

## SPRING 2021

\*All Convocations online

JAN. 18      7:00 PM      **MONDAY**

**DR. DREW G. I. HART** *Keep Moving Toward Justice* This year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will feature welcomes from Mayor Fraley, and Chief Scott from the City of Berea as well as President Roelofs of Berea College. We will hear musical performances from the Black Music Ensemble, the Blue Grass Ensemble, and an original piece "I Won't Be Quiet" by Abigail Sell, performed by The Folk Roots Ensemble. We will see the premiere of two short form theater pieces "Say Her Name: Breonna Taylor" and "Empty Chairs" written and performed by Amoni Adair and we will hear from our keynote speaker, Dr. Drew G. I. Hart.

Dr. Drew G. I. Hart is a professor in theology, an author, and an activist with ten years of pastoral experience. His undergraduate work was in biblical studies at Messiah College, he received his Masters of Divinity degree with an urban concentration at Biblical Seminary, and he earned a PhD in the field of theology and ethics at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

After his undergraduate studies Drew spent most of his time pastoring and mentoring black and brown youth, working for an inner city after-school program, and working closely with Philadelphia based nonprofits. Today, along with teaching theology, Drew continues to partner with community groups and churches across the country by facilitating anti-racism trainings, seminars, as well as delivering lectures and talks for colleges and conferences.

Regularly speaking across the country Drew brings together his pastoral experience with his academic training to challenge us all to keep moving toward justice. He has been particularly invested in writing and speaking about white supremacy/racism and their entanglements with western Christianity, but Drew also speaks and writes about Christian discipleship, western Christendom, Christian history, liberation and oppression, radical peacemaking and nonviolent resistance, and urban ministry. Co-sponsored with the Black Cultural Center, Carter G. Woodson Center, African and African-American Studies, CCC, and the Office of the President. **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Convocation.**

FEB. 4      No convocation

FEB. 18 **New date**      7:00 PM Moderator: Kristina Gamble, Director, Black Cultural Center

**DR. TA'KEIA ANTHONY** *Sankofa: Learning from the Past to Build for the Future.* We have come this far by faith; but faith without work is dead. Africans and their descendants in the United States have been fighting for freedoms, rights, equality, and equity since their arrival on the shores. Dr. Anthony, Associate Professor of History at Kentucky State University, will discuss various leaders and explore various forms of resistance from the past as they relate to the current struggle of African-Americans. **Carter G. Woodson Memorial Convocation.**

FEB. 25 7:00 PM Moderator: Rev. Dr. Loretta Reynolds, Dean of Chapel  
**FATHER GREGORY BOYLE** *The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness*. Gregory Boyle will share what he has learned in three decades working with marginalized populations at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, Calif.—that love is the answer, community is the context, and tenderness is the connective tissue. Tenderness reflects the foundational notion that there are no us and them, only us. Homeboy seeks to be what the world is invited to become. Kinship cannot happen without tenderness. Sponsored by the Willis D. Weatherford, Jr. Campus Christian Center (CCC). **Robbins Peace Lecture**.

MAR. 4 No convocation

MAR. 11 7:00 PM Introduction: Dr. Thomas Ahrens, Director of Convocations  
**FRANCESCA DEGO** *Mozart & Beethoven Sonatas*. Celebrated for her sonorous tone, compelling interpretations, and flawless technique, Italian violinist Francesca Dego is among the most sought after young musicians. She plays on a precious Francesco Ruggeri violin built in 1697. Her international career has allowed Dego to perform classical repertoire alongside many esteemed conductors worldwide, such as Sir Roger Norrington, Karen Durgaryan, and Christopher Hogwood, among others. **Stephenson Memorial Concert**.

