

2024-2025

WITTENBERG SERIES

Enlightening Campus and Community

Fred R. Leventhal Family Lecture

Robert Samuels

**Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author
and *Washington Post* Journalist**

**“His Name is George Floyd: One Man’s
Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice”**

7 p.m. Thursday, April 24, 2025

Weaver Chapel



Robert Samuels

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR
AND *WASHINGTON POST* JOURNALIST

Robert Samuels, award-winning *Washington Post* journalist, earned the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for *His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice*, a book he co-authored with Toluse Olorunnipa. Described by Henry Louis Gates Jr. as “a chronicle of the racial awakening sparked by [Floyd’s] brutal and untimely death,” the book received the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Nonfiction and was named a 2022 finalist for the National Book Award for nonfiction.

A national enterprise reporter, Samuels’ work for *The Washington Post* focuses on politics, policy, and the changing American identity, as well as social issues in the District of Columbia. He also serves as the newsroom’s analyst for figure skating. He previously worked for *The New Yorker* and the *Miami Herald*, and his features have earned the George Polk Award for justice reporting, the Peabody Award for “The Life of George Floyd” podcast, and the National Association of Black Journalists Award for Investigative Reporting.

Samuels was born and raised in New York City. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, where he is the only student to have served as editor-in-chief at both the school newspaper and the Black student magazine. An adjunct faculty member at Wake Forest University, he teaches a seminar on the history of race reporting and its impact on democracy.

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Michael L. Frandsen, Ph.D.
President

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKERS

Zora Shakhan, Class of 2025

ADDRESS

“His Name is George Floyd: One Man’s
Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice”
Robert Samuels

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Following the address, books will be
available for purchase, and Robert Samuels
will do a book signing.

Earlier today, Samuels participated in a
Lunch and Learn event with students,
faculty, and staff, and visited the
Communication & Digital Media Senior
Seminar: Communications Ethics.

THANKS

This Wittenberg Series event is made
possible by a gift to Wittenberg University
from the Fred R. Leventhal family.

PAST LEVENTHAL LECTURERS

2023-2024

Eli Saslow, Author and Writer At-Large
for *The New York Times*

2018-2019

Seth M. Siegel, Author

2017-2018

J.D. Vance, Author

2016-2017

Ernesto Sirolli and Loren Cardeli,
Economic Developer and
Enterprise Facilitator

2015-2016

Nicholas D. Kristof,
Pulitzer Prize-Winning
New York Times Columnist

2014-2015

Michio Kaku, Physicist and Author

2013-2014

Dave Barry, Writer and Humorist

2012-2013

Gwen Ifill, Journalist

2011-2012

H.W. Brands, Historian

2010-2011

Jonathan Safran Foer, Author

2009-2010

Greg Mortenson,
Humanitarian

2008-2009

Daniel Goleman, Psychologist

2007-2008

Brigitte Gabriel, Journalist

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Opening Convocation & Welcome

Amy Bok McGuffey, Ph.D. '95
2024 Alumni Association
Distinguished Teaching Award
Recipient
3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024
Pam Evans Smith Arena
Health, Wellness & Athletics
Complex

Allen J. Koppenhaver Literary Lecture

Susan Burton
Author and Award-Winning
Podcaster
7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28, 2024
Weaver Chapel

Candlelight Service

Lessons and Carols for Advent &
Christmas
7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, 2024
Weaver Chapel
(Special music at 7 p.m.)

Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation

Nic Stone
Bestselling Author and Racial and
Social Justice Advocate
10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20, 2025
Weaver Chapel

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