

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tracy Walder

How does a blonde, Jewish, sorority girl from California end up hunting terrorists in Afghanistan in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, and how does she end up in Dallas, teaching at an all-girls school. In her new book, *The Unexpected Spy*, Tracy Walder explains how she happened to meet a CIA recruiter at a jobs fair and was recruited by the agency while a student at USC and a Delta Gamma sorority sister.



After she graduated from USC, Tracy would spend the next five years as a covert operative for CIA's Counterterrorism Center, assuming aliases, thwarting terrorist attacks, and hiding in the trunks of cars on her way to debrief terrorists at black sites. Tracy worked as Staff Operations Officer (SOO) at the Central Intelligence Agency's Counterterrorism Center Weapons of Mass Destruction Group. During her time at the CIA, Tracy traveled to Afghanistan, Jordan, Uzbekistan, Algeria, Morocco, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, and England. During this time Tracy received many awards for her service from both the CIA and from foreign intelligence offices. Among her awards were four Exceptional Performance Awards from the Director of the CIA, two Special Activity Awards, a Meritorious Unit Citation Award, a DCI Counterterrorism Center Medal, and two Operation Enduring Freedom Targeting Awards. After the CIA, Tracy became a Special Agent at the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office specializing in Chinese counterintelligence operations. Following her time at the CIA and FBI, Tracy enrolled in both a master's and a teaching credential program. She taught history and a self-created course on national security and foreign policy for over a decade. Tracy now works as an author, adjunct professor of Criminal Justice at Texas Christian University, and serves on the Board of Directors of Girl Security, a nonpartisan organization increasing the representation of women in national security by building a pipeline for girls and young women through learning, training, and mentoring support. She has appeared on Good Morning America and Fox News and has written national security pieces for Salon, the NY Post, HuffPo and other publications. Tracy Walder earned her degree in history from the University of Southern California and her Master's in education from Chapman University.

Tracy is the author of *The Unexpected Spy: My Secret Life Chasing Down Some Of The World's Most Notorious Terrorists* and is a sought after speaker through the World Affairs Council. Additionally, Ellen Pompeo purchased her story rights and ABC is developing a TV series based on Tracy's life.