

**QUEENS**  
UNIVERSITY CHARLOTTE

THE LEARNING  
SOCIETY

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2024 – 2025

**SEASON &  
ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP**

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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.



## “Participating in The Learning Society event with Dan Buettner was a highlight of my time at Queens University...”

The discussion and his book gave me real-world experiences to examine through my newly developing lens of Healthcare Administration and public policy. The event also provided an opportunity for public speaking and networking with various industry professionals and students of other disciplines. I am so grateful for the opportunities and experiences Queens University of Charlotte provides to richen the educational experience for students."

– Danielle J. Fowler '24  
Master of Health Administration  
Pictured 3rd from right ▼



## 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.



**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE TODAY AT [QUEENS.EDU/LEARNINGSOCIETY](https://queens.edu/learningsociety).**

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

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP for two individuals

**\$1,750**

total cost per year

**\$1,275**

tax deductible

### Membership Includes:

#### Two Lecture Events

- Two tickets with seating in reserved member section for each lecture
- VIP parking
- Invitation to attend pre- and post-lecture receptions
- Special photo line with speakers (as permitted by speaker)
- Invitations to Learning Society events throughout the season

#### Member Salon

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

#### Member Cocktail

- 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:

- Premier 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



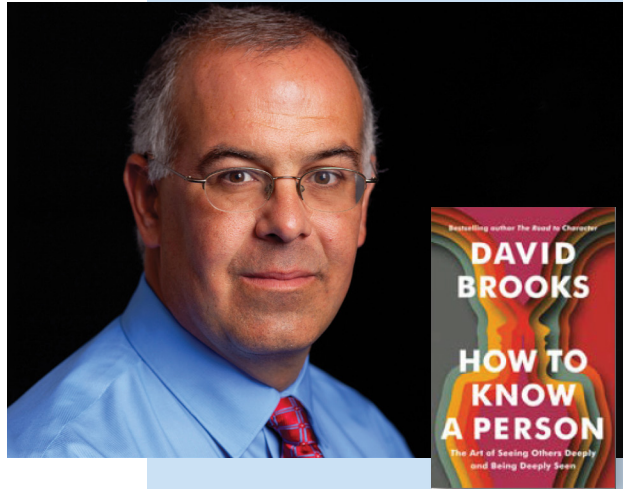
How to Know a Person:  
Bringing Humanity Back  
with

## DAVID BROOKS

Moderated by Anna Quindlen

October 30, 2024 | 7 p.m.

**Sarah Belk Gambrell  
Center for the Arts and  
Civic Engagement**



### About David Brooks:

*David Brooks is a bestselling author, op-ed columnist at the New York Times, and recurring commentator on PBS NewsHour. He has a gift for bringing readers and audiences face-to-face with the spirit of our times with humor, insight, and quiet passion. He is a keen observer of the American way of life and a savvy analyst of present-day politics and foreign affairs whose columns are among the most read in the nation.*

*His latest release, "How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen," was written to speak to audiences of all kinds and is his attempt to repair America's torn social fabric by giving us the tools we need to move beyond division and polarization and connect with others on an innately human level.*



### Moderated by Anna Quindlen:

*Anna Quindlen is a prolific bestselling author, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and social critic. She is renowned for her nationally syndicated columns offering insightful and reflective commentary on social and political issues ranging from gender equality to current events that speak to readers directly and help them make sense of their lives.*

## CONNECTED TO STUDENT LEARNING

The interfaith community at Queens University fosters connection, curiosity, and growth on campus. The Belk Chapel Davies Fellowship offers experiences for students who are committed to exploring religious and spiritual life at Queens and beyond. As Belk Chapel Davies Fellows, students learn in both academic and co-curricular (outside of the classroom) settings, serve as campus leaders, engage in community outreach, and reflect together on faith-based or philosophical values that shape their lives.

