

2023 - 2024

# SEASON & ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP





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 is just that. A truly unique organization that brings curious and inquisitive life-long learners together in community to build understanding and elevate the dialogue around relevant, interesting and timely subjects. As members, we are proud to help bring great speakers to Charlotte and to the Queens University campus to broaden perspectives, share ideas and enhance the academic experience." ▶▶



*Kelly Katterhagen and  
Larry Nabatoff  
2022-23 Executive  
Committee Chairs,  
The Learning Society  
of Queens*

**"The opportunity to sit with Dr. Deepak Chopra, hear his stories, and learn from him was the kind of experience I could only get at Queens..."**

I was so incredibly honored to be asked to be part of the student-led discussion and could not have asked for a better experience. Dr. Chopra truly pushed us to critically think and be in touch with our own minds and bodies, all while sharing his experiences and humor. Being a part of this event at Queens was incredible and something I will never forget or take for granted."

*– Eleanor Williamson '24  
Communications and Interfaith Studies  
pictured second from left ▼*



# EXPANDING OUR VIEW & 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

**\$1,750**  
total cost per year

**\$1,275**  
tax deductible

### Membership Includes:

#### Two Lecture Events: Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

- Two tickets with seating in reserved member section
- Access to private receptions before and after lectures
- Reserved parking at the Sandra Levine Theatre
- Signed copy of speaker books

#### Member Salon: Winter 2024

Intimate gathering of members engaging with community thought leaders on a hyper-local topic

#### Member Cocktail: Late Spring 2024

Annual membership party with cocktails and conversation

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

**\$5,000**  
total cost per year

**\$4,375**  
tax deductible

### President's Circle Includes:

#### All Member Benefits plus:

- Individual reserved seating at lectures
- Invitation to the President's Circle intimate pre-lecture cocktail reception with speaker
- Brief meet and greet with speaker in advance of lecture
- Opportunity to have speaker book signed in person
- Private car transportation to and from the Sandra Levine Theatre

**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE  
TODAY AT [QUEENS.EDU/LEARNING-SOCIETY](https://queens.edu/learning-society).**

Questions about joining or corporate sponsorships?  
Please contact Carolyn Stone by emailing  
[LearningSociety@queens.edu](mailto:LearningSociety@queens.edu) or calling 704-337-2559.



An Evening with

## ISABEL WILKERSON

October 26, 2023 | 7pm  
Sarah Belk Gambrell  
Center for the Arts and  
Civic Engagement

**Beyond race and class lies a powerful caste system that influences people's lives, behavior, and the nation's fate.**

In this powerful talk that forces audiences to reimagine America's past and present, New York Times best-selling author Isabel Wilkerson spotlights the insidious undertow of caste and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture, politics, and everyday lives. Join us as Wilkerson explores the invisible scaffolding in America and offers a transformative new framework through which to understand identity and injustice.



***Isabel Wilkerson has become a leading figure in narrative nonfiction, an interpreter of the human condition, and an impassioned voice for demonstrating how history can help us understand ourselves, our country, and our current era of upheaval.***

Her debut work, "The Warmth of Other Suns," won the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Heartland Prize for Nonfiction, the Anisfield-Wolf Award for Nonfiction, the Lynton History Prize from Harvard and Columbia universities, and the Stephen Ambrose Oral History Prize and was shortlisted for both the Pen-Galbraith Literary Award and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Wilkerson's latest book, "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," published in August 2020 to critical acclaim, with Dwight Garner of The New York Times calling it "an instant American classic" and Oprah choosing it for her monthly book club pick. Picked as a Time's 2020 must-read book, the book examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how a hierarchy of social divisions still defines our lives today. Wilkerson brings the past's complexities to vivid life through her passionate research and her profound gift for connecting with audiences of all backgrounds.

## CONNECTED TO STUDENT LEARNING

Queens University of Charlotte celebrated diversity and inclusion at its first annual Multicultural Ceremony during the May 2023 Commencement. This unique ceremony provided an opportunity to appreciate our differences and commonalities by creating a space that fosters inclusion and champions diversity on campus.

