INTRODUCING: BOB SHOEMAKE

You’ve been with the Selim Center for two months as of publication. Our students are interested in knowing more about you!

What appealed to you about joining the Selim Center?

I have been a fan of the Selim Center for many years, attracted by both the interesting course topics and the outstanding quality of Selim Center instructors. On occasion, I slipped away from my job so that I could participate in Selim Center programs.

I see the Selim Center as one of UST’s great treasures, doing work that is deeply congruent with the university's mission. We know how important a robust life of the mind and a dynamic social network are to healthy adult living. These are exactly what the Selim Center has to offer our students and community. As distinguished from community education and extension programs, we offer college-level courses and learning opportunities for adult learners taught by university faculty that can touch our learners in body, mind and spirit.

The Selim Center is more relevant today than ever before. We are entering a time during which the number of potential Selim Center students is growing dramatically. More than 60,000 Minnesotans will turn 65 every year for the next 30 years. It isn’t just about the numbers: This cohort is better educated, healthier and more active than ever before. They have the time, health and energy to explore and develop interests and talents they may have neglected while raising a family or building a career. They are eager to give back through second careers and volunteer work – they are thinking about their legacy. Finally, many have a hunger to use this time to grow spiritually. For me, the possibility of serving as the director of the Selim Center represented an opportunity to be part of reaching a significant number of these potential learners with Selim Center resources to help satisfy their hunger to continue to learn and grow.

Continued on Page 3
INTRODUCING: “TASTE OF SELIM”

Fall 2016 will see the introduction of two new learning opportunities for students, Learning Circles & “Taste of Selim”. This month, we're featuring the “Taste of Selim” event that will take place on November 1.

When: Tuesday, November 1, 1:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Where: O'Shaughnessy Educational Center Auditorium, St. Paul Campus

This event is a showcase of some of your favorite University of St. Thomas instructors each presenting a talk in their area of expertise. It’s designed to encourage you to bring a friend or two (or more) to introduce them to the Center's programming.

Pricing:

• **Free to returning students** if you bring at least one **new student** with you OR
• **Free to new students** OR
• $20 per person for an “All Day Pass” for returning students who do not bring a new student

The Talks

1:00 p.m.: “American Democracy: the Paradox of Fundamental Principles” with Dr. Steven Maloney, Political Science Dept.

2:00 p.m.: “Hemingway All the Way!” with Dr. Kelli Larson, English Dept.

3:00 p.m.: “Elections (Sometimes) Have Consequences” with Dr. George Wojtanowitz, History Dept.

4:00 p.m.: “The Life and Thought of Pope Francis” with Rev. Michael Joncas, Artist in Residence and Research Fellow in Catholic Studies

* Dinner on your own

6:30 p.m.: “Talkin’ about Jazz” with Ms. Joan Griffith and friends, Music Dept.

COME SEE US AT THE FAIR!

Monday, August 29: Selim Center Day at the University’s booth in the education building at the Minnesota State Fair. Selim Center staff and board members will be at the booth from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Please stop by and say “hi” if you’re at the fair that day - we may even have a fun give-away for you!
INTRODUCING: BOB SHOEMAKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As only the 4th director in the 43 year history of the Center, what is your vision for it as we move through our 4th decade of service to the community?

Since I began working here at the end of June, I have been on a “listening tour.” I have met with members of the Selim Center Advisory Board, with leaders and colleagues inside of UST, and with some of the many community partners with whom we need and want to collaborate in order to be successful. Although this listening process continues, based on the feedback I have already received and the information I have gathered, I can begin to sketch an early outline of a vision for how all of us, working together, can help the Selim Center grow to meet the challenges I just outlined.

I imagine the center growing wider by reaching more students, both working and retired adult learners. As older learners become increasingly comfortable with technology such as the Internet, the Selim Center can make its resources available to those who, for whatever reason, are not able to participate in the courses we offer on campus. Examples include people with restricted mobility, those who leave Minnesota for the winter, and those who work during the time our traditional courses are offered.

I imagine the center growing deeper by offering expanded opportunities for our students to explore their inner lives through retreats and service.

I imagine the center going further with opportunities for learning-based travel -- regionally, domestically and internationally.

I imagine the center growing stronger by finding ways to increase earned income and endowment revenue without compromising affordability.

Of course, I have only been with the Selim Center for a short time. I have received tremendous advice and counsel from my predecessor, Jan Viktora, and from Susan Anderson-Benson, the Center's program manager. I am grateful to the many board members, UST leaders and faculty, and corporate and community representatives who have shared their experience and ideas with me. Now, I turn to the broader community of Selim students. I hope many of you will take a moment to send me an email (rshoemake@stthomas.edu) with your ideas for ways the Selim Center can continue to improve and expand its offerings.

Tell us about your previous work experiences and how they will help you with the work of the Center?

I have been involved in adult education for more than 30 years, in religious institutions, in business, in nonprofits, and at the University of St. Thomas (UST), where I have taught courses in theology and business ethics. For the past 20 years, I have worked at the Center for Ethical Business Cultures (CEBC), which is part of UST's Opus College of Business. My work there included designing and leading training for local business leaders and teaching working adults in the MBA program.

I believe that my 20 years at CEBC, where I worked closely with local businesses will be an asset in this position. I hope to use my relationships and long history with the local business community to extend the Selim Center's reach (for example, to their retired employees) and to help make the Selim Center self-sustaining.

What are some “fun facts” about you that you’d like to share with our students?

I am the eldest of five boys. I was born in Florida and lived across the South until I moved to Minnesota 33 winters ago. I have lived and thrived here ever since. I love music of many kinds, particularly choral singing. I have an undergraduate degree in choral conducting and served on the board of the Minnesota Chorale for a number of years. I also have a Masters of Divinity degree and have taken full advantage of the opportunity UST offers its employees to take courses in theology and Catholic studies. I recharge my batteries by cooking. I love to share food, wine and good conversation with old and new friends. Like Mo Selim, my late father-in-law was a professor of economics at UST. My wife and I are St. Thomas neighbors. We live in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, in the house her parents purchased in 1956. We have two daughters and three grandchildren.
FALL SCHEDULE

Don’t miss out on all the great learning this fall!

- Lecture series begin on September 13, 19, 20, 21 & 22
- Four single session events—including a “Taste of Selim” lecture sampler, Coffee with Class, Lunch’n Explore and a post-election talk by Dr. David Schultz
- Learning Circles

Information is now “live” on our website:

www.stthomas.edu/selimcenter

Our parting shot this month features a look outside our office door before one of our Go to College Program registration sessions.

If you’re interested in auditing an undergraduate class this fall, you can still do so by calling the office for a late registration appointment. Appointments are available on August 31 and September 6.