"I chose to attend Queens because of The Learning Society and its mission. I knew I wanted to be part of a university community that recognizes the value in bringing inspiring speakers to campus to share their vision and ideas with students and the broader Charlotte community. Even if I disagree with someone's views, I can grow and learn by encountering people who think differently."

- Mohammed Jibriel ’19
  Biology Major
Since 1988, The Learning Society has brought leading thinkers and doers to our doorstep, broadening our worldview through face-to-face, unfiltered dialogue. Thanks to our members’ commitment and generosity, the semiannual series extends far beyond the auditorium. The guest lecturer’s impact at the podium is magnified by weeks of student engagement and immersion in the speaker’s topic, viewpoint and background. Upon arrival to Charlotte, the speaker engages first with Queens’ students in an on-campus discussion prior to the public, community event.

“The Learning Society of Queens hosts informative, intellectual and cultural speakers raising the quality of dialogue in the community. Soon after becoming members of The Learning Society, Jeanie and I had become more engaged in and committed to both The Learning Society and to the university. The Learning Society is a gateway for Queens to be engaged in the Charlotte community and for people in the community to be engaged with Queens.”

Tom Cottingham,
2019-20 Executive Committee Chair,
The Learning Society of Queens
EXPANDING OUR VIEW.
And engaging our students.

Our members make it possible to bring dynamic speakers to Queens and the Charlotte community, and broaden their impact through student-centered learning opportunities.

Annual Membership for Two Individuals:
$1,500 ($1,125 tax deductible)

Two Lecture Events | Fall 2019 and Spring 2020
- Two tickets with seating in reserved member section
- Access to private lounge before program
- Private reception following program with opportunity for photograph with speaker
- Complimentary transportation options including valet parking at theater, validated self-parking at theater or shuttle service between Queens and theater
- Signed copy of speaker book delivered in advance of program

Member Salon | Early Winter 2020
- Intimate gathering of members engaging with community thought leaders and Queens faculty

Member Cocktail | Late Spring 2020
- Annual membership party featuring the reveal of the coming season’s speakers

JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP ONLINE AT QUEENS.EDU/LEARNING-SOCIETY
Questions about joining or corporate sponsorship? Please contact Julia Walton at 704.688.2838 or waltonj@queens.edu.
President’s Circle Benefits:
$5,000 ($4,500 tax deductible)

Receives Member Benefits plus:
- Individual reserved seating
- Invitation to the President’s intimate pre-lecture cocktail reception
- Brief meet and greet with speaker in advance of program
- Opportunity to have speaker book signed in person
- Private car transportation to and from theater
Michelle Alexander is a legal scholar, social justice advocate, New York Times columnist and visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary. She will lead a conversation on ending racial caste in America while providing a new perspective on the challenges facing the civil rights community and a call-to-action for a multi-racial, multi-ethnic human rights movement for justice in America.

In her acclaimed best-seller, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, Michelle Alexander peels back the curtain on systemic racism in the American prison system, which the *New York Review of Books* described as “striking in the intelligence of her ideas, her powers of summary, and the force of her writing.” With equal force and candor, she breaks the silence about racial injustice in the modern legal system to reveal how mass incarceration has come to replace segregation. Alexander’s work not only explores the myths surrounding our criminal justice system from a racial and ethical standpoint, but also offers solutions for combating this epidemic.
Connected to Student Learning

Two longstanding Queens traditions — The Common Read and The Learning Society — are aligning in the 2019-20 academic year with Michelle Alexander’s visit. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* is this year’s university-wide common read with The Learning Society providing a copy of the book to each undergraduate student. Academic Affairs, Student Life and service-oriented centers are incorporating the book into their coursework and programs. Queens Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice will offer a three-part educational series including a viewing of the documentary “Life After Life;” a forum with civic leaders responsible for criminal justice policies; and a staged reading of an original play “Death of Justice” authored by Greenspon Justice Organizer, Reverend Willie J. Keaton Jr.

