

## UNCW Leadership Lecture Series

### 2020-2021 Season

#### **COVID-19**

##### ***Ibram X. Kendi- How To Be An AntiRacist***

Ibram X. Kendi is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling and National Book Award-winning author. His relentless and passionate research puts into question the notion of a post-racial society and opens readers' and audiences' eyes to the reality of racism in America today. Kendi's lectures are sharp, informative, and hopeful, serving as a strong platform for any institution's discussions on racism and being antiracist. Ibram X. Kendi is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University, and the founding director of the BU Center for Antiracist Research. Kendi is a contributing writer at *The Atlantic* and a CBS News correspondent. He will also become the 2020-2021 Frances B. Cashin Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for the Advanced Study at Harvard University. Kendi is the author of *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, which won the National Book Award for Nonfiction, and *The Black Campus Movement*, which won the W.E.B. Du Bois Book Prize. He is also the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestsellers, *How to Be an Antiracist*, and *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, a young adult remix of *Stamped from the Beginning*, co-authored with Jason Reynolds. He most recently authored the #1 Indie bestseller, *Antiracist Baby*, available as a board book and picture book for caretakers and little ones

### 2019-2020 Season

##### ***Tarana Burke***

Tarana Burke shares the heartbreaking story behind the genesis of the viral 2017 TIME Person Of The Year-winning 'me too' movement and gives strength and healing to those who have experienced sexual trauma or harassment. Tarana's powerful, poignant story as creator of what is now an international movement that supports survivors will move, uplift, and inspire you. Now a senior director of programs at Girls for Gender Equity, Tarana has dedicated more than 25 years of her life to social justice and to laying the groundwork for a movement that was initially created to help young women of color who survived sexual abuse and assault.

##### ***Vivian Howard***

Vivian Howard is a chef, author, and PBS personality from Deep Run, NC. She owns two restaurants in Kinston, NC: *Chef & the Farmer* and *Boiler Room Oyster*. In 2005, Vivian, and her now-husband, Ben Knight decided to return to Vivian's roots to open a farm to fork restaurant in the small town of Kinston, NC. They opened *Chef & the Farmer* in the summer of 2006 serving local, seasonal, creative cuisine. Over the past eight years, Chef Howard has developed strong relationships with local farmers making it possible to source over 70% of the restaurant's foodstuffs from within 60 miles.

##### ***Nyle DiMarco***

Nyle DiMarco is one of America's Next Top Model winners and is a high profile activist for the deaf community who inspires audiences to pursue their dreams with his message of self-belief and self-worth. Nyle DiMarco, winner of *Dancing with the Stars* and *America's Next Top Model*, empowers audiences to believe they can do and be anything they want in life, no matter the obstacle.

### 2018-2019 Season

##### ***Greg Lukianoff***

Greg Lukianoff is an attorney and the president of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education or FIRE. His writing has appeared in The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and The Boston Globe, in addition to dozens of other publications. He is a regular columnist for The Huffington Post and has frequently appeared on television, including the “CBS Evening News,” “Fox & Friends,” and “Stossel.” He received the 2008 Playboy Foundation Freedom of Expression Award and the 2010 FordHall Forum’s Louis P. and Evelyn Smith First Amendment Award on behalf of FIRE. He is a graduate of American University and Stanford Law School.

***Tarana Burke***

(rescheduled for fall 2019 due to Hurricane Florence)

***Gabby Rivera***

Gabby Rivera is a young, charming speaker dedicated to empowering women and improving our marginalized communities. She is currently making major waves for her new Marvel series starring America Chavez: a queer, Latinx superhero who has been written and designed, crucially, by a queer Latinx. Gabby is also the author of *Juliet Takes a Breath*, a young adult novel listed by Mic as one of the 25 essential books to read for women’s history month.

