**Speaking Notes for XXX**

**Class of XX Reunion**

**Welcome**

* Good evening. Welcome to [say something about the event and your reunion, e.g. is it your first, second, third reunion, is the venue special, is this the first event of your reunion, is it being held in conjunction with Alumni Weekend, etc.]

**Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**

*The following statements acknowledge the traditional territory we are situated on (in Edmonton). The U of A developed these statements through a consultative process. You may wish to use them at the beginning of your event as a sign of respect, to acknowledge the rich history of these lands.*

* Before we begin, I wish to respectfully acknowledge that we are situated on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people.

Or

* Before we begin, I wish to respectfully acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Metis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/ Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.”

*For more information: https://www.ualberta.ca/toolkit/communications/acknowledgment-of-traditional-territory*

**Introduction**

* My name is [add] and I’m pleased to be your MC tonight. As you know I took a lead role in organizing our class reunion. I want to thank the organizing committee: [mention anyone else who helped with organizing]. [You could mention any special roles people took on, e.g. putting together the biography book, leading certain events, official cat herder, etc.].
* We had a blast planning the reunion [say something about the planning process; feel free to mention the help you received from the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry / U of A Alumni Association!!].
* We are so excited about the evening we have planned. [Explain the program / schedule and give details for the event including:
  + when speeches or presentations will occur
  + explanation of activities, e.g. photobooth, DJ, entertainers, etc.
  + when food will be served or if appetizers are available all night
  + alcohol / bar hours and service (drink tickets, wine services, etc.)
  + if photos will be taken
  + location of bathrooms, smoking area
  + venue rules, e.g. no cell phone policy, no glass on balcony, etc.
  + approx. end time for event

**Recognizing special guests**

* Tonight we have some special guests joining us. [Mention anyone special who is not part of your class, e.g. former professor, classmate who graduated in a different year, student, etc.].
* I want to give a special mention to our classmates who have travelled into Edmonton for our reunion. [List the places people have come from.]

**Recognizing deceased classmates / moment of silence**

* I would like to take this time to recognize some of our classmates who have passed away. [You could simply say their name, say a few words or call someone up to say a few words]. [Consider doing a moment of silence]. [If spouses of the deceased are in attendance, thank them for attending].

**Information about Alumni Weekend**

* Our reunion is being held over the University of Alberta’s Alumni Weekend. Alumni Weekend happens annually in September and it is not to be missed!
* There are many events happening over the course of the weekend and I hope you have been able to experience some of them. These include the inspiring Alumni Awards ceremony, fun kids activities, campus tours and educational lectures. [Feel free to add an anecdote about your Alumni Weekend experience, e.g. an event you enjoyed or plan to attend].
* Save the date for Alumni Weekend 2020. In between our reunion years, Alumni Weekend is a great way for us to meet up and take part in some fun events each year.