The Multicultural Ceremony featured guest speaker Gwen Jackson '01, a Queens alumna and founder of Urbane Environments, an organization specializing in community relations for real estate development that focuses on inclusivity and diversity. She recently founded Future Scapes, Inc., a nonprofit organization that supports redevelopment and youth education in urban communities.

"This ceremony is further evidence that Queens University continues to evolve in observing and honoring diversity and inclusion," said Jackson. "I am proud to be an alumna and want to let our graduates know that in the Queens tradition, they will be lifelong learners – guided and enlightened by the Queens motto, 'not to be served, but to serve.'"



**"I've made amazing connections with other multicultural students, and I could not be more grateful for the opportunities at Queens which have allowed those relationships to form and flourish. We must understand how important it is for a person's culture and identity to be recognized and accepted – this is why events like this are so vital."**

- Briana Meyer '23  
Business Administration



Unlocking the Secrets of Happiness with

## DAN BUETTNER

February 27, 2024 | 7pm

Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for the Arts and Civic Engagement

**Science shows that where we live – not education, marital status or wealth – is the biggest, controllable factor that determines our happiness. So where should we live? A tropical island? Paris? Las Vegas?**

It's not where you think. Working with Gallup, the World Values Survey and the World Database on Happiness, Dan Buettner and his team found the three pockets around the world where people report the highest level of well-being – or happiness – and then researched each of these hotspots and distilled down the common denominators in each place. What can governments do to maximize the well-being of their citizens? And more importantly, what can we do as individuals to stack the deck in our favor to maximize happiness?



***Dan Buettner is an explorer, National Geographic Fellow, award-winning journalist and producer, and New York Times bestselling author. He discovered the five places in the world – dubbed Blue Zones hotspots – where people live the longest, healthiest lives.***

Buettner now works in partnership with municipal governments, large employers, and health insurance companies to implement Blue Zones Projects in communities, workplaces, and universities. Blue Zones Projects are well-being initiatives that apply lessons from the Blue Zones to entire communities by focusing on changes to the local environment, public policy, and social networks. The program has dramatically improved the health of more than 5 million Americans to date.

His books, "The Blue Zones Kitchen: 100 Recipes for Living to Be 100," "The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest," "Thrive: Finding Happiness the Blue Zones Way," "The Blue Zones Solution: Eating and Living Like the World's Healthiest People," and "The Blue Zones of Happiness" were all national bestsellers.

## CONNECTED TO STUDENT LEARNING

At Queens, our general education approach is different in that we have a unique, topic-based format that fosters interdisciplinary dialogue and critical thinking, and culminates in a senior year capstone. The Queens Learning Communities (QLC) are groups of classes that surround one topic from different angles. Students explore topics such as the pursuit of happiness, sustainability, race, the arts, zombies and more. Students in Assistant Provost for the Undergraduate Experience Daniel Terry's QLC course "Philosophy of Well Being" will engage in fundamental questions around the philosophy of what makes a fulfilling life, the approaches of philosophers to understanding happiness and well-being, and ways of life that have intrigued human beings for centuries. An authentic dialogue with philosophical thinkers can help students establish a better understanding of the good life and happiness, and along the way better understand the self, values, truth, community, knowledge, and reality.



**"We built our general education curriculum around really big, messy problems. Things like identity, happiness and race that really can't be addressed by a single course. So what we ask students to do is to take multiple courses at the same time that address these topics from a lot of different perspectives."**

*- Jeff Thomas,  
the William S. Lee professor of interdisciplinary studies  
and director of general education*

*A history and philosophy study abroad program took students to a Buddhist Temple in Kyoto, Japan. ▶▶*





# 2023-2024 STUDENT EXPERIENCE

## Beyond the lectures

“The opportunity to attend the Learning Society program with David Wallace-Wells and Jared Diamond and talk with them about such an important issue of contemporary society as climate change was among my best academic experiences. It was really interesting to compare the views of both thinkers with the ideas I have as a student of international affairs and philosophy and to get a deeper insight into this problem.” ▶▶



*Jiri Brychta '24 (far right)  
International Studies and Philosophy*



*Maci Romero '23  
Biology and Pre-Medicine*

◀◀ “I was honored to participate in the student panel with Deepak Chopra hosted by the Learning Society. Before this event, Dr. Chopra and his work were new to me, but after hearing him in the student Q&A and talking with him during the large event, I was astonished by his words and advice. He gave amazing advice for self-care and personal development that I will use in my journey to my career in health care.”

