



21st ANNUAL DISCOVERY SOCIETY  
**INSIDERS BRIEFING**  
PURPOSEFUL DESIGN: BODY & MIND

**AUGUST 8-9, 2025**  
TACOMA, WA



# INSIDERS BRIEFING SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 8 5:00 - 9:00 PM

5:00 PM	Check-in	Sterling Ballroom Foyer
6:00 PM	Opening Dinner	Sterling Ballroom
	<b>Discovery Institute: Past, Present, Future</b>	<i>John West, Steve Buri</i>
	<b>State of the Debate</b>	<i>Stephen and Elaine Meyer</i>

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 8:00 AM - 1:15 PM

8:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet	Sterling Ballroom Foyer
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Morning Sessions	Sterling Ballroom
	<b>Ultimate Engineering</b> <i>Stuart Burgess, biomimeticist and engineer</i>	
	<b>The Immortal Mind</b> <i>Michael Egnor, Professor of Neurosurgery and author</i> <i>Denyse O'Leary, journalist and author</i>	
	<b>Education &amp; Outreach Update</b> <i>Daniel Reeves, CSC Director of Education &amp; Outreach</i> <i>Stephen Dilley, CSC Senior Fellow, Academic Mentoring Centers Coordinator</i>	
12:00-1:15 PM	Lunch ( <i>Bookstore Open</i> )	Sterling Ballroom Foyer & Terrace





# INSIDERS BRIEFING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 1:15 PM - 10:00 PM

1:15-4:00 PM

Afternoon Sessions

Sterling Ballroom

**New Evidence for Human Uniqueness**

*Casey Luskin, CSC Associate Director*

**ID 3.0 Research Update**

*Casey Luskin, Research Director, and other research Fellows*

**Media and Communications Update**

*Rob Crowther, CSC Director of Media & Communications*

*John West, CSC Managing Director*

4:00 PM

Break

Sterling Ballroom Foyer

*Bookstore open for 30 minutes, last chance to purchase books & merchandise*

5:45-7:00 PM

Dinner

Sterling Ballroom Foyer & Terrace

7:15 PM

Buses Depart

Hotel Entry

*Board buses outside the hotel entrance, name badge includes bus assignment*

7:30-9:30 PM

Closing Event

Theater on the Square

**Screening of Coming Attractions**

*Steve Laufmann, Stephen Meyer, and John West*

9:45 PM

Buses Depart for Hotel

Location TBA





# LEADERSHIP



## STEVEN J. BURI

Steven J. Buri was appointed President of Discovery Institute in December 2011. He joined the Institute in April 2000 as executive director and was named Vice President in 2005. Since obtaining his degree from Washington State University in 1994 (double major: political science and criminal justice), Buri has served in various capacities in government and campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels. He co-founded Stewardship Partners in 1998 and served as executive director until 2000. In 2009, he founded the Roanoke Conference, a statewide political conference designed to connect activists and elected officials with students and young professionals.



## STEPHEN C. MEYER

Dr. Stephen C. Meyer received his PhD from the University of Cambridge in the philosophy of science. A former geophysicist and college professor, he now directs the Center for Science and Culture at Discovery Institute. Author of the *New York Times*-bestseller *Darwin's Doubt*, as well as *Signature in the Cell* and *Return of the God Hypothesis*, Meyer has also edited or contributed to numerous other books, articles, and editorials. He has been featured on top national television, radio, and podcast programs, including his most recent appearances on *The Joe Rogan Experience* and *Piers Morgan Uncensored*.



## JOHN G. WEST

Dr. John West is Vice President and a Senior Fellow at Discovery Institute. He also serves as managing director of the Institute's Center for Science & Culture, which he co-founded with philosopher of science Stephen Meyer in 1996. An author and documentary filmmaker, he has written or edited 13 books, including most recently *Stockholm Syndrome*, *Christianity*, *Darwin Day in America*, *The Magician's Twin*, and *Walt Disney and Live Action*. His documentary films include *Fire-Maker*, *Revolutionary*, *The War on Humans*, and the award-winning films *Human Zoos* and *Biology of the Second Reich*. West holds a PhD in Government from Claremont Graduate University and was formerly chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography at Seattle Pacific University.

