

Ice Age Discoveries Deep Beneath the Yucatan: The Hoyo Negro Project

Saturday, Feb. 15, 1:30 pm
Cabrillo Room, Vi at La Jolla
8515 Costa Verde Blvd, 92122

The cenotes and underwater cave systems of Quintana Roo, Mexico have long concealed the remains of extinct Pleistocene fauna as well as evidence of the earliest human inhabitants of the New World.

Recent digital documentation and advanced visualization research conducted by the Cultural Heritage Engineering Initiative at UC San Diego and its partners is bringing these remarkable discoveries to light, while also providing stunning photos for audiences like us.

Virtual reality reconstructions help scuba divers to plan their descents and scientists to interpret their findings, including the earliest known nearly-complete human skeleton in the Americas. Related digital documentation provides detailed records of the original bone and sediment deposition patterns.

Come on February 15 and learn about these amazing new advances!



Dr. Dominique Rissolo

Dr. Rissolo is an archaeologist with an expertise in site formation in the cave context. His research interests include ancient Maya and Paleoamerican cave and cenote use as well as PreColumbian coastal human ecology on the Yucatan Peninsula. Rissolo is an assistant research scientist with the Cultural Heritage Engineering Initiative at the Qualcomm Institute, UC San Diego. He is co-director of the Hoyo Negro Project and the Costa Escondida Project. Rissolo also serves on the NOAA Ocean Exploration Advisory Board.



The Scholars Notebook is issued monthly during the academic year, except December, by the San Diego independent Scholars (SDIS), a nonprofit organization founded in 1984.

The mission of SDIS is to promote opportunities for active learning and scholarship, both for its membership and for the San Diego community.

Public service activities of SDIS include: (1) monthly public lectures presented during the academic year; (2) discussion groups held in public libraries; (3) small grants awarded on a competitive basis for research projects and (4) participation in the Union-Tribune’s annual Festival of Books.

More information about SDIS and its activities is available at www.sdscholars.org.

The Scholars Notebook welcomes contributions by SDIS members, including Letters to the Editor, which should be sent by the middle of each month to the Editor, Dorothy Parker, at dorothyparker@gmail.com.

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Neuroscience Group



Left to right: Elizabeth Snowden, Arlene Gilbert, Sue Rosner, Sally Pollack, Dave Parker, Bea Rose
(Photos by Neuroscience member Dorothy Parker)

- The Neuroscience Group was founded by Dr. Beatrice Rose in 1996 and is the oldest still-functioning study group of the San Diego Independent Scholars (SDIS).
- Bea says the inspiration for the group was “a couplet heading a chapter in Dava Sobel’s book *Longitude*: ‘Time is to the clock as the mind is to the brain’. The couplet elicited the thought that if the clock is organic and time is a man-made construct, and if the brain is organic, then what is the mind and what does it do? If it thinks, what is a thought?”
- The group is currently exploring relationships between human thought and artificial intelligence (AI). AI is becoming an important part of modern living. Hello, Siri. Hello, machine learning.
- **We are seeking new members who are fascinated by artificial intelligence (AI) or the human mind.**
- If interested in the Neuroscience Group or SDIS, **sign up at the SDIS-sponsored lecture on February 15 at 1:30 in the Cabrillo Room of Vi.**
Dr. Dominique Rissolo will present “Ice Age Discoveries Deep Beneath the Yucatan.” His archaeological research uses advanced visualization and digital documentation methods developed by UC San Diego and the Qualcomm Institute.
- For questions , contact SDIS via sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com or www.sdscholars.com .

Oceanids: a Friend of SDIS

SDIS and the Oceanids have formed a liaison relationship in which they have agreed, among other things, to publicize each other's monthly lecture series. A parallel description of SDIS appears in this month's *Oceanids News*.

Who are the Oceanids?

Oceanids is a University of California, San Diego organization and support group promoting friendship and services to the UC San Diego community. Oceanids is open to all who are interested in UC San Diego, including faculty, staff, active members of campus support groups and their spouses.

Oceanids was officially founded in 1952 at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography when the UC campus did not exist in San Diego.

Today Oceanids welcomes and assists newcomers and visitors to the University campus and the wider community.

The organization funds fellowships and undergraduate awards recognizing scholarship and service.

It sponsors interest groups to promote fellowship and strengthen ties between the community and UC of San Diego.

Oceanids holds monthly Sounding Board lectures on various topics from art through science. It conducts annual events like Spring and Fall Luncheons, Whale Watching Trips, Desert Camping, Campus Focus Outings and more. All members get a bi-monthly newsletter on the website or, by request, by mail.

Please see our very informative website at <http://ccom.ucsd.edu/~oceanids>. We would love to have you join our organization.

Roswitha Enright

Sounding Board

Oceanids public lectures
Noon at the UCSD Faculty Club

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2010



Jennifer A. Luce, FAIA

Principal Architect, Luce et studio

Building Culture and Community

How can architecture, art, and design promote a deepened community spirit in an age of technological dominance?

These and other strengths of advocating good design will be discussed with local, national and international examples of excellence.

