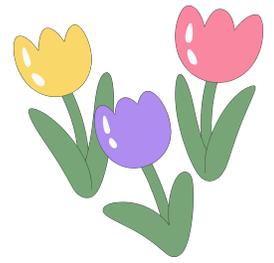


Selim Center

for Lifelong Learning **Learning Post March 2026**



Spring into Lifelong Learning!

Registration is now open for our spring lifelong learning programming at the Selim Center. Our offerings this term feature a blend of the timely and the timeless, and we hope you will join us to explore new horizons and to revisit some familiar places with fresh perspectives.

Some of our "timely" programs focus on emerging technologies and their ethics (Peter Distelzweig's "Artificiality and AI" series), the frontiers of research into athleticism and human mobility (Brett Bruininks' "Science of Winter Sports" series), and the relationship between the United States and the Americas (Chad McCutchen's "Latin America: From The Maya to Maduro" series). Even as a changing world directs our attention to these topics, the "timeless" big questions at the heart of a university's purpose remain as vital as ever—and we're exploring the foundations of language (with Michael Getty) and mathematics (Alex Barrios) in programs calculated to reveal the fascinating backstories within the foundational elements of knowledge.

Drawing on our rich legacy of exploring our communities and our locale, the Selim Center has three programs devoted to exploring our region and its moment. One standalone interactive program on the arboreal landscape around us (with Maria Dahmus) and three series ("The Making of Minneapolis" with Michael Lansing, "Politics and Music" with Sarah Schmalenberger, and "Immigration and U.S. Law" with Virgil Weibe) contextualize how Minnesota and the Twin Cities both shape and reflect broader themes in the development of the United States.

Speaking of the United States and its history: our signature focus this Spring is "America at 250," reflecting the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of American nationhood. We will explore this anniversary in programs devoted to the American Revolution as a political and military moment (with Center director David Williard), the Revolution's complex legacies (in a special series presented by three members of the St. Thomas history department), and in our keynote lecture and book signing event, "The American Revolution and the Fate of the World," featuring Professor Richard Bell of the University of Maryland.

Finally, please visit our newly updated website for emerging and late-breaking programs, as well as for information on events on and around campus that are open to the public and may be of interest to Selim Center students. One of our major initiatives at the Selim Center involves enriching the relationship between campus and community by inviting you to partake in the full range of the university's offerings.

The university is, first and last, a community of willing learners, and the Selim Center team takes great joy in the contributions you all make to sustaining our vibrant community amidst the chaos and uncertainties of an unpredictable world



Contact Information

Selim Center for Lifelong Learning
MAIL OEC 109
2115 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Phone: 651-962-5188
email: selimcenter@stthomas.edu
website:
www.stthomas.edu/selim-center

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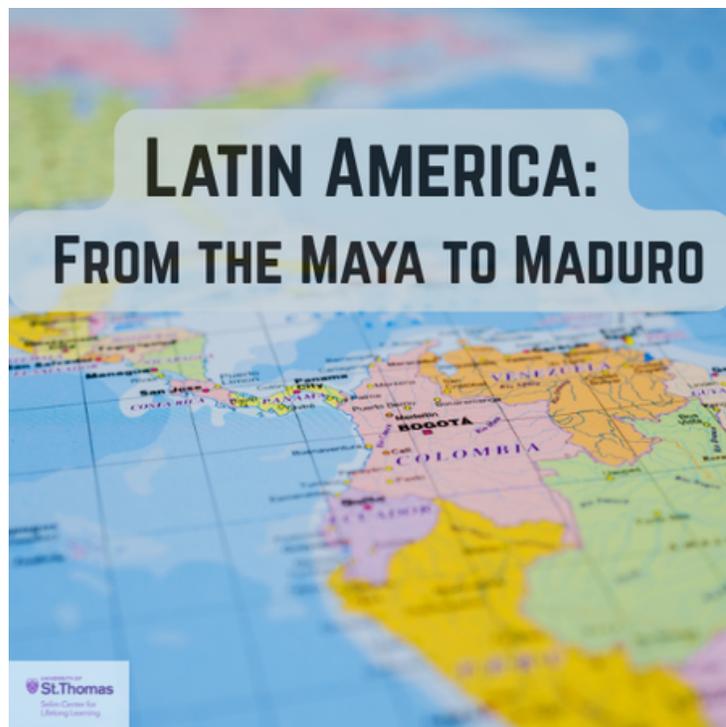


