

## TERRY FOUNDATION ALUMNI BANQUET SPEAKER GUIDELINES

For 2021, the Foundation is planning to host in-person banquets on campus at all of our 13 partner universities.

The Terry Foundation will exclusively feature Terry Scholar Alumni as the main speakers for the banquets (selection timeline and banquet schedule on page 2). We will collect volunteer submissions until **August 25, 2021**, and then Terry Foundation Staff will select and invite the **13** banquet speakers by **September 10, 2021**. Please see below for more details.

### 1. **Goal**

The banquet speech should **inspire and motivate** our Scholars. To accommodate the diverse crowd at each banquet, we request that speeches not be political or religious in nature.

### 2. **Length of Speech**

To keep our program on schedule, Alumni speakers should limit their speeches to **10 -15 minutes**.

### 3. **Speech Topic**

Material should be motivational and inspirational and should appeal to a general audience of students at all levels (freshmen through senior) and many different majors. Some suggested topics are below.

**Please note that the virtual event on October 28<sup>th</sup> will have an audience that is mostly, if not all, Terry Alumni. The speaker at that event should still plan to deliver a motivational, inspiring speech, but the audience composition should be considered.**

- A. How are you making an impact on the world? Do you have a personal cause or initiative that you support? Do you have a unique profession? How did you know that this was the field for you?
- B. Do you have stories to share about your profession? What was the path from undergrad to your current role? What has helped you along way? Do you have stories or advice from your development as a professional?
- C. What is a hardship you faced during college and how did you overcome it?
- D. Is your career path or profession different from what you thought it would be as an undergraduate student? What caused this shift, and do you have any advice for students who may be in a similar situation?
- E. Do you have a memory about Mr. and Mrs. Terry or a story about an interaction you had with them? How did they influence the way you have developed as a professional or as a person in general? If you never had the chance to meet Mr. & Mrs. Terry, is there another Terry Scholar who impacted you or helped reinforce the feeling of being a part of the Terry community?
- F. How did the Terry Foundation scholarship impact your future beyond graduation?
- G. Do you have a story of resilience, or a lesson learned from recent events?

#### 4. Required Speech Proposal

All potential speakers must present a speech proposal to the Foundation when they complete the sign-up form. All speech proposals must contain the following:

- **File saved with your first name and last name in the title** (*Microsoft Word Document or PDF*)
- **Your name, Terry school, and Terry year at the top of the page**
- **A brief paragraph or outline of your speech's main idea and why you chose your topic**  
*Your speech does **not** have to be completely finalized by the time you complete the sign-up form, but The Foundation needs clear idea of what you intend to share at the banquet if you are selected as a speaker. If you are one of the finalists being considered, the Foundation will contact you for a more detailed outline.*

#### 5. Travel

We hope that speaker volunteers will be willing to cover travel costs as part of their give back to the Foundation. However, we do not want travel costs to prohibit participation. Travel reimbursement up to a maximum stipend of \$250 will be available upon request.

#### 6. Placement at the Event

Alumni speakers will be seated at the head table for dinner. After dinner, the program will include remarks by Board Members and students. The alumni speaker will be introduced by one of the students as the principal speaker of the evening.

### SPEAKER RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION TIMELINE

#### **August 5<sup>th</sup> – August 25<sup>th</sup>**

Terry Alumni invited to submit their speaker proposals.

#### **August 30<sup>th</sup> – September 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Foundation will contact potential speakers to request additional details and confirm speakers for their banquets. **Goal: all Alumni speakers confirmed by September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **September 10<sup>th</sup> – September 29<sup>th</sup>**

The Foundation will work with each speaker to finalize their presentation and travel itinerary. Speakers will also be asked to submit a speaker bio and will also coordinate a time to submit a recording of their speech as a contingency option.

## **FALL 2021 BANQUET SCHEDULE**

Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Texas A&M Galveston (Galveston, TX)

Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – UT Austin (Austin, TX)

Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – Texas State University (San Marcos, TX)

Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – UT San Antonio (San Antonio, TX)

Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> – UT El Paso (El Paso, TX)

Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – Texas A&M University (College Station, TX)

Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX)

Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – UT Arlington (Arlington, TX)

Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – University of North Texas (Denton, TX)

Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – Texas Woman's University (Denton, TX)

Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – UT Dallas (Richardson, TX)

Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX)

Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – University of Houston (Houston, TX)

Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – Fall Virtual Alumni Gathering (Zoom) **Please note that this is an Alumni audience.**

## **BACK-UP PLAN FOR VIRTUAL EVENT**

In the event that we are unable to have a large in-person event at any of our universities, the banquet will be moved to a virtual format on the same date (time may be adjusted without the meal). The Foundation will work with each speaker to prepare to make their remarks live via Zoom. Speakers will also be requested to pre-record their speech, so the Foundation will have an alternative in case of technical difficulties. Due to the uncertainty of planning during the pandemic, this change in format could happen as late as one week prior to the event.

## **THINGS TO CONSIDER**

- In 2020, the Foundation announced the cancellation of the Terry Transfer Scholarship Program and the termination of funding for any new Terry Scholarships at Texas A&M Galveston and Sam Houston State University. Speakers should keep these changes in mind when making their remarks, especially at TAMUG and SHSU. For 2021 there will remain about 50 Transfer Scholars out of a total census of 780 Scholars.
- Speakers should bear in mind the fact that college students, like all Americans, have faced many challenges over the past few years. Our Terry Scholar community is very diverse at all campuses, with students coming from different areas of Texas, different backgrounds (race, religion, ethnicity, gender identity, etc.) and varying kinds of support systems. Speakers should consider how their speech topics and remarks will be received by Scholars from all backgrounds and aim to be inclusive. Focus on the characteristics that all Terry Scholars have in common based on our selection process, which for 34 years has resulted in a diverse background of highly driven and talented students who need help to accomplish their goals.