**Sample Outline for Special Occasion Speech**

**Title:** Instructor of the Year

**Speaker:** Sarah M. Biller

**Specific Purpose:** To honor one of the University of Oklahoma’s finest professors

**ThesisStatement:**Anexcellentteacherisnotonlyanindividualwhoexcelsintheareasof teaching,research,andservice;heorsheisalsosomeonewhoreachesouttostudentstofacili­ tatetheirlearningprocessandtheirenjoymentofclassmaterial.

**Introduction**

1. **Attentiongetter**(storyofthefirstdayofclass):Iwasafreshman,anditwasthefirstdayof collegecalculus.Myteacherwrotetheword*play*ontheboardandaskeduswhatweasso­ ciatedwiththisword.Thereweremanyresponsesfromtheclass,butnotoneofthestu­ dentssaidtheword*learning*.ThenshetoldusthatAristotledefines*play*astheultimate formoflearning.ItwasduringthatsemesterthatIlearnedcalculusbyplaying.
2. **Establishmentofethos:**MynameisSarahBiller;Iamhereasaformerstudent,colleague, andpersonalfriendofthisyear’srecipientoftheInstructoroftheYearAward.
3. **Thematicstatement:**Instructorswhoarenominatedforthisawardmustdisplayleader­ shipanddedicationtostudentsinandoutsidetheclassroom,facilitatelearning,and(most ofall)genuinelycareaboutthestudentshereatOU.
4. **Preview**(eachmainpoint):First,Iwillbeginbyshowinghowthisparticularteacherhas provedherabilitytoleadandherdedicationtothelearningprocess.Next,Iwillillustrate howthisinstructor,throughhercaringnature,teachesstudentstoenjoylearning.

(**Transition:** To begin . . .)

**Body**

* 1. **Mainidea1:**Thisinstructorisanaturalleaderwhohasprovedherdedicationtoherstu­ dentsandtothisuniversity.
     1. Thisinstructorhasbecomealeaderinthefieldofmathematicsbywritingnumerous booksandjournalarticles,andattendinglocal,regional,andnationalconventions. ShehasdedicatedhertimeandeffortstoadvancingOklahomaUniversity’smathde­ partmenttoitsrankingasfifthintheUnitedStates.Inaddition,herworkisadmired bymanyinstructorsbothinandoutsideofherdepartment.
     2. ThisinstructorhasbeenteachingattheUniversityofOklahomaformorethanfifteen years.Asastudentwhograduatedfromtheuniversity,shecarriesthetraditionof excellenceandpassesthistraditionontoherstudentsineveryclassthatsheteaches.
     3. Thisindividualoffersafter­hourstutoring,alwaysreservestimeforherstudentsbe­ foreandafterclass,andsetsupreviewsessionsbeforeeachexam.Herteachingeval­ uationsarenothingshortofstellar;andonnumerousoccasionsIhavehadstudents commenttomeabouther“excellenceasaninstructor.”

(**Internalsummary/Transition:**Inadditiontobeingaleaderanddemonstrating dedicationtoherstudents,thisinstructorgenuinelycaresaboutherstudents.)

* 1. **Mainidea2:**ThisteachercaresaboutthelearningofOUstudents.
     1. Caringteachersaresometimeshardtofindinthisdayandage,eventhoughcaring justmaybethemostsignificantcontributionofateacher.

“Caringissupportinganindividual’sinterpretationofhisorherownreality.Itisan activityofrelationship,ofseeingandrespondingtoneeds,takingcareoftheworld bysustainingthewebofconnectionsothatnooneisleftalone.Itrequiressensitivity andengrossmentwiththeother.Caringintheareaofeducationfosterscriticalawak­ eningofthehumanconsciousness.”

* + 1. Thisyear’swinnerexhibitsallthemajorcharacteristicsofacaringinstructor:knowl­ edgeandloveofselfandothers,presence,mutualrespect,sensitivity,communica­ tionwiththeother,andorganizationoftheteaching­learningsituation.

(**Internal summary/Transition to conclusion:** Thus I know most of you agree with me when I say that . . .)

**Conclusion**

1. **Summary:**Anexcellentteacherholdsthiscountry’sfutureinthepalmofhisorherhand; andwehereattheUniversityofOklahomaarepleasedtohonorinstructorswhoarecon­ stantlyraisingtheirhandsuptoshowourstudentsthestars.
2. **Review(**each**mainpoint):**Excellentteachersareindividualswhodemonstrateleader­ ship,dedication,andcaringforboththestudentsandtheirenvironment.
3. **Tietotheintroduction:**OnceIassociatedplayingwithchildhood,baseballgames,danc­ ingandsinging,andspendingtimewithfamilyandfriends.However,nowIalsoassoci­ ateitwithlearningfreshmancalculusandonetrulyextraordinaryhumanbeing.
4. **Providememorable,creativeconclusion**(endwithimpact):Onbehalfofmyself,every studentluckyenoughtohavesatinoneofherclasses,everyfuturestudentwhoawaits thisspectacularexperience,andthefacultyandadministrationhereattheUniversityof Oklahoma,Iampleasedtopresenttoyouthisyear’srecipientoftheUniversityofOkla­ homa’sInstructoroftheYearAward,Dr.DorisDiffendoofer.