Spring 2026 Selim Center Programs

The Making of Minneapolis with Dr. Michael Lansing

**Tuesdays, March 31, April 7 & 14,
10:00-11:45 a.m.**

Author and professor Michael Lansing of Augsburg University will guide us through the history of Minneapolis from its pre-founding through the 21st century. We will encounter a city that was both made by the surrounding northern Great Plains and that in turn transformed them, in economic life, culture, and politics.



Latin America: From the Maya to Maduro with Dr. Chad McCutchen

Tuesdays, March 31, April 7 & 21, 1:00-2:45 p.m.

Perhaps no region of the globe has seen as much transformation as south and central America. 30,000 years of human habitation and a setting with astounding geographic variation produced cultures of diversity and complexity that have, in turn, encountered competing European imperial projects, depopulation and near-collapse, and the overwhelming majority of humans trafficked in the transAtlantic slave trade. From those ruptures emerged an array of political, economic, and cultural independence projects whose legacies dramatically shape the contemporary world.

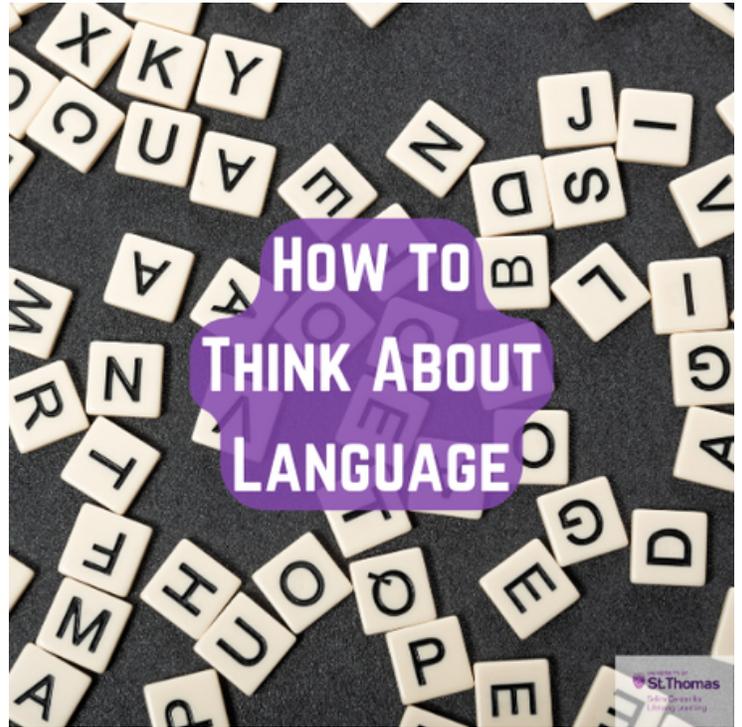


Spring 2026 Selim Center Programs

How To Think About Language with Michael Getty

Wednesdays, April 1, 8 & 15, 10:00-11:45 a.m.

What goes into language—from its formal rules to its everyday uses? Instructor Michael Getty will explore this question by delving into the essentials of descriptive linguistics (vs. prescriptive 'grammar'), how to characterize speech sounds, how languages are learned, how to classify them, how they vary and change over time, and ways to think about poetry and song.



The Science of Winter Sports: From Olympic Competition to Everyday Contexts with Dr. Brett Bruininks

Wednesdays, April 1, 8 & 15, 1-2:45 p.m.

