

Walker Institute of International and Area Studies

THE PALMETTO FORUM



THE WORLD AHEAD

UNDERSTANDING NEW REALITIES

Join us for a round-up of recent shifts in global affairs and a discussion of the road ahead. Our experts will analyze newly emerging world trends and share their perspectives on what these changes mean for conventional patterns of trade, diplomacy, and geopolitics.

WEDNESDAY

September 3, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Palmetto Club

1231 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201



[Register Here](#)



James Story
U.S. Ambassador (ret.)

South Carolina native James “Jimmy” Story served as the US Ambassador to Venezuela and previously in diplomatic roles that placed him in Brazil, Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique, Mexico, Washington, and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.



Dr. Carl Dahlman
Director, Walker Institute of
International and Area Studies

Carl T. Dahlman is Professor of Geography and Director of the Walker Institute. He is widely published on the geopolitics of war, peace, and migration, primarily in Europe and the Middle East with a focus on peace-building in the Balkans.



Dr. Gerry McDermott
Chair, Sonoco Department of
International Business
Darla Moore School of Business

Gerald A. McDermott is Professor and Chair of International Business at the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. His expertise includes a focus on the local impacts of international integration regimes such as the EU, NAFTA, and Mercosur.