

WORKLIFE CHALLENGE

MAIN STAGE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS /



Deborah Roberts

Family Wisdom for Modern Times

An award winning correspondent for ABC News' *20/20*, Deborah Roberts is a versatile and highly respected journalist with a broad range of expertise. Her presentation on work life balance is personal. She and her husband, "Al Roker" just published *Been There, Done That*. And it's all about the balance that both of them have had to find in their lives. They have a special needs child and they've both had to make compromises and decisions about their personal and professional lives to accommodate their family, their marriage and their jobs.

Deborah Roberts joined the ABC newsmagazine "20/20" in June 1995. Since then she has also served as a substitute anchor on Good Morning America and World News Weekend. Roberts reports regularly on a wide variety of stories for the newsmagazine program and for "World News with Diane Sawyer."

She has reported from Africa on the HIV/AIDS crisis and orphans, and the CA wildfires, which earned her an Emmy award. She also was awarded an Emmy for her emotional, in-depth reporting on an Ethiopian American woman's journey back to Africa to find her mother and for her work with ABC's millennium coverage. Roberts also won a Clarion award for her coverage of abuse within the Amish community.

Roberts began her network career with NBC News in 1990 as a general assignment correspondent. She covered stories in the Atlanta and Miami bureaus of NBC News and later became a correspondent for Dateline NBC from the program's inception. She also reported from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, and from the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain where she earned an Emmy nomination for her coverage.

Previously, Roberts was the bureau chief of WFTV-TV, the ABC affiliate in Orlando, Florida, from February 1987 to May 1990. She also served as the station's field anchor for NASA and as a co-anchor of the weekend news. Roberts began her career in 1982 at WTVM-TV in Columbus, Georgia, and subsequently worked at WBIR-TV in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she was highly regarded for her coverage of the state legislature.

A 1982 graduate of the University of Georgia, Roberts was awarded the 1992 University of Georgia Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented annually to recent graduates who have excelled rapidly in their professions. She also earned a Sports Emmy nomination for her coverage of the 1992 Olympics; was cited as top local female anchor by the Orlando Sentinel; and was recently awarded the Clarion Award for her investigative story on the Amish.

Roberts resides in Manhattan with her husband, NBC weatherman Al Roker, and their two children.



Michael Kimmel

The Gendered Society

Michael Kimmel is one of the world's leading experts on men and masculinities. He is the SUNY Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University. Among his many books are *Manhood in America*, *Angry White Men*, *The Politics of Manhood*, *The Gendered Society* and the best seller *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*. With funding from the MacArthur Foundation, he founded the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities at Stony Brook in 2013.

A tireless advocate of engaging men to support gender equality, Kimmel has lectured at more than 300 college, universities and high schools. He has delivered the International Women's Day annual lecture at the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Europe, and has worked with the Ministers for Gender Equality of Norway, Denmark and Sweden in developing programs for boys and men. He consults widely with corporations, NGOs and public sector organizations on gender equity issues. He was recently called "the world's most prominent male feminist" in *The Guardian* newspaper in London.



Jessica Shortall

Workplace Balance and the War on Talent

What do breastfeeding and paid leave for working mothers, sustainable eye care, hunger, green investing, giving shoes and the business case for LGBT equality have in common? For Jessica Shortall, they have all been opportunities to change the world: challenges that need sustainable solutions and require a deep understanding of market forces, audiences, and cultures. They all require an intense dive into data, and they all benefit from powerful storytelling. Jessica Shortall's widely varied career has been dedicated to doing good, sustainably and intelligently. She is a firm believer that idealism and realism can and should be best friends.

Shortall has provided strategy consulting to dozens of businesses, social enterprises, non-profit organizations and campaigns in the US, UK and beyond. Her first book published in September 2015, *Work. Pump. Repeat: The New Mom's Guide to Surviving Breastfeeding and Going Back to Work*, was inspired by her own experiences of circumnavigating the globe with a breast pump. She interviewed hundreds of working mothers and dozens of HR professionals to create a practical, relatable, judgment-free guide for women who want to try to continue breastfeeding after they've returned to work. Her TEDx talk on the moral and economic case for paid family leave has garnered more than 1.25 million views. Jessica writes on working parenthood for publications such as The Atlantic, ELLE Magazine, The Bump, and more. She is also a regular contributor to Forbes.com, where she profiles and examines people who follow highly untraditional and eclectic career journeys.