Want to move like an Olympian? The three-part online lecture series will explore the biomechanical and mental demands of several Olympic events and how we can use those demands to improve our lives as we age. Each lecture, students will examine what movements are necessary to be successful in various Olympic sports and what athletes do to optimize their performance. Bonus: the series will give you easy exercises to do at home (inspired by our Olympic athletes) to improve your daily life.



Spring 2026 Selim Center Programs

The American Revolutionary War with Dr. David Williard

**Thursdays, April 2, 9 & 16, 10:00-11:45
a.m.**

Part of our America at 250 series. This series will focus on the political and military course and consequences of the War for American Independence. Beginning in 1763 with the aftermath of the first global war for empire and concluding with the political challenges of nationhood after the Treaty of Paris brought the conflict to its end, we will examine both how American colonists made war and, in turn, how the war for independence made them into the United States.

The American Revolutionary War



The Politics of Music with Dr. Sarah Schmalenberger

Thursdays, April 2, 9 & 16, 1:00-2:45 p.m.

From ancestral songs of lament to national anthems, music has always reflected political questions--and sometimes transformed them. Join Selim Center veteran instructor Dr. Sarah Schmalenberger to explore some of the continuities and changes in how music has contributed to political movements, from the subtle nationalism of Romantic composers to the more contemporary protest songs of social movements in the late 20th century to the role of musical genres in our own moment and city.

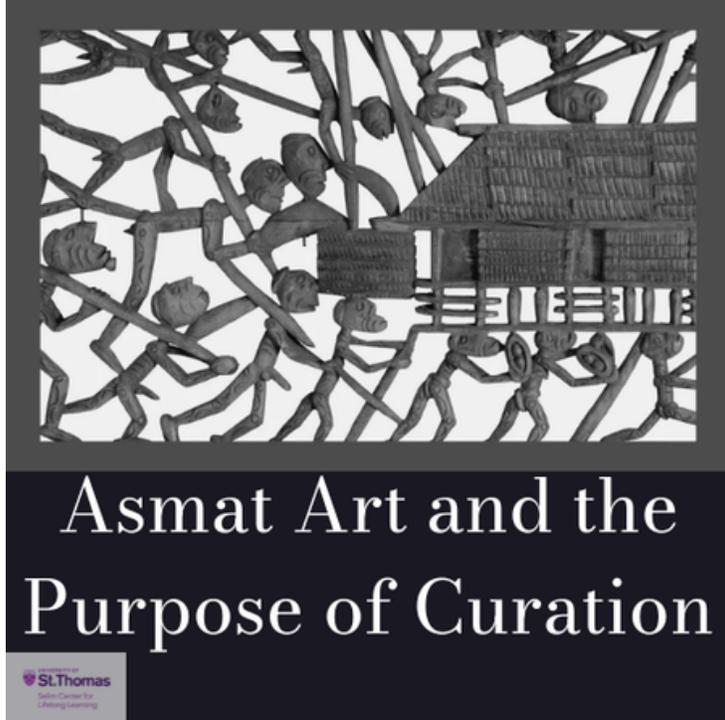
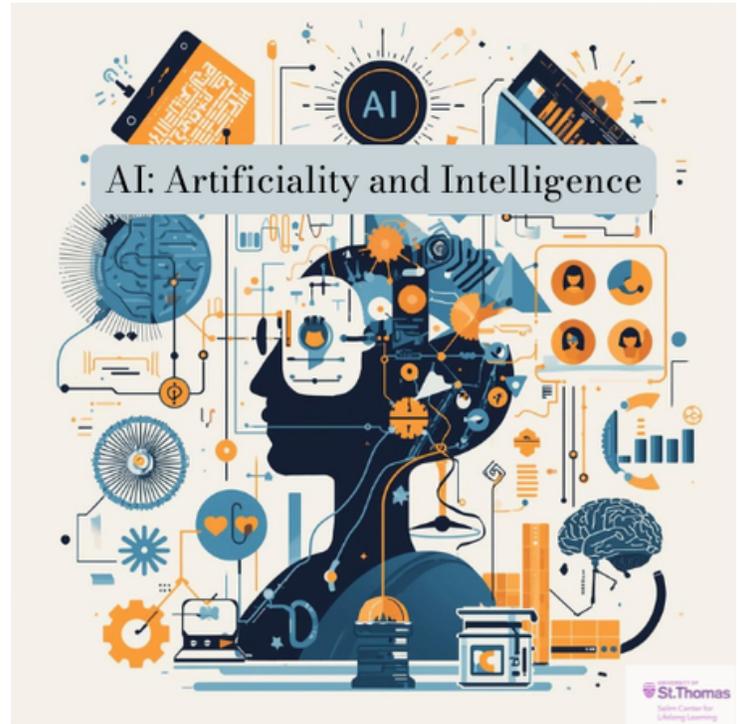