MAR. 18 7:00 PM Moderator: TBA  
**TAMARA SANDBERG** *Food Insecurity in the U.S.: Exploring Causes and Solutions*. Tamara Sandberg serves as Save the Children's U.S. Food Security and Nutrition Advisor. Committed to meeting the most urgent needs of children during the COVID-19 pandemic, Save the Children established Sandberg's position in 2020 after seeing first-hand the sharp increase in children struggling with hunger in rural communities. Tamara is responsible for helping lead the global nonprofit's emerging work to ensure children across rural America are getting the nutritious meals they need to succeed in school and in life. An anti-hunger advocate since first volunteering at a local soup kitchen while in high school, Sandberg was the director of Feeding Kentucky (formerly the Kentucky Association of Food Banks) for a decade, and is a recipient of the National Association of Secretaries of State medallion in recognition of her work to end hunger. She will discuss hunger through the lenses of the pandemic and racial justice, exploring root causes and potential solutions, with a special emphasis on rural communities and both local and national level solutions. Co-sponsored with the Center for Excellence in Learning through Service (CELTS).

MAR. 25 No convocation

APR. 1 No convocation

APR. 8            7:00 PM            Introduction: Dr. Thomas Ahrens, Director of Convocations  
**CARRIE NEWCOMER** *The Point of Arrival*. Known for emotionally intimate songs that explore the personal, political, and spiritual with compassion, insight, and wit, American singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer has become a mainstay on the contemporary folk scene. With her warm yet assertive voice guiding her songs, she has embraced stylistic elements of acoustic folk and folk-rock.

APR. 15            7:00 PM            Moderator: Dr. Shadee Malaklou, Asst. Professor & Chair, Women's and Gender Studies  
**IBTI MUHAMMAD** *Navigating Life and Sport as a Black Muslim Woman: A conversation with Olympian Ibtihaj Muhammad*. Join us for a conversation with 2016 Olympic bronze medalist Ibtihaj Muhammad, the first American woman to compete in hijab. As a sports ambassador for the U.S. Department of State's Empowering Women and Girls through Sport Initiative and named one of TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People, Ibtihaj is a self-described "change agent" and—as Mattel describes her— "shero" to young girls everywhere. In conversation with Berea College's own Dr. M. Shadee Malaklou, Assistant Professor and Chair of Women's and Gender Studies, Ibtihaj will speak with us about what it means to pursue what she describes in her memoir as "an unlikely American dream," about how she navigates professional sports as a celebrity Black Muslim woman, about her feminist entrepreneurship as the founder of the modest clothing company Louella, and about her first children's book, the New York Times Best Seller *The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family*. In it, Ibtihaj insists—as Berea College does—that our differences are worth celebrating, writing, "My hijab is part of me." Co-sponsored with Women's and Gender Studies.

APR. 29            7:00PM            Moderator: Dr. Chris Green, Director, Appalachian Center & Assoc. Professor of Appalachian Studies  
**BILL ESTEP** *Reporting on Appalachian Kentucky*. Bill Estep has reported on Appalachian Kentucky since 1985 for the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. While the coal industry has withered and substance abuse worsened, the region has also improved its schools and stepped up efforts to diversify and rebuild the economy. Estep will share lessons learned from 38 years of covering Appalachian Kentucky, as well as the joys and difficulties of reporting about this region where he grew up and lives. The region has too often been subjected to assumptions and stereotypes that distort understanding of Appalachia and its people. One job Estep and the paper undertake is to provide insight into the region and its people for a local, state, and national audience. That has become more challenging in an era of deep political and cultural division and erosion of traditional media. Newspapers remain a vital source of information for our society, covering issues and stories that most other media outlets don't. They have to find a way to continue that mission as Appalachia feels its way forward. Co-sponsored with LJAC. **Appalachian Lecture**

MAY 6            7:00 PM            Moderator: Silas House  
**MARGARET RENKL** *The Link between Happiness and Creativity*. Our ancestors didn't think of creativity as a side gig. A quilt was meant to keep a family warm. It was meant to give a new practical use to the unworn bits of worn-out clothes. But our family quilts were never simply warm and never simply practical. They were beautiful, and making them brought their makers happiness. Renkl, an author and contributing opinion writer for the New York Times, believes

that expressing our own creativity—whether through painting or gardening or singing or dancing or writing or, yes, needlework—is one of the ways we bring meaning to our lives. **Woods Lecture.**

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