Davies Fellows Maggie Dineen '25 (pictured right) and Sophie Lange '24 (pictured left) have developed a passion for interfaith work during their time at Queens and are using their fellowship with the Belk Chapel to cultivate meaningful conversation and community programming on campus. They decided to focus their research and experiential learning around Diwali and the Hindu community during the fall semester and planned a Sikh celebration on campus alongside the local Sikh community this spring.

When asked about their motivation for the project and their research, both students reflected on the learning environment at Queens.

"I am passionate about creating spaces that unite people from different backgrounds," said Dineen. "Queens does such a great job of cultivating strong student leaders. Faculty and staff empower us to use our voices and explore our interests."

Lange's interfaith involvement has shifted her perspective of international relations. "For a long time, I felt that religion had no seat at the table when it came to political discourse," said Lange. "Now, I understand how contradictory that is. You must bring yourself to the table. It is crucial that we recognize that there are so many religious, cultural, and societal factors that influence how we make decisions overall."





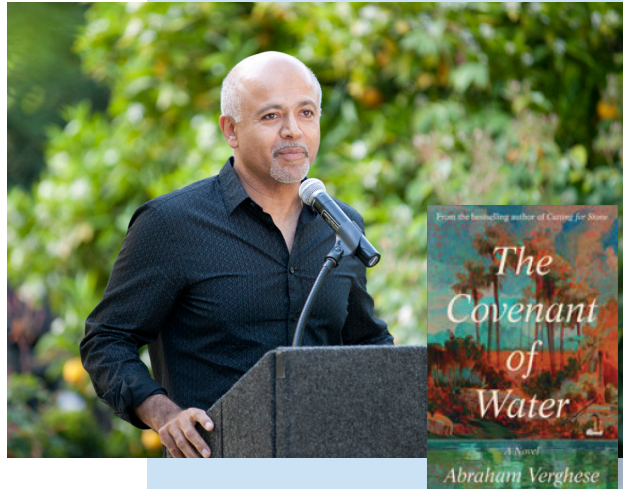
An evening with

# ABRAHAM VERGHESE

on the Future of Healthcare

February 11, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Sarah Belk Gambrell  
Center for the Arts and  
Civic Engagement



**Dr. Abraham Verghese, New York Times bestselling author, practicing physician and Stanford University professor, will discuss “The Caring in Health Care: Challenges and Opportunities in a Technological Era” as he shares insights into his early career journey and the evolution of healthcare.** He will describe the crucial role of empathy in healthcare leadership and share how leaders can cultivate it within themselves and their teams.

Trained in infectious diseases and pulmonary medicine, he has long been a top thinker in healthcare. His TED talk “A Doctor’s Touch” has been viewed almost two million times, and is as meaningful now as the day he delivered it. During the COVID pandemic, his messages of appreciation, understanding and compassion for all in healthcare, and inspiration on how we go forward were widely appreciated. His dual-pronged approach, incorporating both an appreciation of technological developments and a profound commitment to the sacred relationship between doctor/caregiver and patient, makes him a leading voice in the discussion about what quality care means now and in the future.

## About Abraham Verghese:

*Dr. Abraham Verghese is a bestselling author and prominent voice in medicine with a uniquely humanistic view of the future of healthcare. He received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama “for reminding us that the patient is the center of the medical enterprise.” Outside of healthcare, he is best known as a phenomenally successful author. His first novel “Cutting for Stone,” topped the New York Times bestseller list for over two years, it was translated into more than twenty languages, and it is being adapted for film by Anonymous Content. Amazon named it one of its 100 Books to Read in a Lifetime.*

*In May 2023, he published his second novel, “The Covenant of Water,” debuting as a New York Times bestseller. His memoirs include the award-winning “My Own Country” and “The Tennis Partner.”*

## CONNECTED TO STUDENT LEARNING

Recent Queens University graduate Dionisios Vrochides, M.D., Ph.D., MBA '23, is no stranger to bold career moves. A professor of surgery, serving as chief of Atrium Health’s transplant oncology section and vice chair of the department of surgery since 2015, Vrochides has also been named executive director of IRCAD North America (IRCAD NA), a global hub for medical research, development and experiential surgical training.