**Faculty / alumni Highlight**

* As alumni of the University of Alberta and the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, we have so much to be proud of! The faculty just released the latest edition of their magazine called Momentum which highlights the many successes of the past year. I can tell you that this community we are a part of is absolutely inspiring.
* There are a few copies of the Momentum magazine here for anyone who wants to take one home to read. If we run out, please email the faculty and ask them to send you one.
* Momentum is full of energizing stories, but here are a few highlights I’ll share to pique your interest: [choose some of the highlights below]
* This year, six alumni from the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry won prestigious Alumni Awards from the Alumni Association:
* Darren Freed (’98 MD) and Jayan Nagendran (’01 MD) won the Alumni Innovation Award for creating the Ex-Vivo Organ Support System, the first technology of its kind that allows for organs to be preserved outside of the body for up to 48 hours. This Alberta-made device buys more time for organs to be assessed, repaired and transported, giving the potential to double or even triple the number of viable donor organs worldwide.
* Donald Enarson (’70 MD) won the Distinguished Alumni Award. He is among the world’s most distinguished researchers and consultants in the field of pulmonary health, including the study of tuberculosis, lung cancer and asthma.
* Steven Knudsen (’87 MSc) won the Alumni Service Award. He is a dedicated volunteer, computer scientist, student mentor, innovative thinker and entrepreneur. He helped establish the Peer of Peers Award and The Pod, a program supporting students’ entrepreneurial initiatives by providing interdisciplinary out-of-class learning and professional development opportunities
* Gary Lobay (’68 MD) won the Alumni Honour Award. He is the first microsurgeon at the U of A and among the first in Western Canada. He’s a pioneer in the field of free tissue transfers, microsurgical nerve repair and limb replantation. He’s best known for performing the first limb replantation in Western Canada
* Tony Mok (’84 MD) won the Alumni Honour Award for driving precision health. He is the chair of the Department of Clinical Oncology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He conducted multiple multinational studies that established the global standard on personalized biomarker and molecular targeted therapy for patients with lung cancer
* If you know an inspiring alumnus, please consider nominating them for an Alumni Award. The process is not onerous and the faculty can provide you with some support. Nominations are due by December 15.
* I was pleased to read of the social accountability projects undertaken by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. The Boyle McCauly Health Centre Dental Clinic was expanded. It provides convenient access to dental care for vulnerable populations and will continue to be a valuable hands-on learning environment for dentistry and dental hygiene students. In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the faculty made improvements to the admissions process for prospective Indigenous students into the MD and MLS programs. Increased numbers of Indigenous students will be supported by new scholarships.
* One article describes a research team in the Surgical Simulation Research Lab that is exploring augmented and virtual reality technologies to train surgeons. This snapshot into the future is absolutely fascinating and the innovation being displayed by the faculty is commendable. For example, the technology can track eye movements of the learner to decipher when they have become unsure of their next step.
* I know many of us in this room support current students in a multitude of ways from providing mentorship to creating bursaries. The next generation of health care professionals is worth our investment and they are proving their commitment to excellence all the time. Last year, medical student Julia Sawatzky received a Rhodes Scholarship, considered the most prestigious in the world. She will study global health science and epidemiology, especially as they pertain to young populations in low resource settings. Brad Necyk, Psychiatry PhD candidate created a series of evocative artworks around the pain of cancer and mental illness. His works were featured in Toronto and Chicago.
* I’m proud of the research excellence at the faculty. Last year, we set the bar high. You’ll see what I mean when you read Momentum. A couple stories I found especially interesting were:
* We’re positioned to become an international leader in lymphatic-disorder research thanks to $7 million in gifts from the Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation and the University Hospital Foundation. The Dianne and Irving Kipnes Chair in Lymphatic Disorders is the first of its kind in Canada. It will help drive research in Alberta and improve care for people suffering with medical problems—such as lymphedema—associated with the lymphatic system.
* U of A pharmacology professor William Colmers’ and his team identified a possible new pathway to treat anxiety. The research focuses on hormones that regulate fight-or-flight response.
* Neurologist Chris Power and his team may have also found a way to treat MS while discovering a process in the brain causing cell death. The study marks the first molecular analysis of pyroptosis in the human brain. Pyroptosis is a type of programmed cell death that is associated with inflammation, but its role in MS was previously unknown.
* An international team of researchers, led by University of Alberta professor and chair of medical genetics Michael Walter identified a gene responsible for the onset of pigmentary glaucoma, which may lead to new therapies for the condition.
* I really encourage everyone to read the magazine. It will make you really proud to be a graduate of U of A.

**Secular University of Alberta Grace**

*You may wish to say recite the grace in Latin and / or English and explain the roots of the tradition before eating a sit-down meal.*

* It is tradition at formal University of Alberta events to recite the university grace before meals.
* The University Grace was originally composed by Dr. William Hardy Alexander and every student and staff member in the early days of the University could recite the grace. It was said prior to meals in dining halls and was meant to convey a sense of civility during meal times. The Grace has undergone a number of revisions over the University's history to help it embrace the secular nature of the U of A. The Grace is used before formal University meals and its current text was rewritten by former President Myer Horowitz, with the help of former Dean of Education, Herbert Coutts.
* Hoc convivio firmati,   
  praecepto nostrae universitatis parentes,   
  constantius sequamur quaecumque vera.
* Translation:  
  Refreshed by this meal and fellowship,   
  obeying the precept of this our University,  
  let us pursue more steadfastly whatsoever things are true.

**Instructions for meal time**

* [Servers will be coming around shortly. Please provide them your meal card so you get the meal you ordered when you registered...] [The buffet line is now open; I will call tables starting with tables 1 & 2...]

**Post-dinner comments**

* I hope everyone enjoyed their meal as much as I did. I would like to thank the staff of [catering company] for the delicious food and amazing service.
* We will now [insert instructions / directions, e.g. hear from a few speakers, watch a presentation or slideshow].

**Reminiscing**

*You may wish to add a sense of nostalgia to your reunion by having someone (either the MC or another animated classmate) tell stories about the past. Some classes choose to put together old photos into a slideshow that can be shown at the reunion or into a biography reunion book for people to take home. In this case, you might choose to have the person who put together the book / slideshow provide some remarks on that experience as they are probably the most updated other classmates’ lives!*

**Introducing speakers**

* I’m pleased to introduce [name of speaker] who will be speaking on [topic of presentation]. [Name of speaker] is [add biographical information relevant to the reason they are speaking]. Please help me welcome [name of speaker].

**Class gift overview**

* As you all know, [name] has taken the lead on collecting funds for a class gift. I am very pleased that we are coming together as a class to raise money for the important work of our alma mater. I’m so excited that we can leave this kind of legacy and make a positive impact on future learners and researchers. I would like to welcome [name] to come up and give us an update on our class gift.

**Wrap up / Thank you**

* As our evening comes to an end, I want to express my gratitude for everyone who made our reunion a success.

* Thank you most of all to all of my classmates who have taken the time out of their busy lives to attend this reunion. It has been an absolute pleasure to reconnect with you. [Add personal story or thoughts about seeing classmates again].