

**QUEENS**  
UNIVERSITY CHARLOTTE

# LEARNING SOCIETY

2025-26

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP



**DANIEL PINK**

**NICHOLAS THOMPSON**

**NITA FARAHANY**



# A LEGACY OF SPEAKERS

THE PAST THREE YEARS



*David  
Brooks*

*Abraham  
Verghese*

*Dan Buettner*

*David  
Wallace-Wells*

*Deepak  
Chopra*

*Isabel Wilkerson*

*Jared Diamond*

## Dear Learning Society Members,

As we reflect on the past year with The Learning Society, we are reminded of the powerful moments that define our work — those quiet, stirring pauses in an auditorium after a speaker's words shift how we see the world. Your presence and support make those moments possible. Your belief in the power of ideas is at the heart of what makes The Learning Society thrive.

When a small group of Charlotte citizens founded this organization in 1988, they imagined a community where curiosity would be celebrated and world-renowned voices could ignite conversation. More than three decades later, that vision is thriving thanks to members like you.

Together, we've welcomed visionaries like Yo-Yo Ma, Isabel Wilkerson, and David Brooks. And just as importantly, we've watched Queens students sit in the front row, ask bold questions, and walk away changed. That ripple effect — from the stage, to you, to the next generation — is why The Learning Society matters.

As we begin planning for the upcoming season, we hope you'll remain on this journey with us. Your membership ensures these meaningful experiences continue not only for our community but for the students who carry these lessons forward.

You can renew online at [queens.edu/learningsociety/](https://queens.edu/learningsociety/) or by scanning the QR code in this mailer. We would be honored to have you with us for another year of discovery.

## With deep appreciation,

Nancy and David Morris  
*Learning Society Executive Committee Chairs*





Since 1988, the Learning Society has brought leading thinkers and doers to Queens — enriching the academic experience through bold, face-to-face dialogue.

Each speaker's impact extends far beyond the podium. Upon arrival, they participate in the Student Lecture — an intimate, faculty-moderated conversation with Queens students whose academic work intersects with the speaker's expertise. Free and open to the campus community, this experience empowers students to lead conversations, explore big ideas, and connect learning with the challenges shaping our world.

The Student Lecture exemplifies Queens' mission in motion and reflects the bold vision of Ever Rising — an initiative to expand access, elevate learning, and propel students toward purposeful impact.

Through their partnership and vision, Learning Society members help fuel this transformational experience. Their support ensures students don't just attend — they engage. They question. They Rise — ready to shape the future with clarity, courage, and purpose.



“Participating in a Learning Society event was a highlight of my time at Queens. The discussion gave me real-world experiences to examine, and the event provided an opportunity for public speaking and networking with various industry professionals and students of other disciplines.”

— Danielle J. Fowler '24  
Master of Health Administration

*Pictured second from right with past speaker, Dan Buettner (center)*

## AN EVENING WITH DANIEL PINK

OCTOBER  
**06**  
2025



**What if our regrets could unlock a more fulfilling life? In this bold and inspiring talk, best-selling author Daniel Pink explores “The Surprising Path to the Good Life” — revealing how rethinking our most misunderstood emotion can sharpen decisions, boost performance, and bring deeper meaning to work and life.**

**Daniel Pink** is the author of seven bestselling nonfiction books on a range of topics, from human motivation to the science of timing to a graphic novel career guide. His books include the New York Times bestsellers “The Power of Regret,” “When,” and “A Whole New Mind” as well as the #1 New York Times bestsellers “Drive” and “To Sell is Human.” His deeply researched works have been translated into 46 languages and have sold more than five million copies around the world.

Over the years, he has also hosted a National Geographic television series, given one of the most popular TED talks of all time, written a regular column for the Sunday Telegraph and the Washington Post, served as chief speechwriter to Vice President Al Gore, and been a clue on Jeopardy. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his family.

 Tickets go on sale August 2025 through [etix.com](https://etix.com)

# A CONVERSATION WITH NITA FARAHANY & NICHOLAS THOMPSON



MARCH  
26  
2026

**Artificial intelligence isn't just transforming industries — it's redefining what it means to be human. In “AI and the Future of Everything,” tech journalist Nicholas Thompson and legal scholar Nita Farahany offer a rare insider's look at the breakthroughs, ethical questions, and limitless potential shaping our shared future.**

**Nita Farahany** is an internationally acclaimed thought leader who bridges law, ethics, and technology to champion ethical progress in science and technology. Author of “The Battle for Your Brain: Defending Your Right to Think Freely in the Age of Neurotechnology,” Farahany provides a much-needed map to navigate the fast-changing technological landscape of artificial intelligence and neurotechnology. A frequent media commentator and keynote speaker, she has presented at TED, the Aspen Ideas Festival, and the National Academies.

Farahany is a co-editor-in-chief of the Journal of Law and the Biosciences and is on the Board of Advisors for Scientific American. She also serves on the National Advisory Council for the National Institute for Neurological Disease and Stroke, as an elected member of the American Law Institute and on the Global Future Council on Frontier Risks for the World Economic Forum, among others.

