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## Toastmasters Announces Speakers for 2015 Convention in Las Vegas

**RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, Calif., June XX, 2015** — Toastmasters has revealed the featured speakers for its [2015 International Convention](#), held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas Aug. 12-15. Thought leaders with backgrounds in motivational speaking, entrepreneurship, entertainment, law, comedy, accounting and more will share their insights and expertise. Attendance at this annual event is expected to exceed 2,000 people.

"We're excited about the diverse group of dynamic and inspiring speakers at this year's convention," says Mohammed Murad, Toastmasters 2014-15 International President. "Each presenter is highly regarded and proves by their own examples how important leadership and communication skills are to achieving success."

**Patricia Fripp** will deliver the keynote presentation during the Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday, Aug. 12. Fripp is an award-winning keynote speaker, business presentation expert, sales trainer and in-demand speech coach to executives and celebrity speakers. *Meetings & Conventions* magazine named her "One of the 10 most electrifying speakers in North America." She delivers high-energy, high-content and dramatically memorable presentations.

World-renowned economics professor and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate **Muhammad Yunus** will be honored as the recipient of Toastmasters' 2015 Golden Gavel award. The prestigious award is presented annually to an individual distinguished in the fields of communication and leadership. Yunus joins an illustrious list of Golden Gavel honorees, including Walter Cronkite, Stephen Covey, Deepak Chopra, Anthony Robbins and Zig Ziglar.

Other expert presenters include:

- **Judy Carter**, Author of *The Comedy Bible* – a bestselling book on how to turn problems into punch lines. As a child with a speech impediment, Carter found a way to turn being laughed at into a standup career. She has performed on over 100 TV shows, toured with Prince, and was nominated for Atlantic City Entertainer of the Year.
- **Tim Gard**, A member of the National Speakers Association, he has been inducted into the Council of Peers Award for Excellence (CPAE) Speaker Hall of Fame—an elite honor shared by 150 people worldwide. Tim has spoken at more than 2,000 events worldwide from Texas to Tasmania and was selected by *Meeting Planners Magazine* as one of the "best speakers ever seen or heard on the main stage."
- **Darren LaCroix**, 2001 Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking. Darren travels the world demystifying the process of creating powerful presentations. With his inspirational story "from Chump to Champ," he shows the people that anything is possible if you are willing to learn and have the right mentor.
- **Dana LaMon**, 1992 World Champion of Public Speaking. Blinded at four years old, Dana was reared in Compton, Calif., as one of twelve children. He is a retired judge and has been a professional speaker and author since 1991. Lamon earned the title of World Champion of Public Speaking from Toastmasters International in 1992. He has spoken to audiences from Asia to South Africa, including more than 35 states of the U.S.
- **Alex Malley**, Alex's bestselling book, *The Naked CEO*, was borne out of the huge success of his popular mentoring community (thenakedceo.com), and combines his candid, real-life stories with practical career and life guidance. He is the CEO of CPA Australia, as well as a TV host, bestselling author, and blogger for *The Huffington Post*. Malley was recently invited to join an exclusive group of global leaders to become a LinkedIn influencer, and he shares his leadership and career insights via regular blog posts with LinkedIn's huge global network of professionals.
- **Marilyn Tam**, Formerly the CEO of Aveda, president of Reebok and vice president of Nike, Marilyn is a speaker, author, and founder and executive director of Us Foundation. *Inc.* magazine ranks her as one of the top 100 leadership speakers in the world. Her life is an inspiring example of what can be achieved

when following one's dreams. She grew up as an abused and neglected child in Hong Kong, and left home as a teen to come to the United States alone. By following her life mission, she achieved international business and humanitarian success.

To learn more about the 2015 International Convention, Aug. 12-15, and obtain a complete schedule of events, including the Opening Ceremonies, Education Sessions and the Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking, visit <http://www.toastmasters.org/Events/2015-International-Convention>. The public is welcome to attend.

### **About Toastmasters International**

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, the organization's membership exceeds 313,000 in more than 14,650 clubs in 126 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org). Follow [@Toastmasters](https://twitter.com/Toastmasters) on Twitter.

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