Thirty years of inspiring speakers, bringing unique insights to the Queens community?

YES, AND

countless opportunities for student engagement and learning.

“The Learning Society is but another mechanism for Queens to serve the campus and the greater community by insuring interaction with intellectual catalysts and people who have made or are making history.”

Dr. Billy Wireman, Queens President from 1978 to 2002 (Announcement of The Learning Society’s first speaker series, Oct. 24, 1988)
Since 1988, The Learning Society has brought leading thinkers and doers to our doorstep. Renowned authors, journalists, physicians, scientists, artists, economists, politicians, government leaders, scholars, historians, entrepreneurs, business executives, environmentalists and social activists – these and more have shared their knowledge and life experience with Queens students and the greater Charlotte community.

Thanks to our members’ commitment and generosity, The Learning Society has thrived for three decades, broadening our worldview through face-to-face, unfiltered dialogue with diverse, compelling – and sometimes provocative – speakers.

At Queens, learning never stops at the classroom door. The Learning Society commemorates its 30th anniversary by expanding the reach of our semiannual series 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.

“I feel so fortunate to attend a university that hosts events like these and allows students to spend time with such amazing speakers.”

Jasmin Singh ’17, International Studies major
Annual Membership: For Two Individuals

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

Member Benefits: $1,500 ($1,125 tax deductible)

- J.D. Vance | October 23, 2018 & James Comey | March 26, 2019
  - 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 option of valet parking at theater or shuttle service to and from Queens and theater
  - Signed copy of speaker book delivered in advance of program
  - Special invitations to Queens events

- Member Salon | January 29, 2019
  - Intimate gathering of members hearing from community thought leaders and Queens faculty

- Spring Cocktail | May 9, 2019
  - Annual membership party featuring the reveal of the coming season’s speakers

QUESTIONS ABOUT JOINING OR CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP?
Please visit www.queens.edu/learning-society or contact Julia Walton, Director of The Learning Society, 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
This fall, J.D. Vance, author of Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis will chronicle his family’s story of social, regional and class decline, his own upward mobility and personal struggles. His insights will inform the local conversation about advancing economic mobility and opportunity in the Charlotte region.

J.D. Vance

New York Times Best-Selling Author of Hillbilly Elegy

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018

J.D. Vance is an investor, commentator, and author of the #1 New York Times best seller Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, described by the National Review as a “brilliant book” and by The Economist as “one of the most important” reads of 2016. Ron Howard and Brian Grazer of Imagine Entertainment have announced plans to produce a movie based on Vance’s book.

Raised by his working-class grandparents in Middletown, Ohio, Vance served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps before enrolling at Ohio State University, where he studied political science and philosophy. Upon graduation he entered Yale Law School where he earned his law degree in 2013.

In early 2017, Vance joined as a partner in AOL founder Steve Case’s venture capital company, Revolution LLC, which concentrates on bolstering entrepreneurship and disruptive, high-growth companies outside of the sphere of Silicon Valley. He also returned home to Ohio to found Our Ohio Renewal, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the state’s opioid crisis and bringing high-quality employment and educational opportunities to Ohioans. He regularly discusses politics and public policy, having appeared on ABC, CBS, and FOX News, and currently serving as a contributor on CNN.

Presented by:
Bank of America
In the spring, we will hear from James Comey, former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A central figure in recent political controversy, Comey has had a seasoned legal career in both the private and public sectors. His remarks will focus on ethics, leadership and his experience in government.

James Comey led the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 2013 to 2017, appointed to the post by President Barack Obama. His tenure was tested by new forces within and outside America’s borders. He oversaw the federal response to mass shootings in San Bernardino in December 2015 and at Pulse nightclub in Orlando the following June, at the time the deadliest in the country’s history. He also worked to address key leadership, agility and diversity issues within the Bureau.

Prior to his service at the FBI, Comey worked as a federal prosecutor in New York and Virginia as well as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and the U.S. deputy attorney general in the administration of President George W. Bush. In the private sector, he has worked at law firms and as the general counsel of Lockheed Martin, the world’s largest defense contractor, and Bridgewater Associates, the world’s largest hedge fund.

Comey is the 2017-2018 Gwendolyn S. and Colbert I. King Endowed Chair in Public Policy at Howard University. He has been an adjunct professor at the University of Richmond School of Law and a Hertog Fellow in National Security Law at Columbia Law School.

Presented to the Community by

Wells Fargo
A Learning Society guest speaker spends as much time conversing with students as presenting at the evening community lecture. The on-campus student discussion before the evening program has become a signature student experience at Queens.

Last season, the impact of The Learning Society lectures was further enriched and expanded by student activities in the weeks surrounding each speaker’s visit. Faculty incorporate related assignments and discussions into coursework, and campus organizations create hands-on opportunities for student engagement.

Students delve into the thinking of some of today’s brightest minds, impact makers and game changers – like TOMS Founder and Chief Shoe Giver Blake Mycoskie, guest speaker in November 2017.

This champion of corporate responsibility and the One for One® movement sparked a number of on campus activities, breathing new life into Queens’ motto, “Not to be served, but to serve.”
“One of my most memorable moments at Queens was being involved with the Learning Society and meeting Blake Mycoskie of TOMS shoes. Meeting a successful social entrepreneur motivated my own academic studies and deeply inspired me to carry on the Queens motto “not to be served, but to serve” after graduation, as I continually look for ways to effect positive social change as an entrepreneur and small-business owner.”

Deborah Neuhs ’18, Business Administration, pictured to the immediate left of Blake Mycoskie
Veteran broadcast journalist Dan Rather has launched a new career as the founder of a multimedia production company. His February 2018 visit prompted weeks of study and discussion on public discourse and the evolving field of journalism.
I did my first Facebook Live interview ever with Angie Holan. I used the recorded footage when applying for jobs and am happy to share I accepted a job at the Charlotte Observer as a video producer. With the move to more video and digital journalism, I’ll help bring new ideas to the newsroom.

Stephanie Bunao ’18, Journalism and Sociology, pictured left interviewing Angie Holan
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1998-2018 SPEAKERS.

Thirty years of thought leadership and discourse.

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