Recognizing the critical role of business acumen in health care innovation, Vrochides enrolled in the flexible online MBA program through the McColl School of Business at Queens University. He was able to create a customized academic schedule that allowed him to continue caring for patients while furthering his education.



**“Institutions like Queens University and Atrium Health understand the importance of educating students and health care professionals in a holistic way, ensuring they are well-rounded and informed.”**

- Dionisios Vrochides, M.D., Ph.D., MBA '23

As the city of Charlotte undergoes massive transformation, Vrochides has also noticed a change in how students are educated today. “When I was a medical student, I was only taught about medicine. Today, institutions like Queens University and Atrium Health understand the importance of educating students and health care professionals in a holistic way, ensuring they are well-rounded and informed about other areas of the ecosystem around them.” Vrochides’ studies were enriched by the insights of Will Sparks, Ph.D., Dennis Thompson Distinguished Chair and Professor of Leadership at Queens University. Sparks’ concept of “Actualized Leadership” emphasizes the critical role of self-awareness and stress management in maximizing leadership potential. The complex world of health care innovation requires not only strategic thinking but also the ability to lead effectively under pressure, ensuring clear decision-making and optimal outcomes for both patients and institutions.



*Vrochides (center) at the Institute for Research into Cancer of the Digestive System (IRCAD) in France. Vrochides is the executive director of IRCAD North America.*



# STUDENT EXPERIENCE:

## Beyond the lectures

“Hearing Isabel Wilkerson’s words about ancestral recognition of those who came and suffered before us was extremely powerful. It reinforced my mission of honoring those who sacrificed their lives so that I can stand where I am today and be empowered to make changes in my community.” ►►



*Ryan Byrd '24 (center)  
President of the Black Student Union*



*Madelyne Zarzyski '24 (left)  
Presbyterian School of Nursing*

◀◀ “I was honored to participate in this opportunity with Dan Buettner. Last May, I was able to study abroad in Costa Rica’s Nicoya Peninsula as part of Queens’ John Belk International Program. We were able to see firsthand why Costa Rica is one of the Blue Zones.”

“The opportunities to sit with Deepak Chopra, hear his stories and learn from him was the kind of experience I could go 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. Chopra truly pushed us to critically think and be in touch with our 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 ▼



# 2023-2024 LEARNING SOCIETY MEMBERS

## Executive Committee

Anne and John Barry	Heide and Oscar Groomes	Nancy and David Morris
Jennifer DeWitt and Oz Tuzcu	Courtney and Bill Hyder	Alison and Jonathan O'Connor
Daniele Donahoe and Erik Rosenwood	Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff	Jennifer Winstel '21

## Active Founding Members

Jean Batten '57	Peggy and Jim Hynes	Dale and Larry Polsky
Georgia and Bill Belk	Sandra Levine	Clyda and George Rent
Anne Marie Black '92	Jane and Hugh McColl	Gail Brinn Wilkins and Howard Freese
Barbara Karro and Bill Gorelick	Carolyn and Sam '54 McMahon	

## President's Circle Members

Sarah and Tim Belk	MaryAnn Largen	M.A. Rogers
Sharon Blalock and Marcia Tillotson	Barbara Laughlin	Susan and Bob Salvin
Sally '87 and Brian Bridgford	Sandra Levine	Sabrina and Brian Savoy
Jan Brown '73, '84	Juli Marley and Mark Clarke	Carolyn Shaw and Mary Bobis
Jeanie and Tom Cottingham	Kaye and Dennis McGarry	Andrea and Sean Smith
Heide and Oscar Groomes	Carolyn and Sam '54 McMahon	Jennifer and Eric Steigerwalt
Christie '92, '05 and Jon Hunt	Lydia '64 and Jack McNeary	Sharon and Larry Sullivan
Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff	Tamea Price '79	Ann and Michael Tarwater
	Beth and Drew Quartapella	

