



November 2023 SDWAC Newsletter

Message from the President Christine Sheckler

Dear San Diego World Affairs Council Members:

Happy Thanksgiving holidays! We hope family, friends, gratitude, compassion, generosity, health, and safety surround you during this holiday season. Please look out for one another.

As SDWAC looks back on this past year, we are proud of what our members and leadership accomplished together. We hosted ten informative “Distinguished Speaker” evening events and launched a new lunchtime “Lunch & Learn” lecture series. The evening and lunch events were timed and venues in response to the different needs of our members. Driving in the dark and/or with bumper-to-bumper traffic proved a deal breaker for some, hence the Noontime series. After-work events proved essential to others. We will continue to listen to your needs and adjust accordingly. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.

By curating and offering SDWAC’s unique events, we continued to meet our mission statement “to educate and engage San Diegans on global issues, foreign policy, international relations, and cross-cultural opportunities and challenges.” Please help SDWAC continue to grow as we build a more inclusive membership that better reflects our diverse community. Please renew your membership, consider joining a higher level, and invite diversity (new members)!

Thanks to all of our members & community supporters old and new!

Our success is a testament to the dedication and collaborative spirit of our 100% volunteer-driven organization. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our Board Members, Council members, volunteers, interns, program sponsors, and community partners who joined forces to make this program season remarkable. Your collective efforts and commitment played a pivotal role in achieving our mission, and we are immensely grateful for your invaluable contributions.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS!



Thank you to our newest food sponsor, "Sahara on Adams."

Save the date, 4 December 2023: *"The Magical Realism of Colombia: A Balancing Act Between Macro-Economic Stability and Political Violence,"* featuring Colombian economist and Stanford University Fellow Dr. Javier Mejia.

To set the stage for that event, our SDSU Colombian fall intern, Daniela Bautista Vanegas, authored the following opinion piece, *"Colombia Unveiled: A Journey Through its Unique Journey and Culture,"* and created the video. A short extract from her article is below; however, please read the full article exploring her native land by clicking on the link below.

"Despite these political and social struggles, Colombia has thrived, with tourism and international investments aiding its economy. Colombia is also known for its coffee and holds the third place for coffee exportation globally. Alongside that, Colombia is the world's largest exporter of cut emeralds, with the highest quality gems in the world. Athletes like James Rodriguez, who played for Real Madrid, and reggaeton singers like Maluma, Karol G, and Shakira have become international stars. They and other very influential people have helped change people's perspectives on Colombia from its most difficult times to what it is today."

READ MORE OF DANIELA'S ARTICLE [HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out a few highlights below, and for the full lineup, visit our website [here!](#)

4 DECEMBER 2023



SDWAC DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES:
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023, 6-8 P.M.



**DR. JAVIER MEJIA, STANFORD UNIVERSITY FELLOW
& COLOMBIAN ECONOMIST**

COLOMBIA's Magical Realism:
"A BALANCING ACT BETWEEN MACROECONOMIC STABILITY AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE"

VENUE: INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS (UCSD CAMPUS)

6:00 PM - NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM - LECTURE
7:30 PM- 8:00 PM Q&A
FREE FOR MEMBERS | \$10 FOR NONMEMBERS




Register here <https://sdwac.org/event-5464536>

11 JANUARY 2024

The San Diego World Affairs Council (SDWAC)
& TIE South Coast Proudly Co-Present:

**"THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF SOCIAL MOBILIZATION
IN CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS:
IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL ACTION"**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

5:30PM - 8:00P.M. : DINNER AT 5:30 P.M.
KNOBBE MARTENS AUDITORIUM
3579 VALLEY CENTRE DR, SAN DIEGO, CA 92130

SDWAC Members: \$25/pp Dinner
Non-SDWAC Members: \$35/pp Dinner

Preview:
Every molecule of carbon dioxide that we put into the atmosphere does permanent damage to our environment, - making climate change the most important issue of our time. Therefore, it's important that we learn how to spread the word about this issue through social media messaging. Come make a difference at this joint event between the San Diego World Affairs Council and TIE South Coast.





DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

**"THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF SOCIAL MOBILIZATION
IN CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS:
IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL ACTION"**

FEATURING

PROFESSOR ADAM ARON




Register here: <https://sdwac.org/event-5372141>

22 FEBRUARY 2024



DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES:
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024, 6-8 PM

AMBASSADOR JEFFREY DAVIDOW
FORMER AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO





**"THE 2024 ELECTIONS IN MEXICO AND THE U.S.:
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP"**

6:00-6:30 PM NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENT

6:30-7:30 PM - LECTURE

7:30-8:00 PM - Q & A

VENUE: TBC

FREE FOR MEMBERS | \$10 FOR NONMEMBERS

Register coming soon

7 MARCH 2024

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

**LATINOLAND: A PORTRAIT OF AMERICA'S
LARGEST AND LEAST UNDERSTOOD
MINORITY**


FEATURING
MARIE ARANA





6:00PM - 6:30PM
NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS

6:30 - 7:30PM PROGRAM

7:30PM - 8:00PM
Q & A / BOOK SIGNING



HALL OF NATIONS
2264 PAN AMERICAN PLAZA
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH, 2024
FREE FOR MEMBERS | \$10 FOR NONMEMBERS

Register here: <https://sdwac.org/event-5486483>

Reminder for Globally Minded High School Educators & Students:

Academic WorldQuest is gearing up its programming to offer area high school students the opportunity to compete and test their knowledge of current international politics, geography, global economics, history, and world cultures.

Not only is this a great experience to highlight on college applications, but the winning team will be invited to represent San Diego in the national competition in Washington, DC! Please visit [here](#) to learn more!

Introducing the SDWAC Resource Board: Your Gateway to Global Opportunities!

We're thrilled to unveil our latest offering exclusively for SDWAC Council members - the [SDWAC Resource Board](#). This members-only platform is a dynamic database featuring a curated selection of current job opportunities and internship programs, all with a specialized focus on world affairs.

RECENT EVENTS

In October, the San Diego World Affairs Council hosted Ambassador Marc Grossman to speak on *"Blueprints for a More Modern U.S. Diplomatic Service"* with food and restaurant gift certificates provided by local restaurant [Sahara on Adams](#). Appreciation to Ambassador Leslie Bassett for her outstanding moderating. The full day of speaking and meeting events with Ambassador Grossman resulted from a grant from the American Academy of Diplomacy.

In November, the San Diego World Affairs Council partnered with the National University to host *"Beyond the American Lens: The Legacy of War, Transgenerational Trauma, Reconciliation, and Healing,"* featuring Vietnamese American LeLy Hayslip and SDSU Professor Gregory Daddis (former US military and Vietnam War academic expert). Global Service Learning provider Bright Light Volunteers International provided Food Sponsorship.

RECENT SDWAC ACTIVITIES THROUGH PHOTOS

Distinguished Speaker Events

Ambassador Marc Grossman & Ambassador Leslie Bassett: Modernizing the State Dept. Foreign Service



Ambassador Irving Tragen (101-year-old diplomat & author) and Ambassador Reno Harnish & State Dept. Officer Leslie Harnish



Outreach to students: A private one-on-one session between Ambassador Grossman and SDSU international studies graduate students (he lectured on campus to full classes earlier in the day)

VP Catherine Greenberg & Intern Thiago, with the hard copy of Amb. Grossman's book and Amb. Grossman.





(above) Vietnamese American activist and author LeLy Hayslip & SDSU Prof. Gregory Daddis: The enduring impact of war (SDWAC Secretary Maria Sarchi - Introducing & Closing)

City of San Diego Office of Global Affairs: Mayor Gloria's Opening Remarks (approx. 200 participants): Eight SDWAC Board members attended and represented SDWAC's work.





November 2023, Your SDWAC Board at work @City of San Diego Office of Global Affairs event: Discussing Ukraine (House of Ukraine President Mira Shtefanyak) & Afghanistan (Canyon Crest AWQ & supporter of girls' online schools in Afghanistan Tim Stiven) wars and what role SDWAC can play in bringing these ongoing issues and challenges (and needs) to our San Diego community for action



Help us grow: To help meet your needs and interests, the San Diego World Affairs Council (SDWAC) Board of Directors welcomes your constructive feedback and suggestions. Please take the time to fill out the survey below. If you have any questions, please contact us at sdwac@sdwac.org or review our website at sdwac.org. Thank you for your time and your valued participation. [Click here for the survey](#)

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