

TED2008
Wed., Feb. 27 – Sat., March 1
Monterey, California

TUESDAY

2008/02/26

14:00-22:00

Registration

WEDNESDAY

2008/02/27

07:30-21:00

Registration

10:00-12:00

Pre-Conference Bonus

TED UNIVERSITY

A complete semester of six courses in two hours, selected from 30 TED professors

13:30-15:15

Session 1

Who are we?

WADE DAVIS: Anthropologist

Wade Davis travels the globe to live alongside indigenous people and document cultural practices throughout our "ethnosphere."

LOUISE LEAKEY: Paleoanthropologist

Louise Leakey hunts for hominid fossils in East Africa, in the family tradition. She and her mother, Meave, recently found bones that may redraw our evolutionary tree.

CHRIS JORDAN: Artist

Chris Jordan runs the numbers on modern life, making large-format, long-zoom artwork out of our most mindblowing stats.

JILL BOLTE TAYLOR: Neuroanatomist

Brain researcher Jill Bolte Taylor studied her own stroke as it happened -- and has become a passionate advocate for the brain's resilience.

15:15-16:00

Conversation Break

16:00-17:45

Session 2

What is our place in the universe?

PATRICIA BURCHAT: Particle physicist

Patricia Burchat studies the structure and distribution of matter, anti-matter, dark matter and dark energy.

JOHN HODGMAN: Expert

John Hodgman is a writer, humorist, geek celebrity, former professional literary agent and self-proclaimed expert on all world knowledge.

PETER WARD: Paleontologist

Peter D. Ward studies mass extinctions, and is also co-author of "Rare Earth," arguing that perhaps no other planet has the circumstances to permit intelligent life.

SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR: Spiritual teacher

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has devoted his life to breath, meditation and radiating love to his millions of followers.

KAKI KING: Guitarist

Kaki King combines jaw-dropping guitar technique with dreamy, searching songwriting.

17:45-18:15

Conversation Break

19:00-21:00

Opening Reception

THURSDAY

20080228

07:30-20:30

Registration

08:30-10:15

Session 3

What is life?

CRAIG VENTER: Geneticist

Craig Venter has sequenced his own genome and mapped the ocean's DNA diversity. Now he's working to create the first synthetic lifeforms.

PAUL ROTHEMUND: DNA origamist

Paul Rothemund folds DNA -- a simple enough thing to say, but with vast implications for creating things we can now only dream of.

SUSAN BLACKMORE: Psychologist, memeticist

In her book *The Meme Machine*, and her subsequent work, Susan Blackmore is credited with turning Richard Dawkins' concept of the meme into a fully fledged theory of how human brains co-evolved with this strange new life form.

DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN: Historian

Doris Kearns Goodwin writes insightful books on the US Presidency (JFK, LBJ, FDR, and Lincoln, so far), telling each President's personal story against the backdrop of history.

10:15-11:15

Conversation Break

11:15-13:00

Session 4

Is beauty truth?

NANCY ETCOFF: Evolutionary psychologist

Psychologist Nancy Etcoff researches beauty and how we perceive it. Her book "Survival of the Prettiest" suggests that perception of beauty is a human universal.

THOMAS KRENS: Director, Guggenheim Foundation

Thomas Krens shaped New York's Guggenheim into a worldwide museum brand, with outposts in Spain, Germany, Las Vegas and soon Abu Dhabi.

GARRETT LISI: Physicist

Freelance physicist Garrett Lisi is the "surfer dude" who has proposed an elegant new "theory of everything" -- a unified theory that explains all the particles and forces in the universe.

13:00-14:30

Lunch

14:30-16:15

Session 5

Will evil prevail?

IRWIN REDLENER: Child advocate, disaster preparedness expert

Irwin Redlener is a prominent critic of America's disaster preparedness, and author of the book "Americans at Risk: Why We Are Not Prepared for Megadisasters and What We Can Do Now

STEVEN EMERSON: Investigative journalist

Steven Emerson is a terrorist investigator who studies Islamic terrorist organizations and works to uncover their presence in the US.

PHILIP ZIMBARDO: Social psychologist

Philip Zimbardo demonstrates how ordinary people can be moved to perform evil -- and heroic -- acts via small changes to their environment.

SAMANTHA POWER: Political scientist and journalist

Samantha Power studies US foreign policy especially as it relates to war and human rights. She's the author of "A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide," and an advisor to Barack Obama.

16:15-17:15

Conversation Break

17:15-19:00

Session 6

How can we change the world?

NEIL TUROK: Cosmologist, education activist

2008 TED Prize winner Neil Turok explains the big bang as a collision between two "brane-worlds" that existed before our universe did. He is the founder of a math and sciences academy in South Africa.

DAVE EGGERS: Author, publisher, activist

2008 TED Prize winner Dave Eggers publishes "McSweeney's, The Believer" and the DVD journal "Wholpin"; runs the 826 Valencia writing and tutoring labs; and advocates for teachers and human rights.

KAREN ARMSTRONG: Religious scholar

2008 TED Prize winner Karen Armstrong is a provocative, original thinker on the role of religion in the modern world.

VUSI MAHLASELA: Musician, activist

South African singer-songwriter Vusi Mahlasela was a crucial artistic voice during the fight against apartheid, and now in the new modern-day nation.