# SPEAKERS



## STUART BURGESS

Dr. Stuart Burgess has held academic posts at Bristol University and Cambridge University (UK), and Liberty University (US). He has published over 180 scientific articles on the science of design in engineering and biology. He was the lead transmission designer for the British Olympic Cycling Team for the past three Olympics, and his gearboxes have been used successfully on all the large earth observation satellites of the European Space Agency for the last two decades. He has received many national and international awards for design.



## ROBERT CROWTHER II

Robert Crowther holds a BA in journalism with an emphasis in public affairs and has over 30 years of experience as a journalist, publisher, and brand marketing and media relations specialist. As Director of Public and Media Relations at Discovery Institute from 1994-2000, he oversaw most aspects of communications for each of the Institute's major programs. After a three-year break to work as a brand strategist at Parker LePla in Seattle, Crowther returned to Discovery in 2003, where he has been Director of Media and Communications for the Center for Science and Culture.



## MICHAEL EGNOR

Michael R. Egnor, MD, is Professor of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics at State University of New York, Stony Brook, where he has served as the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and is an award-winning brain surgeon. He was named one of New York's best doctors by the New York Magazine in 2005. His book, *The Immortal Mind*, co-authored by Denyse O'Leary, was published by Worthy on June 3, 2025. He is on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Hydrocephalus Association in the U.S. and has lectured extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe.



## STEVE LAUFMANN

Steve Laufmann is a speaker, author, computer scientist, and consultant in the design of enterprise-class systems of information systems. He's known for his expertise in the difficulties of changing complex systems to perform new tasks. He leads the Engineering Research Group at Discovery Institute his book with Dr. Howard Glicksman, *Your Designed Body* (Discovery Institute Press, 2022), was recently condensed for republication as *Your Amazing Body*, to be released this fall.

# SPEAKERS



## CASEY LUSKIN

Dr. Casey Luskin is Associate Director and Senior Fellow in the Center for Science and Culture, where he helps direct the ID 3.0 Research Program. Luskin is a geologist and an attorney with graduate degrees in science and law, giving him expertise in both the scientific and legal dimensions of the debate over evolution. He earned his PhD in geology from the University of Johannesburg, and BS and MS degrees in earth sciences from the University of California, San Diego. His law degree is from the University of San Diego, focused on First Amendment law, education law, and environmental law.



## ELAINE MEYER

Elaine has worked for Discovery Institute in various capacities. For the past four years, as Director of Property Development, she has directed the renovations of Discovery's two properties in Cambridge, England. Before officially joining Discovery, she worked as a teacher (1st grade, 6th grade, and college), a worship leader, and a professional musician. She graduated from Whitworth College with degrees in education and nutrition, and subsequently qualified as a registered dietitian (R.D.) at Baylor Medical Center. She and Steve have three children and three grandchildren.



## DENYSE O'LEARY

Denyse O'Leary is a freelance journalist based in Victoria, Canada. Specializing in faith and science issues, she writes frequently for *Evolution News & Science Today* and *MindMatters*. She is co-author with neuroscientist Mario Beauregard of *The Spiritual Brain: A Neuroscientist's Case for the Existence of the Soul* (Harper One, 2008); and with neurosurgeon Michael Egnor of *The Immortal Mind: A Neurosurgeon's Case for the Existence of the Soul* (Worthy, 2025). She received her degree with honors in English language and literature.



## DANIEL REEVES

Daniel Reeves is Director of Education & Outreach with Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture. He holds a BA in biology with additional graduate studies in zoology. Before joining Discovery Institute, Daniel engaged in both field and laboratory research for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also has a passion for education and has taught science in both museums and public schools.



## HELPFUL TIPS



### Weather and Climate

Average temperatures in August range between 56 and 77 degrees, though it can reach as high as the low 80s. It is always advisable to be prepared for rain and clouds.



### What to Pack

The weather can change from day to day here in the Pacific Northwest. Because the hotel and theater are air-conditioned, it is best to bring a sweater or light jacket and to dress in layers. Attire for the opening dinner on Friday is business or dressy casual. Attire for the conference sessions, the closing dinner, and the theater event is casual.