She is the Robinson O. Everett Distinguished Professor of Law & Philosophy and Founding Director of the Duke Initiative for Science &

Society. Farahany holds degrees from Dartmouth, Harvard, and Duke, including a JD and Ph.D. in philosophy. In 2010, President Obama appointed Farahany to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, where she served for seven years.

**Nicholas Thompson** is the chief executive officer of The Atlantic, a position he has held since 2021. He was previously the editor-in-chief of WIRED and the editor of NewYorker.com. Thompson is also a cofounder of The Atavist, a multimedia CMS that was sold to WordPress, and Speakeasy.ai, which was sold to Amplica Labs. He is a board member at ProRata.AI and The National Committee on American Foreign Policy, as well as the author of “The Hawk and the Dove: Paul Nitze, George Kennan, and the History of the Cold War.” He films a daily video on tech policy for LinkedIn and has roughly 2 million followers across social media platforms. He has long been a competitive runner; in 2021, he set the American record for men 45+ in the 50K race. His second book, “The Running Ground,” will be published by Random House in the fall of 2025.



Tickets go on sale January 2026 through [etix.com](https://etix.com)

# 2025-26 MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

## PRICING:

SCHOLARS CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP <i>(previously general membership)</i>	
INDIVIDUAL	HOUSEHOLD
<b>\$950</b> total cost per year <i>(\$650 tax deductible)</i>	<b>\$1,900</b> total cost per year <i>(\$1,300 tax deductible)</i>
PRESIDENTS CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP	
INDIVIDUAL	HOUSEHOLD
<b>\$2,500</b> total cost per year <i>(\$2,185 tax deductible)</i>	<b>\$5,000</b> total cost per year <i>(\$4,375 tax deductible)</i>

SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN,  
UPGRADE, OR RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP ►►

More info:

- 🌐 [queens.edu/learningsociety](https://queens.edu/learningsociety)
- ✉ [learningsociety@queens.edu](mailto:learningsociety@queens.edu)
- ☎ 704-337-2553



## BENEFITS:

	SCHOLARS CIRCLE	PRESIDENTS CIRCLE
TWO LECTURE EVENTS		
Access to Two Lecture Events	✓	✓
Reserved Seating	✓	✓
Premier Reserved Seating		✓
VIP Parking	✓	✓
General Pre-Lecture Reception <i>(no speaker)</i>	✓	✓
General Post-Lecture Reception <i>(no speaker)</i>	✓	✓
Pre-Lecture Reception with Speaker		✓
Speaker Meet & Greet		✓
Personalized Book Signing		✓
Exclusive Photo Line Access <i>(Speaker Permitting)</i>	✓	✓
Private Car Transport		✓
MEMBER SALON		
Intimate gathering with local thought leaders	✓	✓
MEMBER COCKTAIL		
Seasonal celebration with cocktails and conversation	✓	✓

# 2024-25 LEARNING SOCIETY MEMBERS

## Executive Committee

Steve Burgess	Alison and Pete Keane	Lydia McNeary '64	Amy and Dale Owen
Lauren and Malcolm Campbell	Joye Blount and Jessie Knight	Nancy and David Morris	Ylida Scott
Jennifer DeWitt	Wilson McCrory	Alison and Jonathan O'Connor	

## Active Founding Members

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

## Presidents Circle Members

Sharon Blalock and Marcia Tillotson	Heide and Oscar Groomes	Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff	Susan and Bob Salvin
Mary Bobis	Carol and Watts Hamrick	MaryAnn Largen	Carolyn Shaw
Sally and Brian Bridgford	Lucy and Hooper Hardison	Barbara Laughlin	Andrea and Sean Smith
Jan Hall Brown '73, MBA '84	Debbie Hayden	Kaye and Dennis McGarry	Jennifer and Eric Steigerwalt
Paige Burgess '85 and Steve Burgess	Colleen and Paul Hennigan	Mary Margaret and Fritz Porter	Sharon and Larry Sullivan
Jeanie and Tom Cottingham	Christie Hunt '92 and Jon Hunt	Tamea Price '79	Ann and Michael Tarwater
		M.A. Rogers	Marcia Tillotson