Spring 2026 Selim Center Programs

AI: Artificiality and Intelligence with Dr. Peter Distelzweig

Tuesdays, April 14, 28 & May 5, 1:00-2:45 p.m.

Join Dr. Peter Distelzweig (PhD History and Philosophy of Science) for an informative and thought-provoking introduction to the history, nature, and culture-shaping power of Artificial Intelligence. This three-part series is designed to help you think intelligently about Artificial Intelligence and its technological applications. We trace historical developments that led to the current AI explosion, examine important implications of how these new AI technologies are created, and reflect on their potential to contribute to or undermine human flourishing.



Asmat Art and the Purpose of Curation with Gretchen Burau

Tuesday April 21, 10:00-11:45 a.m.

How did one of North America's most significant collections of Indigenous art find a home in St. Paul? Beyond viewing remarkable wood carvings and weavings, you will uncover the fascinating history of the American Crosier Fathers and Brothers who lived among the Asmat and helped shape this collection. We will also explore the museum's cutting-edge work in digital repatriation, a global collaboration restoring access to cultural heritage for Asmat people today.

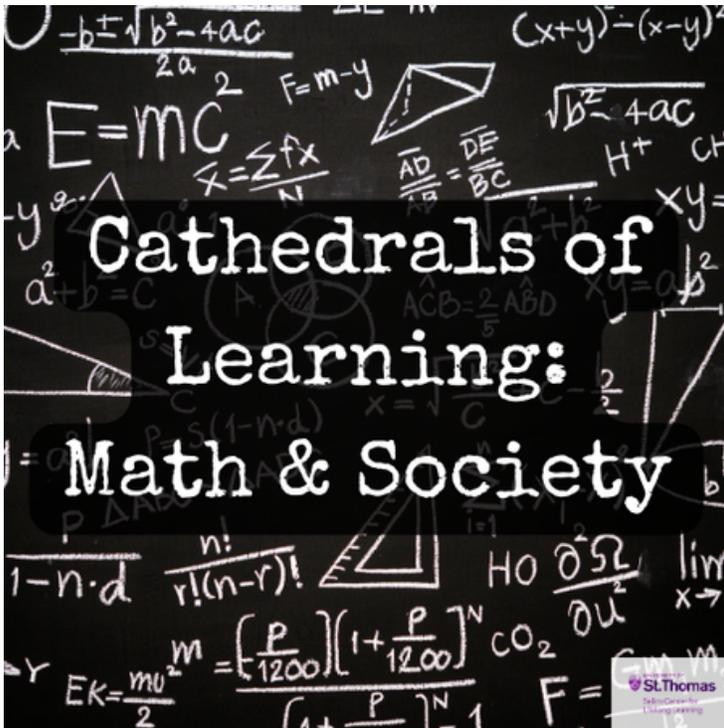


Spring 2026 Selim Center Programs

Immigration and US Law with Virgil Wiebe

Wednesdays, April 22, 29 & May 6, 10:00-11:45 a.m.