“Exceptional research, such as that which Michelle Alexander so skillfully and eloquently presents in *The New Jim Crow*, stands at the center of our work as the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice. We engage Queens students and the broader Charlotte community in education and advocacy on human rights issues with a strong focus on racial justice and criminal justice. Alexander’s writing inspires our action.”

Rabbi Judith Schindler,
Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice
Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies
Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of Jacques Cousteau, his daughter Céline Cousteau and son Fabien Cousteau are committed to educating the world about our shared home – the water planet. In celebration of Earth Day’s 50th anniversary in April 2020, the Cousteau family will discuss the need to act responsibly and preserve the underwater ecosystems that are so intricately tied to all life on earth.

For more than five decades, Jean-Michel Cousteau has dedicated himself to sharing his love and concern for our water planet. The son of French ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, Jean-Michel has investigated the world’s oceans for much of his life. Devoted to fulfilling his family’s legacy to protect and preserve the planet’s marine life and raise awareness of ecological issues, he founded the non-profit marine conservation and education organization, Ocean Futures Society.

As founder of CauseCentric Productions, Céline Cousteau is a documentary film producer and presenter, creating cause-focused multimedia content. Through the power of storytelling, Céline uses her amazing voyages around the world to offer a thoughtful perspective on how the future of the environment and indigenous peoples is vital to the future of the planet.

Fabien Cousteau works to protect our planet’s immense and endangered marine habitats as a deep ocean explorer and environmentally-conscious business strategist. He has refined a public policy platform grounded by his strong belief that environmental discipline can be the basis for innovative solutions that strike a balance between environmental problems and the realities of market economies.

Presented to the Community by:
Connected to Student Learning
Students in Queens’ Sustainability Studies degree learn about the interconnections between physical, biological and social processes as they affect the environment. Their experiential labs range from Charlotte’s urban streams studying the impacts of watershed land use patterns to Micronesia where they focus on geospatial capacity building, food security, preservation of cultural heritage and cultural self-determination. Since 2000, Dr. Reed Perkins engages a dozen students annually in the Micronesian Islands Environmental Study Program, a cooperative program he founded for Queens that provides students and faculty the opportunity to work with scientists and government personnel of Yap and Kosrae (member states of the Federated States of Micronesia) to monitor the islands’ ecosystems. This unique program offers cultural immersion, international service and global discovery for Queens students.

Both Queens and the Cousteau family are fueled by discovery — but more than that, by the need to apply those discoveries in the service of others. Historically, oceans divided people, now we know that oceans connect us.

Reed Perkins, Ph.D., Carolyn G. and Sam H. McMahon Professor of Environmental Science Chair, Department of Environmental Science and Chemistry 2007 North Carolina Professor of the Year
2018-2019 STUDENT EXPERIENCE.
Beyond the Lectures.

“This year we saw increased student awareness and participation in The Learning Society. From class reads and community forums to packed audiences when the speakers came to campus – The Learning Society made its mark on our student experience. I am appreciative of the membership’s commitment to enriching our learning environment and look forward to the expanded 2019–20 impact with the integration of the Common Read.”

Sarah Fatherly, Ph.D.,
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
“The James Comey event showed me that leadership is more than a buzz word, more than distinct types. Cultivating ethical leadership is a vital challenge for today’s leaders across the globe. By participating in such an inspiring event and engaging in my leadership classes, I feel better equipped to lead ethically when I finish my MBA at Queens.”

– Catherine Nason MBA ’20, pictured second from left below

“A highlight of my time at Queens was the opportunity to participate in the student discussion with J.D. Vance because his book Hillbilly Elegy gave me a new perspective on my own life experiences. I am very proud that Queens hosted an author who represents a unique point of view and made this event accessible to all students.”

– Melanie Coyle ’19, pictured far left in center photo
MORE THAN A LIST. A LEGACY.
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