### Airport to Hotel Transportation

Taxis, Uber, and Lyft operate between the Seattle-Tacoma airport and downtown Tacoma. Two shuttle services also offer reasonably priced options:

**Capital Aeroporter:** [capair.com/tacoma](http://capair.com/tacoma)

**Shuttle Express:** [shuttleexpress.com](http://shuttleexpress.com)



### Public Transportation

On-Demand Transit Service is offered from the Point Defiance Ferry Terminal to the Tacoma Dome Station along Ruston Way. From the Tacoma Dome, you can connect to transportation throughout downtown Tacoma. Book trips by downloading the GoIn App on your smartphone (search Pierce Transit Runner) or calling (253) 581-8000. Find out more at [piercetransit.org/runner/](http://piercetransit.org/runner/).

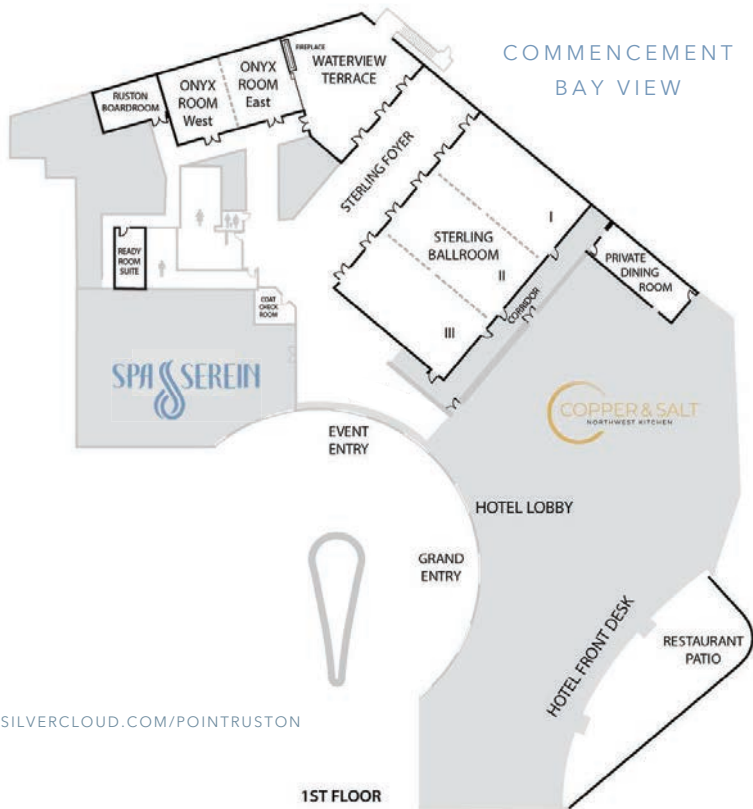


### Exploring Tacoma and the South Sound

Experience the finest restaurants, boutique shops, and exciting entertainment at Point Ruston Village. Take a relaxing stroll along the Ruston Way Waterwalk with spectacular shoreline views and enjoy a movie at the luxury-style theater. Point Ruston's urban community also offers a seasonal farmer's market with fresh produce and summer concerts with live local entertainment every week. Take a swing at Chamber's Bay world-class links golf course or explore nature at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Immerse yourself in the native culture by touring the Museum of Glass, inspired by Dale Chihuly. Go to [www.silvercloud.com/pointruston/neighborhood/](http://www.silvercloud.com/pointruston/neighborhood/) to find out more things to do.

If you are interested in exploring Tacoma, be sure to check out all the things to do at [www.traveltacoma.com/things-to-do/](http://www.traveltacoma.com/things-to-do/).

# HOTEL FLOOR PLAN



## HOTEL AND CONTACTS

**Silver Cloud Hotel Tacoma at Point Ruston Waterfront**  
5125 Grand Loop, Tacoma, WA 98407

**QUESTIONS?**  
**Kelley Unger 206-826-5548**  
**Andrea Waggoner 206-826-5539**