Immigration to the United States and its colonial forebears spans four centuries, yet immigration law has a much more recent history. How and why did the United States government come to regulate immigration and citizenship? What institutions, authorities, and precedents converge in what might be termed the contemporary "immigration hotel:" a space of different rooms organized for differing purposes, held together under a shared national "roof?" How does the law work today, and why does it produce such intense political divisions?



Cathedrals of Learning: Math and Society with Dr. Alex Barrios

Wednesdays, April 22, 29 & May 6, 1:00-2:45 p.m.

If the word "mathematics" brings to mind the memorization of rote formulas and tables that have always existed and never changed, this series will change your perspective! Instructor Alex Barrios will teach us that math is an idea that evolves and develops--conceived by one generation, extended by the next, and sometimes completed centuries later. In this lecture series, we will trace the moments that reoriented mathematical thought, from the foundational revolution of the early twentieth century to questions occupying researchers today, and we use concrete examples to show how ideas mature over time.

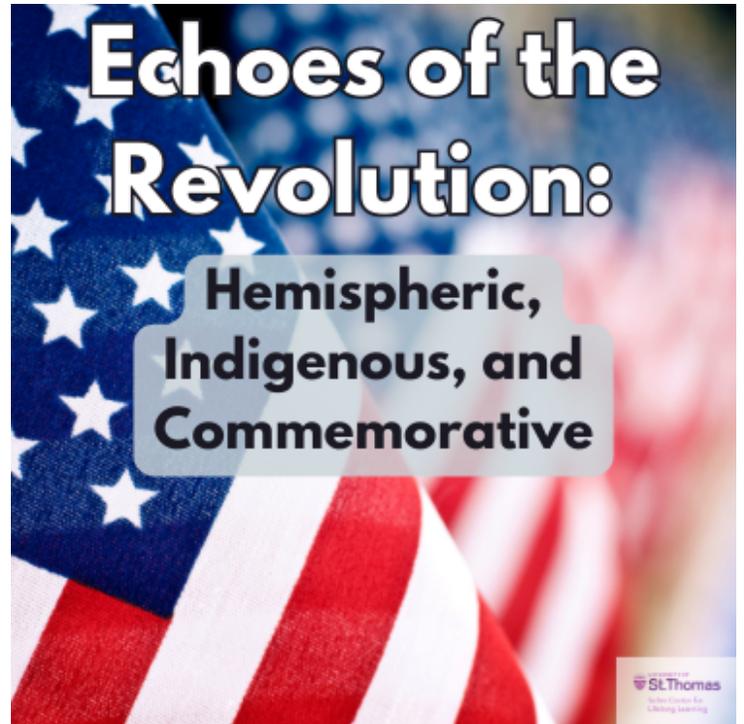


Spring 2026 Selim Center Programs

Echoes of the Revolution: Hemispheric, Indigenous, and Commemorative with Dr. Kari Zimmerman, Dr. Jennifer McCutchen, and Dr. David Williard

Thursdays, April 23, 30 & May 7, 1:00-2:45 p.m.

Part of our America at 250 series. This series looks at the Revolution of 1775-83 from beyond its temporal and spatial borders. Three historians from the University of St. Thomas will offer insights on how the revolution that produced the United States extended throughout the western hemisphere. The American Revolution created the geopolitical and ideological basis for Haitian and Latin American national independence, radically altered life for Indigenous peoples in eastern North America, and developed into a source of competing commemorative traditions that both shaped and reflect American society's deepest questions from the early nineteenth century to the present 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.



