Keynote Speaker: Jessica Devaney, Class of 2006

Jessica is a creative producer and communications strategist. She recently produced Speed Sisters (2015), which follows an intrepid team of Palestinian women racecar drivers. Jessica co-produced the Peabody Award winning short My Neighbourhood (2012) and produced its companion web series Home Front (2011). She associate produced Budrus (2009), which won over a dozen international awards, including the Ridenhour Documentary Film Prize. She was a key driver of the film’s engagement strategy, which was recognized with the PUMA Impact Award (2012). Jessica was previously the Director of Communications at Just Vision, where she produced films and led communications strategy in support of Palestinian and Israeli community organizers and human rights defenders. She is currently producing the feature documentary and interactive game, Roll Red Roll, a true crime thriller examining sexual assault in small town America. Jessica’s films have received support from the Sundance Institute, Tribeca Film Institute, Ford Foundation, Harnisch Foundation, Fork Films, Chicken & Egg Films, Doha Film Institute, IDA, Bertha Foundation, BRITDOC, and more. Her work is featured regularly in major media outlets like The New York Times, MSNBC, NPR, BBC, The Washington Post, The Economist, Sports Illustrated, and Al Jazeera.

Jessica holds an M.A. in religion and society from Wake Forest University and studied at Georgetown’s Graduate School of Foreign Service in the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies where she researched gender and nationalism in the Middle East. She is a 2016 Women at Sundance Fellow and founder of the Queer Producers Collective.

The LGBTQ Center thanks our many campus partners for support of Lavender Graduation, and we sincerely appreciate sponsorship of the ceremony from the following offices and departments:

- Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Office of the Dean of Students
- Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Office of the Provost
- Office of the President
- Student Health Services

We also wish to recognize sponsorship by Dr. Mary Dalton in celebration of her valued colleague, Kriss Dinkins.
Greetings
Dr. Angela Mazaris, Director, LGBTQ Center

Presidential Welcome
Dr. Nathan O. Hatch, President, Wake Forest University

Invocation
Jesse Sorrell, Class of 2016, School of Divinity

Home at the Intersection
Deborah Marke, Class of 2016

Journeys Toward Becoming
Adam Garán Plant, Class of 2016, School of Divinity

Keynote Address
Jessica Devaney, Class of 2006

Remarks to the Graduates
Dr. Penny Rue, Vice President of Campus Life

Honoring the Graduates
Dr. Angela Mazaris, Director, LGBTQ Center
Jessica Devaney, Class of 2006
Kayla Lisenby, Program Coordinator, LGBTQ Center

Closing
Dr. Angela Mazaris, Director, LGBTQ Center