Presented in Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall in October 2014, the evening event more than delivered on its promise to provide an engaging "conversation" between the two journalists on human rights, civil rights, discrimination in America, and more. Each of the women also spoke about her personal experiences and on her respective works: most notably, Wilkerson's book, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and O'Brien's acclaimed CNN documentary *Black in America*.

So, why did the College of Arts and Letters choose to bring these two accomplished women to the MSU campus as the College's 2014 Signature Lecturers?

For more than 20 years, the Signature Lecture Series has provided the opportunity for noted intellectuals, artists, authors and luminaries in a diverse range of fields to interact with faculty, students, the greater Michigan State University community, and residents of the mid-Michigan area. At the same time, we know that a strong co-curriculum—of which lectures, performances, and films are an important part—enhances our students' experience in numerous ways.

Signature Lecture Series hosts Isabel Wilkerson & Soledad O'Brien

Two extraordinary women and journalists are the most recent additions to the stellar list of College of Arts and Letters Signature Lecturers: Emmy Award-winning journalist and author Soledad O'Brien and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson, author of the *New York Times* best seller *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. 
races, genders and cultures today. These events changed the way people live, work, are taught and interact in American society. The 1954 Brown decision was the beginning of the end of school segregation and ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and other major forms of discrimination. These milestones into facilitating a much broader discussion of civil and human rights drawn from domestic and international perspectives. In the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, these two watershed events served the general public.

As the 60/50 website notes: "Moreover, Project 60/50 was created to extend beyond these two specific events of 20th-century American history continue to have significant impact on American citizens of all races, genders and cultures today. These events changed the way people live, work, are taught and interact in American society. The 1954 Brown decision was the beginning of the end of school segregation and ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and other major forms of discrimination. These milestones into facilitating a much broader discussion of civil and human rights drawn from domestic and international perspectives. In the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, these two watershed events served the general public."

Participants discussed the book and O'Brien and Isabel Wilkerson explored these and other complex issues related to diversity and inclusion as it challenged attendees to think differently about their work, about each other, and about their role in our rapidly changing global society. Because MSU views diversity as an asset—one that will dominate our culture in years to come—there is a critical need for MSU faculty, staff, and students to prepare for this complex, diverse, and exciting future. MSU, recognizes that a first step is to extend beyond these two specific events of 20th-century American history continue to have significant impact on American citizens of all races, genders and cultures today. These events changed the way people live, work, are taught and interact in American society. The 1954 Brown decision was the beginning of the end of school segregation and ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and other major forms of discrimination. These milestones into facilitating a much broader discussion of civil and human rights drawn from domestic and international perspectives. In the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, these two watershed events served the general public."