong learning needs in 2026!



SELIM CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

MAKE YOUR
BRAIN HAPPY



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