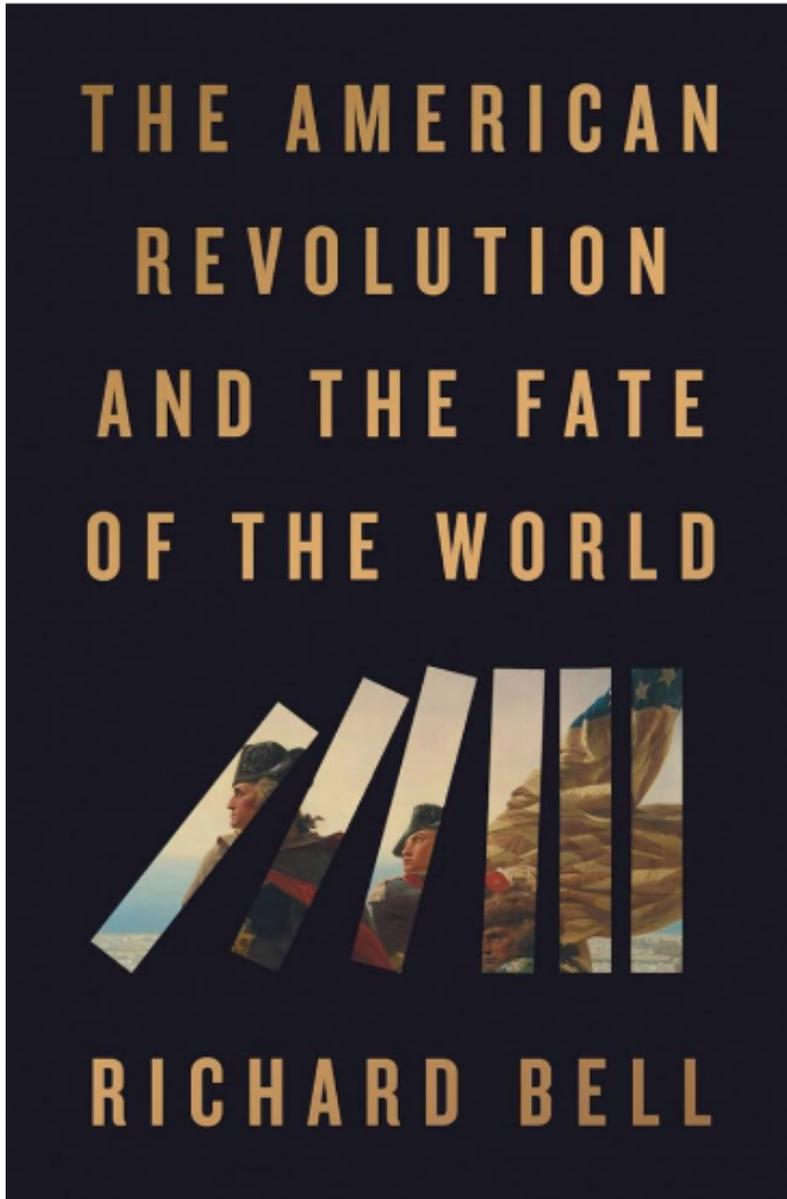
The Ecosystem Around Us with Maria Dahmus,

Thursday April 30, 10:00-11:45 a.m.

As the temperatures warm and the days lengthen in late April, Maria Dahmus, Director of the Office of Sustainability Initiatives (OSI) at St. Thomas, Rachel Schauer, OSI Program Manager, and their Student Sustainability Leaders will guide us through an exploration of the campus ecosystem and the nearby Mississippi River, reflecting on the ecological, community, and personal significance of the area and the watershed. During a guided walk across campus to the Mississippi River, attendees will observe firsthand the interconnected systems that shape our environment, including the rich diversity of native trees and birds and their dynamic relationship with the river. This session will be a hybrid, beginning in OEC Auditorium and then dividing into smaller groups to move through campus and adjacent areas at a gentle pace.



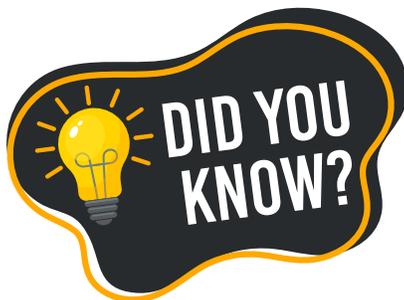
Spring 2026 Selim Center Keynote Event



The American Revolution and the Fate of the World with Dr. Richard Bell

Tuesday April 28, 10:00-11:45 a.m.