***Derreck Kayongo***

Derreck Kayongo and his family fled a civil war in Uganda and settled in the U.S. when he was just ten years old. Now a successful entrepreneur, Kayongo is a renowned expert in environmental sustainability and global health, as the founder of the Global Soap Project which takes donated, melted, purified and reprocessed hotel soap and redistributes it to vulnerable populations around the world. He is also the former CEO of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, which capitalizes on the immersive management and leadership experience he has developed over the last 20 years working for Noble Peace Prize winning-organizations like Amnesty International and the American Friends Service Committee.

2017-2018 Season

***Brandon Stanton***

Brandon Stanton shares his journey of personal growth and discovery, and uncovers the stories behind the stories featured on Humans of New York, powerfully illustrating the value of sharing your experiences. As the founder of the street portrait blog, Humans of New York, Brandon has emerged as a worldwide Internet phenomenon and one of today’s most influential storytellers. With millions of social media followers, his individual story, like those on HONY, illustrates the power of the Internet, the value of storytelling, and our desire to remain connected with real people in a tech-driven world.

***Sally Kohn & Tara Setmayer***

Noted progressive Sally Kohn and conservative Tara Setmayer bring their spirited debate from television broadcasts to live audiences to tackle some of the biggest issues of the day. In unique and engaging presentations, Kohn and Setmayer offer valuable insight and thought-provoking perspective on partisan issues ranging from climate change and Wall Street largesse to Black Lives Matter and tax cuts. Frequent sparring partners as Political Commentators on CNN, Kohn and Setmayer are as partisan as it gets—yet value relationships and civility over dogma, demonstrating that it is possible to “disagree without being disagreeable” with intelligence and humor.

2016-2017 Season

***Scott Dickers***

Online satirical news website The Onion took the internet by storm in 1996 after eight years as a print newspaper. Scott Dikkers, a comedy writer and filmmaker, is a founding editor of the publication. Dikkers will bring humor to this dramatic election year and bring to light the value of information literacy in the modern world.

### ***Sarah Pressman***

Sarah Pressman is an Associate Professor of Psychology & Social Behavior at the University of California, Irvine. Her research focuses on the interplay between positive emotions, social relationships, stress, and health, with a focus on the physiological processes that underlie these associations. She runs the The STEP (STress, Emotion, & Physical health) Laboratory and is the brain behind the TEDTalk “Why Doctor’s Should Care About Your Happiness.” She will discuss resiliency in the face of trauma through the lens of Chris Cleave’s Little Bee.

### ***Jennifer Thompson, Picking Cotton***

This is a North Carolina story about Jennifer Thompson, who is an advocate for judicial reform, combating sexual violence, death penalty abolition, the fallibility of eyewitness testimony, and the healing power of forgiveness. Her strong convictions were born of a brutal rape suffered as a 22-year-old college student at Elon University. Her testimony sent an innocent young man to a life term in prison. That man, Ronald Cotton, was eventually freed thanks to his persistence in maintaining his innocence and newly developed DNA tests which identified the true perpetrator. Together, they co-authored *Picking Cotton*, a memoir and New York Times best-seller that recounts the tragedy that brought them together and importance of reforms to the justice system, along with the role of forgiveness and grace in their lives.

### ***Bennet Omalu***

Physician, forensic pathologist, and neuropathologist, Dr. Omalu discovered chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) after examining former NFL players. Journalist Jeanne Marie Laskas wrote a book on Dr. Omalu's efforts to study and publicize CTE despite vigorous opposition from the NFL. The book, *Concussion* was adapted into a film in which Dr. Omalu is portrayed by Will Smith.

2015-2016 – Season

### ***Vikram Gandhi- Synergy Keynote***

Vikram Gandhi is an award-winning director of narrative and documentary films. He grew up consuming equal parts ancient Indian mythology and American movies. In 2010, Vikram combined his passion for mythology and film to create *Kumaré: The True Story of a False Prophet*, a documentary about the time Vikram impersonated a fake guru named Sri Kumaré and built a devoted following of real people. Vikram is an HBO’s *Vice* as a producer and correspondent.

