

2023 TERRY FOUNDATION ALUMNI SPEAKER GUIDELINES

The Terry Foundation will exclusively feature Terry Scholar Alumni as the main speakers for the Fall Banquets and Fall Virtual Alumni Gathering (selection timeline and banquet schedule on page 2). We will collect volunteer submissions until **August 25, 2023**, and then Terry Foundation Staff will select and invite speakers by **September 8, 2023**. 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. Fellow Terry Alumni and university guests will also be in attendance. Some suggested topics are below. **Please note that the virtual event on November 2nd will have an audience that is 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 the 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 a **clear idea of what you intend to share 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 to utilize local volunteers when possible. 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 Events

At Banquets, 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 then be introduced as the principal speaker of the evening. After the speech, a representative from the Foundation will conclude the program.

At the Virtual Alumni Gathering, the Alumni speaker will join the Foundation staff a few minutes early to ensure clear audio and video. The program will begin with remarks from the Foundation followed by an introduction of the speaker. After the speech, attendees will disperse into randomly assigned breakout rooms to meet other Terrys from across the country. The speaker will be assigned to a room and may participate in the social aspects of the evening with everyone else.

SPEAKER RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION TIMELINE

August 1st – August 25th

Terry Alumni invited to submit their speaker proposals.

August 29th – September 8th

The Foundation will contact potential speakers to request additional details and confirm speakers for their banquets. **Goal: all Alumni speakers confirmed by September 8th.**

September 11th Onward

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

All arrangements should be finalized no later than one week before the speaker's event.

FALL 2023 BANQUET SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 3rd – Texas State University (San Marcos, TX)

Wednesday, October 4th – UT San Antonio (San Antonio, TX)

Thursday, October 5th – UT Austin (Austin, TX)

Tuesday, October 10th – Texas A&M University (College Station, TX)

Monday, October 16th – Texas A&M Galveston (Galveston, TX)

Tuesday, October 17th – University of Houston (Houston, TX)

Wednesday, October 18th – Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX)

Friday, October 20th – UT El Paso (El Paso, TX)

Monday, October 23rd – UT Arlington (Arlington, TX)

Tuesday, October 24th – UT Dallas (Richardson, TX)

Wednesday, October 25th – Texas Woman's University (Denton, TX)

Thursday, October 26th – University of North Texas (Denton, TX)

Monday, October 30th – Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX)

Thursday, November 2nd – Fall Virtual Alumni Gathering (Zoom) **Please note that this is an Alumni audience.**

THINGS TO CONSIDER

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 over 35 years has resulted in a diverse background of highly driven and talented students who need help to accomplish their goals.