



During this holiday season it is always fun to look back on all of our 2024 events and determine which members have been naughty or nice although it is possible to be naughty in a nice way too! It was good to see so many members at our events which all took place in the last half of the year. Frankfurt in June, Dubai in September, California in October and Shanghai in November. Some of you made it to all four continents.

Here are a few highlights from 2024. . . with video links capturing some of those moments.

Annual Conference

Our 2024 Annual Conference went extremely well as we saw a record number of attendees (180)! On October 30th, the Conference's unofficial start was marked by our annual SEFA Golf Tournament which took place on the North course at Torrey Pines. We received tremendous feedback from our tournament participants as everyone seemed to love the stunning views of the Pacific Ocean and perfect Southern California weather. Once the golf tournament concluded, we hosted a [Welcome Reception](#) where Conference attendees could catch up with each other while enjoying some food, drinks, and of course, more spectacular views of the ocean and the setting sun.

The next day featured a panel discussion with Malcolm Barksdale, Leslie Ashor and Jay Bargmann entitled "[Laboratory Planning for an Uncertain Future](#)". After that panel discussion, the two finalists for the SEFA Lab of the Year Award (ROCHE pRED Innovation Center, Basel and Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory Building 201) made [informative presentations](#) about their respective projects. Following the two presentations, this year's Chief Judge for Lab of the Year, Brian Richard, announced that the ROCHE pRED Innovation Center was the 2024 SEFA Lab of the Year Award winner. Brian also announced that the Johns Hopkins project had been given a High Honors Award for Excellence in Human Centered Design. Congratulations to the many SEFA members that were involved in these projects.

Several standards writing committees met later that afternoon and the next morning. During our Thursday dinner, we honored Malcolm with a SEFA Lifetime Achievement Award for his ground-breaking contributions to the laboratory design industry throughout his legendary career. Our Annual Conference concluded with a Lab Tour of the UC San Diego Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute.

Shanghai Reception

A few weeks later we hosted a [networking reception and dinner](#) for 120 attendees at the beautiful Kerry Hotel in Shanghai after the second day of the Analytica China trade show. During this reception, Our newest Advisory Board member, Grace Chen of Ennead Architects made a presentation about Ennead's Shanghai Astronomy Museum and the 2023 SEFA Lab of the Year winner at Stanford University.

At our Annual Conference in California I mentioned that the SEFA standards and committee work are the "glue" that keeps many of you so engaged in SEFA and I want to thank all of our committee Co-Chairs for the amazing work they do with our standards and the committee meetings that take place throughout the year. We are all so proud of your efforts and the high level of professionalism that you bring to these meetings.

The following Co-chairs are certainly on Santa's nice list:

Luke Savage ● Andy Sinnamon ● Dennis Mertz ● Lisa Ryan ● Rodney LaBelle ● Dennis Ray ● Torsten Kjeldsen ● Mike Straughn ● Jeremy Miller ● Jim Lewis ● Wayne Cathey ● Kevin Kovash ● Bert Bowden ● Ken Dixon ● Pete Daniele ● Brant Kelly ● Lori MacLeod ● Kevin McGough ● Bob DeLuca, Jr., ● Sascha Kunkel ● Edward Metzger ● Kai Schuler ● Tzveta Panayotova ● Tom Ricciardelli ● Joshua Camp ● Kelly Williams ● Fabio Biffi ● Leslie Ashor ● Brian Richard

. . . and a special thank you to Kurt Rindoks who oversees all of these committees!

Santa's naughty list:

You know who you are and we now have video proof of your excessive drinking and eating at all of those SEFA events which just proves that you can be naughty in a nice way and have lots of fun at the same time.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a wonderful New Year!