## Members

Judy Allison '70 and Jim Allison	Bonnie and Thor-Erik Borresen	Elaine Camp and Bolyn McClung	Sallie and Derick Close
Rebecca Anderson '13 and Mike Anderson	Gail Bourne	Tiffany Capers	Jean and Gene Cochrane
Jaclyn and Ryan Armijo	Mary and Charles Bowman	Madelyn and Kevin Caple	Paige and Mark Cohen
Leslie Aronovitz	Betsy and Alfred Brand	Lynne and Eugene Cathey	Amy and Philip Colaco
Anne and John Barry	Ann Brookshire and Joe Grier	Tracey Chagon '01 and Scott Christopher Chagnon	Kathy and Joe Cook
Joanne and Steve Beam	Sara and Jeff Brown '03		Mary Council
Kim and Johnny Belk	Frannie and Herb Browne	Siu Challons-Lipton and Jordan Lipton	Betty and Bill Cowden
Sarah and Tim Belk	Kathy Browning '05 and Peter Browning	Sarah and Jim Charles	Jane and Tom Coyle
Patty Blackburn	Karen Broynhill '92	Jamie and Stuart Christhlf	Angela and Jesse Cureton '02
Betsy and Bill Blue	Vicki and Pete Brunnick	Nan and Hal Clarke	Pamela and Bob Davies
Louise and Jim Bonner			Molly Dewey
Jenny Boone '87			Daniele Donahoe and Erik Rosenwood

Karen DuMontier-Gilligan and James Gilligan	Tammy and Greg Jones	Sean Mullen	Kati and Chris Small
Anne Essaye and Scott Lurie	Pete Keane	Patti and Pender Murphy	Daphne Glorian-Solomon and Eric Solomon
Linda and Bill Farthing	Ginger Kelly	Janet Nelson '77	Jack Sullivan
Betsy Fleming and Ed Weisiger	Kathryn and Luke Kissam	Christy and Roger Norris	Jan Sullivan
Dorlisa and Peter Flur	Anglea Knaebel	Aaron Lay and Nathan Nye	Maureen Swick
Pamela Freeman	JoEl and Vernon Knight	Cathy and Joseph Oliveto	Ann and Wellford Tabor
Eileen Friars and Scott Pyle	Elizabeth and Ken Koch	Sarah and Amit Om	Jane and Chris Thomas
Mary Gallivan '16 and Sean Gallivan	Brad Kutrow	Indun Patrick and Wayne Smith	Kathryn and MarkThompson
Jen Gelorme '14 and Tim Gelorme	Anne and Chris Lam	Pam Pearson and Chuck Peach	Karey and Ray Tom
Daphne Glorian-Solomon and Eric Solomon	Ryan LaPrade '04 and Walter Vernoooy	Anne and Scott Perper	Suzie and Nick Trivisonno
Audean Godehn '97 and Berkley Godehn	Kelly Leech	Karen and Brandon Perry	Kathy and Joe Tronco
Stacy and Todd Gorelick	Holly and Hal Levinson	Sarah and Ken Pursley	Jane and Trey Tune
Andrea and Todd Griffith	Jeanne Lindquist	Beth and Andrew Quartapella	Oz Tuzcu
Mozelle Griffith	Becky and Mark Linsz	Clyda and George Rent	Alison and Wells Van Pelt
Liz Hames '80	Cathy Lowe	Louise and William Rice	Walter Vernoooy and Ryan LaPrade
Suzy and Steve Hannon	Deborah Majewski and Dan Ward	Cathryn and Jay Rivers	Carla Vitez '79 and Larry Vitez
Kathryn Heath and Tom Webb	Nancy and John Maloney	Sally and Russell Robinson	Cassandra and Dave Wagner
Josephine Hicks and Susan McConnell	Joan Martin and Pat Burgess	Robyn Roof and Michael Byl	Judy Schindler and Chip Wallach
Amy Hockett and Eric Rohm	Ashley and Scott Mattei	Stephanie Safrit '86 and Boyd Safrit	Cristina and Will Warlick
Carol Holmes	Peggy and Neill McBryde	Laura and Mike Schulte	Elizabeth and Hans Warren
Kristina and Tom Hoops	Kathy McCollum '71 and Bill McCollum	Bertram Scott	Thomas Webb
Kathy and Steve Horvath	Susan McConnell '83, MS '13 and Josephine Hicks	Inez Serventi and Douglas Robinson	Leslie and Mitchell Wickham
Lisa Hose '77 and Timothy Hose	Yvonne and Richard McCracken	Swan Sewell	Karen Gerkin and Ben Wilhelm '16
Fran and Greg Hyde	Lauren McCrory	Anita and Marvin Shapiro	Jennifer Winstel
Courtney and Bill Hyder	Melissa and Mike McGuire	Michele and Roger Shaul	Katie Wireman
Katie and Mike James	Posey and Mark Mealy	Virginia Shaw	Julie and Tom Wojciechowski
Sandra James and Terry Shook	Stacie and Daniel Menichella	Laura and Blair Shwedo	Anne and Fletcher Wright
Lisa and Wheeler Jervis	Arrington Mixon	Margaret and Carter Siegel	Sally and Andy Zoutewelle
Greg Johns	Carmalita and Tripp Monroe	Matty and Marc Silverman	Susan and John zumBrunnen
	Sally Morris '66 and Joe Morris	Jeanette Sims	
	Sheila Mullen '10 and Sean Mullen	Caroline and Bob Sink	

**Membership roster as of May 12, 2025.**  
**Please inform us of any changes by emailing [LearningSociety@queens.edu](mailto:LearningSociety@queens.edu).**