Shortall started her adult life as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan, and she haven't stopped searching for ways to change the world since, across non-profit and for-profit worlds. In the early 2000s, she co-founded and franchised a non-profit organization, The Campus Kitchens Project, that is now active in more than 40 communities. She has provided counsel to dozens of social enterprises. Jessica has an MBA with honors from the University of Oxford in the UK, where she was a Skoll Scholar in Social Entrepreneurship. From 2009 to 2014, she was the first Director of Giving at TOMS Shoes, hired to build out the now-iconic One for One giving mission and strategy.

She lives in Dallas with her husband Clay and their children Otis and Etta. Before having children, she used to enjoy yoga, cooking, travel, and a lot of other activities. Currently she's just hanging on for dear life.



Dan Thurmon

Off Balance on Purpose: Work Life Integration that's Possible, Not Perfect

Dan Thurmon is the author of two books, a renowned speaker, and a recognized expert in delivering peak performances – on stage and in the workplace. As president of Motivation Works, Inc., he has worked with hundreds of clients and delivered thousands of presentations worldwide. Dan helps organizations and individuals implement actions plans and move confidently through transitions.

He began his performance career at eleven years old, crafting a one-man-show incorporating comedy, juggling and acrobatics. This enabled him to, at a very early age, develop a strong work ethic and learn fundamental lessons about performance excellence. Dan graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Marketing and Management. He has also extensively studied Personal Development and developed a unique methodology he teaches to audiences and clients.

A recent inductee to the prestigious “Speakers Hall of Fame,” Dan Thurmon delivers experiences that go beyond motivation, teaching concepts and skills in a highly engaging and entertaining manner. He incorporates his lifelong performance skills to create high impact events. His programs have educated and uplifted Fortune 500 companies, young audiences, and even the troops on the front lines of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Dan’s philosophy can be summarized by the title of his book, *Off Balance On Purpose*. He believes that we will never achieve “perfect balance” and should, instead, learn to embrace uncertainty and initiate positive changes that lead to growth. Also, we should go beyond the pursuit of “success” and enhance our life experiences and professional endeavors with purposeful, positive contributions.



Shabnam Mogharabi

The Infectious Power of Joy

Shabnam Mogharabi is CEO and Executive Producer at SoulPancake, talks about the infectious power of joy, and using it to change the world.

SoulPancake, an award-winning media and entertainment company founded by actor Rainn Wilson that explores 'Life's Big Questions'. SoulPancake spreads joy and celebrates the human experience by producing and curating uplifting, thought-provoking content that is distributed on television, online, at live events, and through branded engagements.

Shabnam joined SoulPancake at its launch in March 2009 as the co-director of content of SoulPancake.com. She is one of the co-authors of the New York Times bestselling book SoulPancake: Chew on Life's Big Questions. Today, she is developing the long-term strategic plans for the company's ever-expanding business in Los Angeles. Under her leadership, the company's revenue has more than doubled in the past year.

Prior to SoulPancake, Shabnam was an award-winning journalist and magazine editor covering entertainment, finance, real estate, and home design. A California native, Shabnam holds a master's in publishing from Northwestern University and a bachelor's from USC, where she double-majored in business administration and journalism, with a minor in comparative religion. Yes, she is an overachiever.



Jane Miller

Women in America: Work and a Life Well-Lived

Jane Miller is a thought leader in performance management, leadership and organizational identity. She is passionate about maximizing the potential of employees and celebrating

and developing talent for the future. Over her career, Jane has helped revolutionize the workplace through a unique and groundbreaking philosophy that emphasizes strengths as the lens through which organizations can select, manage, motivate, develop and ultimately engage employees.

Jane is the Chief Operating Officer at Gallup and also serves as a director and an owner. She is responsible for all operational and client service aspects of the forward-thinking research, consulting and education organization. Her leadership team represents the best practices of The Gallup Path, an innovative framework for driving business performance. Jane is particularly committed to mentoring and advancing women in business. Her community leadership includes: Chairman for the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, trustee of the Peter Kiewit Foundation, serving on the boards of Creighton University and the Omaha Zoological Society. Jane is a recipient of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce Women in Leadership Award and has been named an honorary chair for ICAN, Girls Inc. and TeamMates.



Aaron Davis

Tales from an Alpha Dad

Aaron Davis has shared with over a million people about performing like a champion from personal experience! As a member of the 1994 National Championship Nebraska Football team and working with numerous corporations & organizations, he understands firsthand what it takes to perform like a champion & experience incredible results both personally & professionally!

Aaron is not just a speaker “telling” other companies and individuals how to succeed. He’s in the trenches everyday as the President of his own consulting & speaking firm & also a partner in a small software firm.

He’s a Husband, Father and Author and a fanatic about golf (although he’s not very good).