This program is the special keynote presentation from our America at 250 series. Professor Bell from the University of Maryland will be speaking on the topic of his new book, *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*, recently published with Penguin Press. Copies of the book will be available at this special session for purchase and signing by the author. Light refreshments of pastries and coffee are included with your registration fee.



The Selim Center has a [Facebook page!](#) If you want to be the first to know about all that is happening here at the Center, make sure to follow us!



Spring 2026 Selim Center Calendar

| Tuesdays | Wednesdays | Thursdays |
|--|---|---|
| <p><u>March 31</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Minneapolis History 1-2:45 p.m.: Latin America</p> | <p><u>April 1</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: How to Think About Language 1-2:45 p.m.: Science of Winter Sports</p> | <p><u>April 2</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Revolutionary War 1-2:45 p.m.: Politics of Music</p> |
| <p><u>April 7</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Minneapolis History 1-2:45 p.m.: Latin America</p> | <p><u>April 8</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: How to Think About Language 1-2:45 p.m.: Science of Winter Sports</p> | <p><u>April 9</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Revolutionary War 1-2:45 p.m.: Politics of Music</p> |
| <p><u>April 14</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Minneapolis History 1-2:45 p.m.: AI-Artificiality and Intelligence</p> | <p><u>April 15</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: How to Think About Language 1-2:45 p.m.: Science of Winter Sports</p> | <p><u>April 16</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Revolutionary War 1-2:45 p.m.: Politics of Music</p> |
| <p><u>April 21</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Asmat Art 1-2:45 p.m.: Latin America</p> | <p><u>April 22</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Immigration/US Law 1-2:45 p.m.: Math for Society</p> | <p><u>April 23</u> 1-2:45 p.m.: Echoes of the Revolution</p> |
| <p><u>April 28</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Dr. Richard Bell Keynote 1-2:45 p.m.: AI- Artificiality and Intelligence</p> | <p><u>April 29</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Immigration/US Law 1-2:45 p.m.: Math for Society</p> | <p><u>April 30</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: The Ecosystem Around Us 1-2:45 p.m.: Echoes of the Revolution</p> |
| <p><u>May 5</u> 1-2:45 p.m.: AI-Artificiality and Intelligence</p> | <p><u>May 6</u> 10-11:45 a.m.: Immigration/US Law 1-2:45 p.m.: Math for Society</p> | <p><u>May 7</u> 1-2:45 p.m.: Echoes of the Revolution</p> |

What's Happening at UST?

Check out the Selim Center's website for an updated list of all the ways you can get involved on campus in addition to our lifelong learning programs

What's in the Gallery? - Have you checked out the Sustainability Arts Gallery (located outside the OEC Auditorium) lately? This rotating gallery is a collaboration of the Office of Sustainability Initiatives and the College of Arts and Sciences Curatorial Team. The Sustainability Arts Gallery is an evolving, living space, continuously activated with new artwork, interdisciplinary research, and interactive activities. Through the integration of research, art, and experiences, this space seeks to inspire us to explore and deepen our understanding of and appreciation for the ecosystems that sustain us and our ability to care for our common home. This month's exhibit, titled Salt of a Lost Winter, explores the importance of "salting smart" during the winter season. Check it out next time you are on campus!

French Film Series- The French section of the Department of Modern & Classical Languages is running a March French Film series to celebrate Francophonie Month. See below for dates and film titles. All showings are open to the public and will take place in the OEC auditorium.

Monday, March 2: *Dahomey* (2024)

Thursday, March 12: *Le Règne animal (Animal Kingdom)* (2023)

Thursday, March 19: *Quand vient l'automne (When Fall is Coming)* (2024)

Wednesday, March 25: * to be announced *

SELIM CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

MAKE YOUR

BRAIN HAPPY



Contact Information

Selim Center for Lifelong Learning
MAIL OEC 109
2115 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Phone: 651-962-5188
email: selimcenter@stthomas.edu
website:
www.stthomas.edu/selim-center