Parking is metered in front of the Faculty Club. Purchase of lunch is required (\$13.00 for Faculty Club members, \$16.50 otherwise.) No RSVP needed. More, page 10

NEW GROUP

Inside Politics

next meeting: 10 am, February 1, 2020 (Saturday)

subsequent meeting: 10 am March 7 (Saturday)

North University Community Branch Library

8820 Judicial Drive, UTC area

We are pleased to announce a non-partisan political discussion group called **Inside Politics**. Each monthly meeting will focus on a list of hot political topics of the day. We will cover the President, Senators, members of Congress, governors, mayors, and state and local issues. We will consider foreign policy, domestic policy, the media, and the gridlock in Washington. We will also cover the 2020 Presidential and Congressional Elections, as well as the 2020 California and San Diego local elections.

All opinions are welcome and encouraged. We will attempt to learn from each other, rather than change anyone's opinions. If you have any interest in politics or societal problems, you will enjoy this new program. You can just come to listen and learn, or you can share your opinions as we attempt to cover the new topics set forth in the Agenda for each class.

The facilitator for this discussion group will be SDIS member Al Korobkin, who is a retired California Assistant Attorney General. Al has been leading a similar non-partisan political discussion class at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSD for the last fifteen years and is currently conducting a total of five such groups each month in the San Diego area.

"Inside Political Issues" will commence on Saturday, February 1, 2020, meeting from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Thereafter, it will be held on the first Saturday of every month. The group will convene at the North University Community Branch Library at 8820 Judicial Drive in San Diego. The library is part of the Nobel Athletic Fields and Recreation Center off Nobel Drive in the UTC area. The phone number of the library is (858) 581-9637.

Inside Political Issues is open to the public, although SDIS membership is encouraged for frequent attendees.

Al Korobkin

THE READING EXPERIENCE

Our current theme is:

WHERE AND WHEN.

Our most recent discussion was about Isak Dinesen's "Out of Africa", written in the 1930s and concerning the Danish writer's farm in Kenya 100 years ago.

Our coming discussion Monday Feb.10 will examine Peter Carey's "The True History of the Kelly Gang", about the Australian folk hero Ned Kelly, his life and exploits 1855-1880. The author is an Australian/American, many of whose writings concern the relationship between empire and colony. He has written the book as though it were told by Kelly.

Our next study will be of the short story collection published in 1914, "Dubliners", by James Joyce. This will take place Monday, March 16.

Following will be another discussion concerning time and place, and then a new theme.

We have enjoyed three discussions on the theme of MEMOIR.

You are invited to participate in our lively, varied meetings each month in the Pacific Beach Public Library at 10 a.m.
Gerry Horwitz

JUST LUNCH

Just Lunch met on January 31, 2020 to enjoy Peking Duck and other Chinese delicacies at China Max, close to the date of Chinese New Year.

The time and place of the next dining experience will be announced soon.

Barbara Heckler

GENERAL RELATIVITY

The next General Relativity Group meeting on January 29 is after the posting of this newsletter and will be reported in February.

On December 18 we continued our discussion of Chapter 20 in Hartle, *Gravity*, and continued to the first four sections of Chapter 21.

The main topic was defining the Riemann Curvature Tensor using a strictly metric space approach. This 4th rank tensor devolves into the 2nd ranked Ricci Curvature Tensor and the Ricci Scalar, from which we construct Einstein's equations in free space. The solutions include the Schwarzschild solution (outside a spherical mass), and gravitational waves in free space. which we previously had assumed and analyzed. We also discussed the deeper mathematical underpinning of Curvature via Manifolds and Riemann Geometry.

Next time we plan to discuss the Manifold approach more deeply and finish Chapter 21.
Alvin Halpern

Film Group

The Film Group will meet Wednesday, February 5 at 10 am to view Pedro Almodovar's latest film, *Pain and Glory*. Highly acclaimed internationally by critics, it was declared by *Time* as the best film of 2019. Based extensively on Almodovar's own life, Antonio Banderas stars as a film director who reflects on his life through a series of real time and flashback remembrances.

Barbara Heckler



February film: **Pain and Glory**

In *Brief Encounter* (1945), screenplay by Noel Coward, directed by David Lean, a chance meeting in a railway platform cafe between a middle-class housewife (Celia Johnson) and a married physician (Trevor Howard), who removes a cinder from her eye, leads to a passionate infatuation. Within six weeks, both realize that although they are clearly in love, their personal situations and relationships forbid them from pursuing their affair, which remains unconsummated. The seemingly limited scope of the film, most of which takes place in confined, indoor spaces, opens a window for the audience on the



January film: **Brief Encounter**

importance of ordinary existence over the allure of the myth of romantic love, even mocking its depiction on the screen as the couple hold hands in a darkened movie theatre and showing the housewife's fantasies of exotic locations and torrid affection between her and her doctor friend. Even with Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto raging in the background, the day-to-day drabness of middle-class life wins out, and the two separate to preserve their marriages and deal with the shame and longing they have experienced. It is easy to see why it is considered one of Britain's best ever films.