“It was a privilege to stand beside two other student leaders and promote critical thinking while improving our leadership skills...”

This learning experience was such a wonderful, eye-opening occasion that brought the Charlotte community together, and I am appreciative to Queens for bringing this experience to life! It was so meaningful to network not only with Dr. Genova, but other members and professors amongst the Queens family.”

– Natalie Van Noy '22  
Psychology Major, Business & Human Services Minor  
pictured second from left ▼



# 2022-2023 LEARNING SOCIETY MEMBERS

## Executive Committee

Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff – <i>Co-Chairs</i>	Daniele Donahoe and Erik Rosenwood	Anne and Scott Perper
Jennifer DeWitt – <i>Immediate Past Chair</i>	Heide and Oscar Groomes	Jennifer and Eric Steigerwalt
Anne and John Barry	Courtney and Bill Hyder	Jennifer Winstel
Gail and Ira Cox	Alison and Jonathan O'Connor	Nancy Zimmerman and David Morris

## President's Circle

Jan and Ed Brown	MaryAnn Largen	Anne and Scott Perper
Jeanie and Tom Cottingham	Barbara L. Laughlin	Tamea G. Price
Joy Greene	Juli Marley and Mark Clarke	Pat Rodgers
Heide and Oscar Groomes	Kaye and Dennis McGarry	M.A. Rogers
Christie and Jon Hunt	Carolyn and Sam McMahan	Susan and Bob Salvin
Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff	Lydia and Jack McNeary	Carolyn Shaw and Mary Bobis

## Active Founding Members

Jean Batten	Sandra and Leon Levine	Mattye and Marc Silverman
Georgia and Bill Belk	Jane and Hugh McColl	Gail Brinn Wilkins and Howard Freese
Anne Marie Black	Carolyn and Sam McMahan	
Barbara Karro and Bill Gorelick	Dale and Larry Polsky	
Peggy and Jim Hynes	Clyda and George Rent	

## Members

Leslie Aronovitz and Ted Gearhart	Gay Boswell	Zan and Heath Byrd
Holly and Jeff Atkins	Betsy and Alfred Brand	Madelyn and Kevin Caple
Kim and Johnny Belk	Heather and Ben Braun	Jamie and Stuart Christhilf
Sarah and Tim Belk	Mr. and Mrs. Brian Bridgford	Michelle and Chris Cicoletti
Patricia Blackburn	Sara and Jeff Brown	Kim and Jack Cobb
Sharon Blalock and Marcia Tillotson	Frannie and Herb Browne	Jean and Gene Cochrane
Betsy and Bill Blue	Kathy and Peter Browning	Paige and Mark Cohen
Jennifer L. Boone	Karen Broyhill	Titi and Wale Cole
	Vicki and Peter Brunnick	Darlene and Glyn Cowlshaw