## Members

Ted Gearhart and Leslie Aronovitz	Ann Brookshire and Joe Grier	Jean and Gene Cochrane
Holly and Jeff Atkins	Sara and JB '03 Brown	Paige and Mark Cohen
Joanne and Steve Beam	Frannie and Herb Browne	Amy and Phil Colaco
Kim and Johnny Belk	Kathy '05 and Peter Browning	Titi and Wale Cole
Patty Blackburn	Karen Broyhill '92	Mary and John Council
Betsy and Bill Blue	Vicki and Pete Brunnick	Jane and Tom Coyle
Jenny Boone '87	Paige '85 and Steve Burgess	Pamela and Bob Davies
Gay Boswell	Lauren and Malcolm Campbell	Rob and Mary Engel
Mary Alice Boyd and Brian LaFranchi	Madelyn and Kevin Caple	Anne Essaye and Scott Lurie
Betsy and Alfred Brand	Jamie and Stuart Christhlf	Linda and Bill Farthing
	Sallie and Derick Close	Betsy Fleming and Ed Weisiger, Jr.

Amy and Sidney Fletcher	Stacie and Dan Menichella	Rita and Bill Vandiver
Dorlisa and Peter Flur	Arrington Mixon	Carla '79 and Larry Vitez
Pamela Freeman	Carmalita and Tripp Monroe	Cassandra and David Wagner
Eileen Friars and David Pyle	Katie and Walker Morris	Fred Wagner
Mary '16 and Sean Gallivan	Sheila '10 and Sean Mullen	Leslie and Mitchell Wickham
Mary Gerkin and Ben Wilhelm '16	Janet Nelson '77	Katie Wireman
Audean '97 and Berkley Godehn	Emily Oliver and Ben Edwards	Anne and Fletcher Wright
Stacy and Todd Gorelick	Amy and Dale Owen	Sally and Andy Zoutewelle
Elizabeth Hames '80	Pamela Pearson and Charles Peach	Susan and John zumBrunnen
Carol and Watts Hamrick	Anne and Scott Perper	
Lucy and Hooper Hardison	Karen and Brandon Perry	
Kristina and Tom Hoops	Mary Margaret and Fritz Porter	
Kathy and Steve Horvath	LeeAnn and Crawford Pounds	
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Katie and Mike James	Cathryn and Jay Rivers	
Gregory Johns	Sally and Russell Robinson	
Tammy and Greg Jones	Lynn Rogers '60	
Ginger Kelly	Robyn Roof and Michael Byl	
Kathryn and Luke Kissam	Stephanie '86 and Boyd Safrit	
JoEl and Vernon Knight	Judy Schindler and Chip Wallach	
Jessie Knight and Joye Blount	Laura and Mike Schulte	
Mary and Michael Lamach	Ylida and Bert Scott	
Becky and Mark Linsz	Swan Sewell	
Jordan and Siu Lipton	Michele and Roger Shaul	
Cathy Lowe	Margaret and Carter Siegel	
Deborah Majewski and Daniel Ward	Caroline and Bob Sink	
Nancy and John Maloney	Kati and Chris Small	
Leslie and Michael Marsicano	Wayne Smith and Indun Patrick	
Ashley and Scott Mattei	Daphne and Eric Solomon	
Peggy and Neill McBryde	Jan and Jack Sullivan	
Kathy '71 and Bill McCollum	Maureen Swick	
Susan McConnell '83, '13 and Josephine Hicks	Ann and Wellford Tabor	
Melissa and Mike McGuire	Jane and Chris Thomas	
	Jane and Trey Tune	



# PAST SPEAKERS

More than thirty-five years of leadership and discourse

Michelle Alexander

Michael Beschloss

Bill Bradley

David Brinkley

David Broder

Art Buchwald

Dan Buettner

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

Isabel Wilkerson

Bob Woodruff

Bob Woodward

Fareed Zakaria

General Anthony Zinni



*Deepak Chopra*



*Dan Buettner*



*Isabel Wilkerson*



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