Ken Krauss

COLLOQUY CAFE

“**Quid pro quo**” was the most timely concept that the group has discussed in its 15-year existence, and the term’s consideration resulted in what was certainly one of the liveliest sessions.

Definitions included favor for favor, an exchange of goods or services contingent upon the agreement of both parties (an even balance), basically, barter. One participant commented that the development of apes into humans and the beginnings of community depended on it.

“But when does “quid pro quo” become negative, bad?” asked another. When does the trade become something shady? When does it cross the line? A third participant answered, “When it breaks the law”. If the balance is not even it can descend into threat and/or extortion.

The group was almost amused to learn that in the Middle Ages “quid pro quo” was used in apothecary practices to mean the substitution of one substance for another of equal effectiveness.

The discussion turned to politics as all agreed that the term will take years to “recover” from its current association with questionable behavior and return to its previous non-judgmental sense.

February 19 will be Colloquy Cafe’s next meeting. The subject will be “**a good life.**”
Gerry Horwitz

SUPPER WITH SCHOLARS

Dinner discussion

6:00 p.m., January 2

(1st Thursday of month)

At Humphreys Grill in La Jolla near UCSD

3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla, CA.

Meals from the menu are Dutch Treat.

(See www.humphreyslajolla.com)

Because restaurant reservations are needed,

please RSVP 4 days in advance to:
parkerd1954@gmail.com

Group discussion is based on suggested topics that have particularly interested the attendees in the last month. The subject is selected each meeting by vote of those present. We try to select a question that can be addressed from the differing viewpoints of the various areas of expertise of the participants, which are ordinarily quite diverse, ranging from the humanities to natural sciences to social sciences to various professions.

Open to all SDIS members and persons considering SDIS membership.

Dave Parker

Sounding Board (continued from pg 3)

Jennifer Luce was born in Montreal and spent 15 years living in Ottawa before winning an international competition to build the CIT in Washington DC. She received her Bachelor of Architecture with distinction from Carleton University, Ottawa in 1984 and is a member of the Alumni Council for the Carleton Design School. She is also the recipient of the A. Dunton Alumni Award of Distinction from Carleton University 2007. In 1994, Jennifer received her Master of Design Studies from Harvard University and is a 9-year member of the Alumni Council there. Jennifer presently holds an Appointed Director position at the Harvard Alumni Association. She currently sits on the Advisory Council for LAND, a public art initiative in Los Angeles, and on the Board of Directors for Art of Elan, an organization committed to educating and exposing diverse audiences to classical music. In 2016, Jennifer was elevated to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. The studio's projects have been featured in exhibitions internationally, including a retrospective at the Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla in 2009 and the California Biennial at the Pasadena Museum of Contemporary Art in 2010. The Studio was named Design Vanguard by Architectural Record in 2005, received a 2006 Business Week Award for Design Innovation and has received a total of 21 awards from the American Institute of Architects.

Helen Hawkins Grant, 2020

SDIS ordinarily offers one Helen Hawkins Grant annually, on a competitive basis. Grants can be awarded for either: (a) research expenses or (b) travel to collect data or present research results. The granted sums are usually \$2000 or less. A detailed list of covered activities and award criteria is available from the SDIS president on request.

Persons who have belonged to SDIS for at least one year are eligible, except for SDIS Board Members or members of the Hawkins Grant Review Committee. Full-time post-secondary teaching faculty are also excluded.

An application form is available from the SDIS president in January and must be submitted by the last day of February. Awards are announced in April.

Applications are evaluated by a 3-person committee. Approval is based on the quality of the applicant's idea, its originality, merit, credibility, feasibility, and potential for solving or giving a new perspective on a significant problem or illuminating a social, literary or scientific phenomenon.

At the May SDIS general meeting, the winner will briefly describe the work and how the Hawkins Award is to be used. Upon completion of work, the awardee will give a presentation to a future SDIS general meeting.

February 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						Inside Politics 10 am 1
2	SDIS Board 10 am 3	4	Film Group 10 am 5	Supper w. Scholars 6 pm 6	7	8
9	Reading Experience 10 am 10	11	12	13	Neuro-science 1:30 pm 14	Public Lecture 1:30 pm 15
16	17	18	Colloquy Cafe 1:30 19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	Hawkins Proposal Due 29

Location and Contact Information for groups open to the public right now.

Public lecture and general meeting: Cabrillo Room, Vi at La Jolla, 8515 Costa Verde Blvd., La Jolla, 92112. (Note: not the usual location; ordinarily in room 111A of the Chancellor's Complex, UC San Diego.) No RSVP needed.

Reading Experience: Pacific Beach (Taylor) Public Library, 4275 Cass St., San Diego. No RSVP needed.

Inside Politics: (nonpartisan discussion) North University Community library, 8820 Judicial. UTC area of La Jolla. No RSVP needed. To be placed on agenda mailing list: mkorobk1@gmail.com (All SDIS members are on list for the first few months.)

Supper with Scholars: Humphrey's Grill at La Jolla (near UCSD). 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla. RSVP needed for restaurant reservation: parkerd1954@gmail.com

Neuroscience Group: accepting new members, but with possible space limitations dorothyparker@gmail.com