Hypnotist Jim Wand: January Event for 1st-Year Thompson Scholars

On Thursday, January 24th at 7:00 PM, the 1st-Year Thompson Scholars will attend the performance by hypnotist Jim Wand. Tickets for the show will need to be picked up and signed for in the Thompson Scholars Office before noon on Thursday, January 24th. Consult with your mentor to see where you will meet to walk over to the event. This is the required event for January. If you have an academic commitment at the same time as the performance, please contact Yao prior to the event. Enjoy the show!

TSU: Taking Quarter-Zip Jacket Orders

This week, TSU will be accepting orders for TSLC quarter-zip jackets. The jackets will be available for order in black or grey at $35 each; cash payments are preferred, but students can pay with a check. TSU Officers will be present in the Mantor Hall Main Lounge several days this week to collect orders and payments:
- Tuesday, January 22: 1:00-4:00
- Wednesday, January 23: 3:00-4:30 & 5:30-7:00 (must be a Mantor resident to have building access after 5:00 PM)
- Thursday, January 24: 11:00-1:00
- Friday, January 25: 1:00-4:00

The UNK TSLC mentors traveled to The Leadership Center at Aurora, NE on January 18th and 19th for training. The annual training provided an opportunity for the students to engage in team building and reflection exercises, as well as to collaborate on a project related to the vision of Susan Thompson Buffett.

Upcoming Events:

**Tuesday, January 22nd:**
TSLC Success Session: How to Interview Effectively at 7:00 PM in Copeland Hall 130.

**Thursday, January 24th:**
Hypnotist, Jim Wand, from 7:00-8:30 PM in the NSU Ponderosa Room. 1st-Year Thompson Scholars will meet and attend in mentor groups. This is the required event for January.

**Wednesday, January 30th:**
TSLC Success Session: How to Search and Prepare for Internships at 4:00 PM in Copeland Hall 130.

**Wednesday, February 6th:**
TSLC Success Session: Scholarship Essay Writing at 3:30 PM in Copeland Hall 130.

**Thursday, February 7th:**
UNK Career Fair for 2nd-Year Thompson Scholars (non-education majors). Academic and Career Services sponsors the event from 12:30 to 3:30 PM at the UNK Health and Sports Center. Please be sure to sign-in to receive credit for attending the Career Fair.

**Monday, February 11th:**
TSLC Success Session: Study Abroad Student Panel at 4:30 PM in Copeland Hall 130.

**Tuesday, February 12th:**
Diversity Speaker Dr. Maura Cullen at 4:30-6:00 PM or 7:30-9:00 PM in the NSU Ponderosa Room E. All 1st and 2nd-Year Thompson Scholars must sign-up for one of the two sessions; information about how to sign-up will be sent via Lopermail.
Tips for Requesting Letters of Recommendation

Spring semester is a time that many students need recommendations. Scholarship applications, job searches, applications to graduate schools, academic programs, and/or organizations may require you to secure letters of recommendation. While it may seem as simple as dropping off a résumé or sending an email request, there are a few basic steps you should follow to secure a strong letter of recommendation.

*Prepare your résumé, based on your collegiate experiences, as well as a statement of purpose about the reason you are applying. Based on the skills the application lists for interested applicants, generate a list of recommenders who have observed your skills in those areas. Recomenders should be professional in nature, such as faculty, staff, advisors, project mentors or employment supervisors, unless the application specifies other options.

*Don’t ask a professional to write a letter for you who doesn’t know you well or who you do not interact with frequently. Knowing who you are or that you are part of an organization is not enough to write a strong recommendation. If you cannot generate a list of enough professionals to write you letters, it may be a signal to you that you need to take a more active role on campus or in the community.

*Ask professionals if they can write a letter of recommendation for you, in a face-to-face, scheduled meeting. A couple of questions you might consider asking are, “Do you feel you know me well enough to give me a positive letter of recommendation?” or “Can you write a strong recommendation for me regarding my skills/abilities with...(be prepared to share a list of skills/abilities)?” It is best to be able to submit letters of that speak very highly of you, and in detailed fashion.

*If someone turns you down, don’t get offended. Asking for a recommendation means someone must take time to draft a detailed letter; they may not feel they know you well enough, or they may simply not have the time to write a letter by the deadline you need. Always have a back up plan of additional professionals you can ask in case someone declines to write a letter for you.

*Give whomever you ask for a letter a minimum of two weeks to complete the recommendation. Include all information needed for the letter, such as whom to write the letter to, what skills could be highlighted in the letter, how to handle the letter when it is finished. If it is to be mailed, provide an addressed envelope with a stamp, and be sure to factor in mailing time with deadlines. It is not customary to ask for a copy of a recommendation letter so that you can read it. It is wise to secure letters of recommendation in advance of final deadlines to be sure you don’t run into challenges.

*If you need more than one letter of recommendation, communicate that information up front to the recommender. Don’t assume that once they have done one letter for you, you can always expect them to do more. If asking for more than one letter, be organized in asking about what you need, as you should never cause your recommenders to have to seek out information from you to complete the letter. Also, send a thank you note to recommenders for writing letters for you.

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**Student of the Week**

**Name:** Jordan Owens  
**Hometown:** Crete, NE  
**Major:** Accounting  

**What is the best part about being a Thompson Scholar?** The best part of being a Thompson Scholar is having all the resources to be successful. The TSLC staff is also there for us if we need anything.

**What is your favorite word or phrase that you say most often?** I probably say “yee haw” most often, but I am in no way a cowboy.

**What motivates you?** Other people’s success motivates me to be the best that I can be.

**What do you love to talk about?** I love to talk about baseball.

**What would you like to be doing in twenty years?** I would like to have a stable job and a family in twenty years.

**What do you binge-watch?** I binge-watch *The Office* on Netflix.

**What would you be willing to wait in a really long line for?** I have never had In-N-Out Burger, and it looks too good to not wait in line for.

**If you had your own talk show, whom would you want to interview?** I would interview Will Ferrell. He is a very funny man.

**What family traditions do you plan to carry on as you get older?** I want to carry on our family barbecue on Labor Day weekend.

**What are you obsessed with?** I am obsessed with *Raising Cane’s* chicken and especially their toast.