

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Natalie Stavas

On April 15, 2013, Dr. Stavas approached the finish line of her fifth Boston marathon. Just blocks away she heard explosions, and she ran towards them. Arriving at the scene she went to work administering CPR, applying tourniquets, and triaging the wounded. What led her to make that fateful decision to run into a terrorist attack? An expert on chaos, Natalie Stavas attacks every obstacle with the same attitude: "You run towards that which you fear, that which challenges you, that which is oppositional." Running toward chaos actually makes chaos more manageable. Following these actions President Barack Obama, Katie Couric, and Anderson Cooper honored Natalie for her role as a first responder. *Improper Bostonian* magazine named Dr. Stavas one of "Boston's Best" and *The Boston Globe* awarded her with "2013 Bostonian of the Year" - an honor bestowed upon those that shape the biggest story of the year in a remarkable way. After the bombings Dr. Stavas increased her efforts in preventing childhood violence and improving the health of urban communities. She is a mentor for Sole Train- a non-profit organization guiding inner-city youth on a path towards their full potential through running. She is also the medical advisor for the Appalachian Mountain Club, helping improve the health of children by getting them outside. Dr. Stavas' work goes beyond borders- traveling to Haiti throughout the year, she provides medical care to children and helps strengthen the fragile medical infrastructure. A documentary featuring this work as a medical pioneer premiered at the 2014 South by Southwest film festival. Dr. Stavas has written for multiple outlets including the Huffington Post, the Center for Disease Control, *Self Magazine* and the *Medical Bag*. She has been featured in *Runners World*, *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The New Yorker*, *Time* and *People Magazine*. Described as a healer, educator, and community leader she received the 2012 Change Maker award from The Boston Foundation. Dr. Natalie Stavas is currently a physician at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Trained and educated at Harvard University, Natalie's area of experience is in childhood trauma, decreasing youth violence and researching how we can better protect and serve high-risk children. She is pursuing fellowship training in Child Protection pediatrics and obtaining a Masters in Health Science and Public Policy at The University of Pennsylvania. She was recently named the wellbeing/work-life integration specialist for the Department of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Keep an eye out for her upcoming book, "Sole to Soul," about the transformative power that running has on high-risk youth, a simple solution to the complicated problem of childhood poverty and violence.

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Dr. Adolph Brown, III

Dr. Adolph Brown, III works with schools and corporations around the world to implement best practices that support peak performance and educational excellence. His honest, humorous and helpful keynotes and workshops have been commonly described as “delightfully different.” He has more than 30 years of experience working with issues of mental wellness, social justice, equity, education and diversity. Dr. Brown’s solid content and multiple takeaways, insightful humor and parables are appreciated and recognized by business leaders, teachers, administrators, students and parents all over the world. From extremely humble beginnings, he was the first in his family of five to graduate high school and go on to become a critically acclaimed clinical psychologist, university professor & dean, teacher educator, businessman, investor, research scientist and recovering middle school special education teacher. Dr. Brown considers his greatest accomplishments to be the joyfully married husband of Marla, father of 8 kind-hearted children and grandpa of Aiden.

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Jim “The Rookie” Morris

Jim Morris was a high school science teacher and coach in west Texas who miraculously made it to the Major Leagues at the age of 35. His life story made cinematic history with the heartwarming and unforgettable Disney movie *The Rookie* starring Dennis Quaid. Jim pitched two seasons for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays reaching speeds up to 102mph and chose to retire to raise his children. Since 2002, Jim has been a highly sought after motivational speaker traveling around the world inspiring audiences to follow their dreams and never give up. In his latest book, *Dream Makers: Surround Yourself With the Best To Be Your Best*, Jim shares more of his incredible life story including the people who helped make him the success he is today: his Dream Makers. Jim has been honored to receive a Lifetime Achievement award from the Bobby Bragan Youth Foundation and has been involved with BCFS, Arms of Hope, Texas Youth Commission and other philanthropic efforts. He launched his own Foundation, Jim “The Rookie” Morris Foundation, in 2015, giving back to underserved communities and children. Jim and his wife, Shawna, have raised five children and live near San Antonio.