19:00-22:00

TED Prize Gala

FRIDAY

20080229

07:30-19:30

Registration

08:30-10:15

Session 7

How do we create?

AMY TAN: Writer

Amy Tan is the author of "The Joy Luck Club," "The Kitchen God's Wife," "The Hundred Secret Senses," "The Bonesetter's Daughter," and "Saving Fish from Drowning."

YVES BEHAR: Designer

Yves Behar has produced some of the new millennium's most coveted objects: the Jawbone headset, the Leaf lamp, and the XO laptop for OLPC.

ROBERT J. LANG: Physicist, origami artist

Physicist Robert J. Lang is an origami artist and theorist, studying the math, engineering and applications of extreme folding.

JOHN KNOLL: Visual effects supervisor

John Knoll was the visual effects supervisor for "Star Wars III, Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Mission: Impossible," among others. He also co-created Photoshop.

TOD MACHOVER: Composer and inventor

At the MIT Media Lab, Tod Machover creates new music and new ways to make music.

10:15-11:15

Conversation Break

11:15-13:00

Session 8

What's out there?

BRIAN COX: Physicist

Brian Cox has two jobs: working with the big particle accelerator at CERN, and explaining big science to the general public.

ROBERT BALLARD: Ocean explorer

On more than 120 deep-sea expeditions, Robert Ballard has used cutting-edge tech to find important shipwrecks -- such as "Titanic" -- and unearth their lost histories.

PAUL STAMETS: Mycologist

Paul Stamets, mycologist & inventor and author of "Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World", claims 5 inventions that can help heal the Earth, fight disease, cure pollution and fortify ecosystems.

JOSHUA KLEIN: Animal behaviorist

Joshua Klein built a machine that trains crows to pick up change and deposit it in a slot in return for peanuts.

RICHARD PRESTON: Writer

Richard Preston is the author of "The Hot Zone" and, most recently, "The Wild Trees," about the still-mysterious Northwest forests.

13:00-14:30

Lunch

14:30-16:15

Session 9

What will tomorrow bring?

NASSIM NICHOLAS TALEB: Scholar of randomness

Nassim Nicholas Taleb's book "The Black Swan" explores the effect of randomness -- even on processes we think we can control.

PETER SCHWARTZ: Futurist

Peter Schwartz is a co-founder of the Global Business Network, a consulting firm focused on future scenarios.

SUE GOLDIE: Public health scientist

Sue Goldie applies decision analysis strategies to critical challenges in global health. She asks, given limited resources, how can we save the most lives?

WALTER ISAACSON: CEO, Aspen Institute

The longtime managing editor of "Time," Walter Isaacson is the President and CEO of the Aspen Institute and the author of "Benjamin Franklin: An American Life."

16:15-17:15

Conversation Break

17:15-19:00

Session 10

What stirs us?

ISAAC MIZRAHI: Designer

Designer Isaac Mizrahi mixes high fashion and the mass market, with a line of haute couture and a line for Target -- plus a talk show, a cabaret act and a movie.

HELEN FISHER: Anthropologist

Anthropologist Helen Fisher studies gender differences and the evolution of our emotions -- especially love.

DAVID GRIFFIN: Photography editor

As Director of Photography for "National Geographic" magazine, David Griffin has the distinct pleasure of working with some of the most beautiful photographs the world has ever seen.

CHRIS ABANI: Writer

A favorite speaker at TEDGlobal in Africa last summer, Chris Abani writes vivid novels and poetry about the postcolonial worlds of Nigeria and Los Angeles.

BENJAMIN ZANDER: Conductor

Benjamin Zander is the conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, a leading interpreter of Mahler, and an educator on music and leadership.

19:30-22:15

Grand Party

Saturday

07:30-13:45

Registration

08:30-10:15

Session 11

How dare we be optimistic?

PAUL COLLIER: Economist

Paul Collier's book "The Bottom Billion" shows what is happening to the poorest people in the world, and offers ideas for opening up opportunities to all.

AL GORE: Activist

Once the US Vice President, then star of "An Inconvenient Truth," now Nobel Peace Prize winner, Al Gore has found a way to get the world's attention focused on his cause, climate change.

NELLIE MCKAY: Singer, songwriter

Nellie McKay sings, croons, raps, grooves and -- barks? -- to glowing critical acclaim.

10:15-11:15

Conversation Break

11:15-13:00

Session 12

And the point?

BOB GELDOF: Activist, musician

Since co-founding Live Aid in the 1980s, rock star Bob Geldof has been an advocate for African aid and poverty reduction.

JONATHAN HAIDT: Social psychologist

Jonathan Haidt studies positive psychology, the study of human flourishing and positive emotions.

KIDS TABLE COLLECTIVE:

TED favorites Rives, Jill Sobule, Julia Sweeney, Ze Frank and the Raspyni Brothers will wrap-up the conference with an energetic send-off -- live from Aspen.

JOHN FRANCIS: Planetwalker

John Francis walks the Earth, carrying a message of environmental education and sustainable development.

13:15-15:30

TED Beach Party

Enjoy a barbecue lunch, wind down and relax by the ocean in great company.