Jane and Tom Coyle	Joye D. Blount and Jessie J. Knight Jr.	Sally and Russell Robinson
Pamela and Bob Davies	Kristen and Mark Kral	Lynn Rogers
Melissa and Joseph Del Broccolo	Jacqueline Zinn and John Leshner	Stephanie and Boyd Safrin
Jere and Patsy Drummond	Siu Challons-Lipton and Jordan Lipton	Sally and Downie Saussy
Mary and Rob Engel	Deborah Majewski and Dan Ward	Judy and Chip Wallach
Anne Essaye and Scott Lurie	Nancy and John Maloney	Laura and Mike Schulte
Sydney Day and Michael Fanning	Leslie and Michael Marsicano	Marcie and Frank Schwalbe
Linda and Bill Farthing	Ashley and Scott Mattei	Bertram and Ylida Scott
Betsy Fleming and Ed Weisiger	Cynthia Matz	Harriet Seabrook
Amy and Sid Fletcher	Peggy and Neill McBryde	Michele and Roger Shaul
Pamela Freeman and Greg Johns	Kathy and Bill McCollum	Margaret and Carter Siegel
Eileen Friars and Scott Pyle	Susan McConnell and Josephine Hicks	Caroline and Bob Sink
Mary and Sean Gallivan	Melissa and Mike McGuire	Kati and Chris Small
Jenifer and Tim Gelorme	Susanne and Bill McGuire	Andrea and Sean Smith
Stacy and Todd Gorelick	Sandy and Tom Meckley	Indun Patrick and Wayne Smith
Ann Brookshire and Joe Grier	Robin and Andy Mermans	Daphne and Eric Solomon
Clay Grubb	Arrington and Burch Mixon	Maureen Swick
Melissa and Trent Gustafson	Carmalita and Tripp Monroe	Ann and Wellford Tabor
Dale Halton and Fred Wagner	Katie and Walker Morris	Nancy and Pell Tanner
Carol and Watts Hamrick	Kimrel and Trip Morris	Ann and Michael Tarwater
Suzy and Steve Hannon	Sheila and Sean Mullen	Jane and Chris Thomas
Lucy and Hooper Hardison	Wanda and Bill Musgrave	Jane and Trey Tune
Heather and Roman Harper	Janet and Lowell Nelson	Rita and Bill Vandiver
Claudia and Andy Heath	Kay and Robert Norris	Carla and Larry Vitez
Carlene and Jack Holder	Ann and Ken O'Connell	Cassandra and David Wagner
Kim Hombs	Pam Pearson and Charles Peach	Julie and Lance Walton
Kathy and Steve Horvath	Karen and Brandon Perry	Linda and Rex Welton
Alison Houser and Peter Keane	Mary Margaret and Fritz Porter	Leslie and Mitchell Wickham
Gibbs and Bryan Ives	LeeAnn and Crawford Pounds	Jo DeWitt Wilson
Jennifer Jackson and Todd Ashworth	Sarah and Ken Pursley	Caroline and Trey Winslett
Katie and Mike James	Sara and John Reid	Katie Wireman
Ginger Kelly	Cathryn and Jay Rivers	Anne and Fletcher Wright
Kathryn and Luke Kissam		Sally and Andy Zoutewelle
JoEl and Vernon Knight		Susan and John zumBrunnen



# PAST SPEAKERS

More than thirty years of leadership and discourse

Michelle Alexander  
Michael Beschloss  
Bill Bradley  
David Brinkley  
David Broder  
Art Buchwald  
Mika Brzezinski  
William F. Buckley, Jr.  
James Carville  
Deepak Chopra  
James Comey  
Pat Conroy  
Jean-Michel Cousteau  
The Hon. Mario Cuomo  
Jared Diamond  
Carly Fiorina  
Marlin Fitzwater  
Steve Forbes  
Thomas Friedman  
Arun Gandhi  
Atul Gawande  
Lisa Genova  
Doris Kearns Goodwin  
Sanjay Gupta  
General Michael Hayden  
Mark Hyman

John Irving  
Walter Isaacson  
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
Captain Scott Kelly  
Alan Keyes  
Jeane Kirkpatrick  
Henry Kissinger  
C. Everett Koop  
Charles Krauthammer  
Michael Lewis  
Mary Matalin  
Jon Meacham  
David McCullough  
Blake Mycoskie  
Dee Dee Myers  
Ralph Nader  
The Hon. Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill  
H. Ross Perot  
Michael Pollan  
Dan Rather  
Diane Rehm  
Janet Reno  
Condoleezza Rice  
Cokie Roberts  
The Hon. Warren Rudman  
Sir Salman Rushdie

Tim Russert  
William Safire  
Carl Sagan  
Joe Scarborough  
Sir John Scarlett  
Daniel Schorr  
Lesley Stahl  
Ben Stein  
George Stephanopoulos  
The Hon. Paul Tsongas  
J. Craig Venter  
Edward S. Walker, Jr.  
David Wallace-Wells  
Andrew Weil  
Bob Woodruff  
Bob Woodward  
Fareed Zakaria  
General Anthony Zinni



*Lisa Genova*



*Deepak Chopra*



*David Wallace-Wells  
and Jared Diamond*



QUEENS  
UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
CHARLOTTE