



2026 SEFA Annual Conference—Nov. 11– 13, 2026

J W Marriott—Aventura, Florida

Dear Members and Industry Colleagues,

Cruising towards tours, awards, and much much more....

Lab Tour of Emory University Health Sciences Research Building II:

We are pleased to announce that on Tuesday, June 16th at 3pm, we will be hosting a lab tour of the 2025 SEFA Lab of the Year® Award winning project, the Emory University Health Sciences Research Building II in Atlanta, Georgia. This lab tour is an exclusive benefit of SEFA membership, so please email barbara@sefalabs.com if you would like to attend. After the lab tour, there will be a reception in this award-winning building for all lab tour attendees and Emory faculty and staff. Last but certainly not least, during the reception, SEFA will be giving out scholarships to two deserving Emory University students through the [Mike Kloosterman Foundation](#).

Thank you to everyone that makes contributions to this amazing foundation, as we would not be able to impact people's lives in such positive ways without your generosity. I'd like to give special recognition to SEFA Member Steel Cabinets, SA from Mexico for their generous \$1,300 contribution to our foundation. Please note that 100% of your contributions go towards funding student scholarships and lab tours. If you would like to [contribute to the Mike Kloosterman Foundation](#), please use the preceding link.

SEFA Lab of the Year® Competition Deadline:

The deadline to submit a project for this year's SEFA Lab of the Year® Competition is August 1st. As you get your submissions ready over the next two months, I want to remind everyone that the submission from the 2020 SEFA Lab of the Year® Award winning project, The Rockefeller University Stavros Niarchos Foundation—David Rockefeller River Campus, is posted on the [SEFA website](#) so that everyone has an idea as to what a submission worthy of winning the SEFA Lab of the Year® Award looks like. Additionally, all of the official competition rules are posted on [our website](#), and for a brief overview of the competition as a whole, check out the [most recent video](#) on SEFA's YouTube Channel.

SEFA Annual Conference:

I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that [registration is open](#) for our 2026 Annual Conference, November 11-13 at the JW Marriott Turnberry in Miami, Florida. Not only can you register for our annual conference with the link above, but you can also sign up for our annual golf tournament, which, as always, will be a "no pressure" scramble format where people are put onto teams of four, and players hit their

ball from the spot of the best previous shot of any player on their team. Other highlights from our Annual Conference agenda include: (1) Wednesday night networking reception; (2) presentations from the two 2026 SEFA Lab of the Year® Finalists; (3) announcement of the 2026 SEFA Lab of the Year® Award winning project; (4) countless standard writing committee meetings; and (5) Thursday night cruise of the Intracoastal Waterway featuring the SEFA Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony honoring Abbie Gregg and Hank Von Der Bruegge. To view the entire Annual Conference agenda, please visit our [website](#).

Until next time, keep on cruising and I'll see you all soon!

Ross Sutton, *JD*

**Associate General Counsel, Director of Marketing
Scientific Equipment and Furniture Association**