### ***Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Leroy Petry***

Leroy Petry a member of the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, served as a grenadier, squad automatic rifleman, fire team leader, squad leader, operations sergeant and a weapons squad leader. Petry deployed eight times in support of overseas contingency operations with two tours to Iraq and six tours to Afghanistan. During one of his eight deployments while serving in the US Army, Mr. Petry lost his hand when he picked up and threw a grenade to save his fellow Rangers from being wounded or killed during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008. He received the Medal of Honor for his bravery and heroism.

### ***Roxane Gay***

Roxane Gay’s presence is unmatched in the world of words. With a deft eye on modern culture, she masterfully critiques its ebb and flow through our society and social media. In her readings and lectures,

she navigates her sharp wit through entertainment and culture, particularly the consumption of television, news, movies, sports, literature and comedy. *Bad Feminist*, her collection of essays, continues to garner international acclaim for its reflective, no-holds-barred exploration of feminism.

### ***Jerry Greenfield***

Jerry Greenfield and his long-time friend and business partner Ben Cohen are the men behind one of the most talked-about, and least conventional success stories in American business. Co-founder of Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc., Greenfield has helped to build a store front venture into an ice cream and business marvel by making social responsibility and creative management strengths, rather than weaknesses. With his best seller, *Ben & Jerry's Double-Dip: How to Run a Values Led Business and Make Money Too* (co-authored with Cohen), Greenfield created both a nuts-and-bolts guidebook to the promise and pitfalls of "values-led" business, and an inspiring wake-up call about the growing international influence of the "socially conscious" or "mission driven" corporation.

### 2014-15 Season

#### ***Wade Davis***

Wade Davis is a nationally acclaimed speaker, activist, writer and educator. Davis was the first NFL football player to come out as gay, becoming an instant role model for the LGBTQ community. Davis is the Executive Director of the You Can Play Project, an organization dedicated to ending discrimination and homophobia in sports. He is the co-founder of the You Belong Initiative, a Youth Sports and Leadership camp for LGBTQ and straight allied youth.

#### ***Ernest Cline – Synergy Speaker***

The author of the 2014-15 Synergy Common Reading book *Ready Player One*, Ernest Cline is no stranger to the world of technology and video games. Self-described as the "Biggest Geek in History," Cline's childhood centered around comic books and sci-fi novels, Dungeons & Dragons and video arcades. A *New York Times* bestseller, *Ready Player One* takes the reader on a thrilling ride while providing a commentary on the relationship between people and technology. The book is scheduled to be adapted into a film. Additionally, Cline performs slam poetry, and his work is featured on NPR and CBC Radio.

#### ***Piper Kerman***

In the critically acclaimed memoir-turned Netflix series *Orange is the New Black*, Piper Kerman recounts the year she spent in a correctional facility. Kerman's book is a compelling and moving conversation about the women she met while incarcerated, raising issues of friendship and family, codes of behavior, and the almost complete lack of guidance for life after prison. Now, Kerman advocates for change in the prison system, speaking to groups that include federal probation officers, public defenders, and formerly incarcerated people.

### 2013-14 Season

#### ***Donna Brazile – Women in American Politics: Are We There Yet?***

Ranked in the *Washingtonian's* top 100 most powerful women, veteran political strategist Donna Brazile has worked on every presidential campaign from 1976 to 2000, as well as being the first African-American to manage a presidential campaign. Brazile brings her original perspective to American politics, race relations, women in politics and diversity.

#### ***Dr. Daniel Pauly – Sea Around Us***

Arguably the world's most well-known fisheries scientist, Dr. Daniel Pauly is certainly the most prolific and widely cited. Pauly brings his global perspective and passion for conservation to fisheries, striving to promote a healthier ocean and consequently, a better planet.

***Jose Antonio Vargas – Define American***

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, former lecturer at Georgetown University and an undocumented immigrant, at age sixteen, Vargas discovered he was an undocumented immigrant and, despite his immense success as a journalist, he kept his immigration status a secret until recently. Vargas seeks to elevate the conversation about immigration and challenge notions of what defines "American."

