UNIVERSITY OF St.Thomas
Selim Center for Lifelong Learning

Selim Center
for Lifelong Learning

Learning Post November 2026



A Message from the Director:

"You pay it forward because you can't pay it back." As one of our panelists from the November 4th "Veterans In Intergenerational Perspective" event reminded us, the lessons and wisdom that only experience can teach can rarely be repaid to those who teach us. Instead, we pass them on, so that the next cohort or the next generation might start from a better place.

Our fall series of programs concluded last week, and I want to thank each of you who took the time to make lifelong learning at the Selim Center a part of your autumn. Together, we explored "the work unfinished" across contexts ranging from the funny (Dr. Rita Lederle's comparison of asphalt and concrete pavement advocates to the Vikings/Packers rivalry) to the heartfelt (I will not soon forget witnessing veterans separated by six decades find fellowship and common ground together). We even encountered some "work unfinished" in the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium during a power outage, finishing the Disunion series by light of cell phones in otherwise total darkness!

In total, the Selim Center welcomed 18 presenters and instructors across 12 different series of programs that reached more than 600 lifelong learners this fall. To all who participated: you have my heartfelt thanks. Sustaining the Selim Center is truly the work of many hands, and the human dimension of our community represents, in my view, our greatest unquantifiable asset. Our instructors tell us routinely that they have never presented to such a curious, informed, and supportive audience as that which they encounter at the Selim Center; the number who contribute their honoraria to our work is great testimony to how much they enjoy the privilege. In turn, our lifelong learners are known to remind Luke and me that we don't charge enough compared to our peers for the depth and dedication that our instructors have to offer. For those seeking one more opportunity to be a part of the Selim Center and St. Thomas communities this fall, please join us on November 17th for the visit of Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky, Executive Director of the George Washington Library at Mount Vernon. We have opportunities for both lunchtime and evening participation enclosed within this newsletter.

Our commitment to bringing this community together with outstanding instructors from the academic world and from the institutions that help make our region work depends on the generosity of those who subscribe to our programming and the eagerness of our instructors to come together and sustain lifelong learning. As an independent nonprofit center that does not receive direct budgetary support from the University of St. Thomas, it also depends very much on the generous philanthropic support of those who contribute to our operations, especially during our Tommie Give Day campaign. This week, that campaign reaches its culmination. If you are able to contribute to the Selim Center this fall (or if you have already done so), your gift will be matched by a very generous matching contribution that, if we exceed our goal, will allow us to set a record for Tommie Give Day contributions to the Selim Center as well as to meet our budgeted operational costs for the year. Thank you, once more, to all of you who keep this community a thriving resource.

-Dr. David Williard, Selim Center Director

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A Look Back at Fall Learning
















A SPECULATIVE LOOK AHEAD
If the Trends Hold, 15–20 Years Out
Layered, off-the-shelf immunotherapy
Vaccines, checkpoint inhibitors and ready-made cell therapies combined by default — not one after another.
Gene correction, not just detection
In-vivo base or prime editing could fix a driver mutation directly — unproven in solid tumors, but no longer science fiction.
Cancer as a managed chronic condition
For a growing share of cancers, the goal quietly shifts from "cure" to "indefinite control" — the way HIV care has evolved.


Why you should come back
next week, and the week after.


The Virginia Dynasty followed John Adams:
We had 24 years of domestic rule by one political party as the Federalist party slowly disappeared.
Three Presidents in a row each serving 8 years
Thomas Jefferson 1801-1809 James Madison 1809-1817 James Monroe 1817-1825
Each had served as Secretary of State before becoming President.


Ancient Iran Achaemenids were
Persian speaking Zoroastrians


Part I: What Happened
The Democratic Process Worked
The Major Polls Were Largely Correct
Do Not Take Voters for Granted
A Rural/Urb Last Hurrah
What Trump Ignored


EXIT


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Veterans in Perspective
TOMMIE GIVE DAY
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TOMMIE GIVE DAY
NOVEMBER 10, 2026



RALLY 'ROUND

LIFELONG LEARNING AT ANY AGE

Selim Center

UNIVERSITY OF St.Thomas

Tommie Give Day 2026





Tommie Give Day 2026 will be held on November 10, 2026. Last year, thanks to our generous Selim Center donors, we raised over $11,000 to help support lifelong learning! We are hoping to break that record this year, but we need your help!

Scan the QR code above or click this link to access our online giving page. Every donation helps support our mission, no matter the size! You can also help by spreading the word and sharing this link with your friends and family who might be interested in supporting lifelong learning.

As an added incentive, any donor to the Selim Center who makes a gift of $100 or more will also receive a Tommie Rally Kit (pictured above) or the opportunity to donate a knit hat to Catholic Charities.

What's Happening on Campus?



November 17–"America at 250" with Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky, Executive Director of the George Washington Library at Mount Vernon

Join us to hear Dr. Lindsay M. Chervinsky explore and assess the history, legacy, and future of the nation as it marks its 250th anniversary. She is the Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library, and is a historian of the presidency, political culture, and the government.

***In addition to the public talk at 7pm, the Selim Center also has a very limited number of tickets available for a lunch event earlier in the day with Lindsay Chervinsky. Registration for the lunch is $50 and includes a copy of her book. The lunch will be from 11:45am-1:00pm in the Woulfe Alumni Hall (the same location as the public talk later that day). If you are interested in a ticket to the lunch, please click here to register.



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