Kevin R. Murriel
Dr. Kevin R. Murriel currently leads over 7,000 members as Senior Pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. A dynamic preacher, avid reader, and social activist, Dr. Murriel’s research focuses on translating the methods of the Civil Rights Movement into a modern-day strategy for social justice and racial reconciliation. Dr. Murriel is the author of two books. His latest book, “Breaking the Color Barrier: A Vision for Church Growth through Racial Reconciliation” was named to the 2015 Hot New Releases on Amazon. In 2019, Dr. Murriel was appointed Assistant Professor in the Practice of Practical Theology and Director of the Black Methodist Seminarians Program at Emory University.
Thursday, February 6, 2020, 5 p.m.
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center Auditorium

April Ryan
April Ryan is a White House Correspondent, CNN Political Analyst and a part of the Washington Bureau Radio Networks. In addition, she is the author of books “The Presidency in Black and White,” and “At Mama’s Knee: Mothers And Race In Black And White” and most recently “Under Fire.” In 2019, she became an honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. April Ryan has a unique vantage point as the only black female reporter covering urban issues from the White House - a position she has held since the Clinton era. She was the recipient of the 2017 National Association of Black Journalist’s “Journalist of the Year”, and a Terker Fellow with the George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs. She has served on the board of the prestigious White House Correspondents Association. She is one of only three African Americans in the Association’s over 100-year history to serve on its board. She is also an esteemed member of the National Press Club.
Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 5 p.m.
Wharton Center, Pasant Theatre

Bankole Thompson
A leading voice on race, leadership and free speech issues, Bankole Thompson is a nationally renowned journalist whose work has been noted for its glaring contributions in the continuing fight for racial equality and economic justice. Thompson is a twice-a-week op-ed columnist at The Detroit News. His column deals with presidential politics and culture, public opinion and leadership, social and economic issues. Thompson is also the editor-in-chief of The PuLSE Institute, the Detroit-based independent anti-poverty think tank. University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library in 2015, established the “Bankole Thompson Papers,” a comprehensive physical and digital collection to preserve his work for students and scholars. Thompson in 2018, was honored with the “Let Freedom Ring Award,” on MLK Day by the Rainbow PUSH Coalition for his writings which according to the organization reflects the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. for a just society.
Thursday, February 27, 2020, 5 p.m.
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center Auditorium

The Dr. William G. Anderson Lecture Series: Slavery to Freedom is designed to give members of the mid-Michigan community opportunities for interaction with multicultural leaders from education, business, industry, entertainment and government. For 20 years, this series has featured living icons of the American Civil Rights Movement. Special thanks to William G. Anderson, D.O., whose invaluable participation enhances the excellence of these programs.
All activities are free of charge. For more information call (517) 432-4979 or e-mail breedlov@msu.edu.