2012-13 Season

***Edwidge Danticat – Love in the Time of Massacres***

Author of *The Farming of the Bones*, *The Dewbreaker* and National Book Critics' Circle Award *Brother I'm Dying*, explores global and Haitian issues affecting women and society at-large.

***Cleve Jones – The Power you Have to Make a Difference***

The creator of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, and founder of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, his advocacy, which began with his friendship with activist Harvey Milk, reaches further, focusing on empowering all people.

***Joe Klein – Leadership Lessons from Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan***

Author of Time Magazine's "In the Arena," the National Headliner Award winner for Best Magazine Column, opens a discussion of issues surrounding veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Klein asks, "What can we learn about our country, about our time, and about leadership from the Next Greatest Generation?"

***Colonel Eileen Collins – Leadership Lessons from Apollo to Discovery***

Collins recounts her own leadership experiences as the first female space shuttle pilot and commander, and offers her unique perspective on the future of the space program in America.

2011-12 Season

***Anna Deavere Smith – Snapshots: Glimpses of America in Change***

Unique blend of social commentary and theatre, focusing on community and diversity in America.

***Morgan Spurlock – The Greatest Lecture Ever Told!***

Exploration of increasingly pervasive marketing and advertising.

***Bryant Terry – Food Justice***

Food justice activism and healthy plant-based eating.

***Rebecca Skloot – The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks***

The story of Henrietta Lacks and what it reveals about the history of genetics and the once-common experimentation on African Americans.

2010-11 Season

***Colin Beavan – No Impact Man***

Low environmental impact lifestyle.

**Douglas Rushkoff** – *Digital Nation: Living and Learning on the Virtual Frontier*  
What is the impact of advanced communications technology on modern human living?

**Temple Grandin** – *Thinking in Pictures and Other Reports from My Life with Autism*  
Insights on human and animal minds, autism, and Grandin's life as a high-functioning autistic member of society.

**Michael Sandel** – *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*  
Examination of moral principles at play in contemporary thinking.

#### 2009-10 Season

**Chris Abani** – *Stories of Struggle, Stories of Hope: Art, Politics, and Human Rights*  
Literary portrayals of humanity and judgments about what constitutes a human.

**Matt Bai** – *The Generational Change in American Politics and Society: Obama and Beyond*  
An examination of the contemporary political climate.

**Jonathan Kozol** – *Joy and Justice: An Invitation to Serve the Children of the Poor*  
Kozol describes his own unique background working in underserved community schools and attempts to inspire others to follow him.

**Gary Hirshberg** – *Green Business: The Next Frontier*  
Hirshberg discusses how companies can embrace environmentalism to their own advantage.

#### 2008-09 Season

**Naomi Wolf** – *End of America: A Citizen's Call to Action*  
Wolf warns Americans to restore accountability and balance to government.

**Richard Leakey** – *Why Our Origins Matter*  
Richard Leakey discusses human origins and his own work in Kenya's Great Rift Valley.

**Marcelo Suarez-Orozco** – *Immigration and the Future of Education*  
Globalization's impact on immigration and education, what is a global education?

**Sherman Alexie** – *The Partially True Story of the True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*  
Stereotype-defying narratives from the author of life as a contemporary American Indian.

#### 2007-08 Season

**Tim Flannery** – *The Weathermakers: How Man is Changing the Climate*  
Connection between global warming/climate change and human activity.

**Azar Nafisi** – *The Republic of the Imagination*  
Author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran* speaks on advocacy for Iran's women, youth, and intellectuals.

**Jamaica Kincaid** – *Coming of Age in a Small Place*  
Author explores effects of colonization and globalization on developing nations.

***Stephen Lewis*** – *Winning the Battle Against Poverty and Disease in the Developing World*  
Lewis discusses the AIDS crisis and offers solutions to the problem of disease around the world.