Upcoming Events:

**Monday, February 17th:**
TSLC Community Conversations from 4:00-5:00 PM in the Mantor Hall Main Lounge. All Thompson Scholars are encouraged to attend. Featured Guest: UNK Graduate Studies.

**Wednesday, February 26th:**
Completed Mid-Semester Grade Check Forms are due to the TSLC office by 5 PM.

**Wednesday, February 26th:**
2nd-Year Scholars: Interview Skills Presentation and Community Dinner with Alumni. From 6:00-8:00 PM in the NSU Ponderosa Room E.

**Wednesday, March 4th:**
1st-Year Scholars: Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Presentation and Dessert Social. From 6:30-8:00 PM in NSU Ponderosa Room E.

**Friday, March 13th:**
Last day to drop a full semester class with a “W” in lieu of a grade.

**Tuesday, March 17th:**
TSLC Community Conversations from 3:30-4:30 PM in the Mantor Hall Main Lounge. All Thompson Scholars are encouraged to attend. Featured Guest: Nebraska College of Law.

**Friday, April 3rd:**
2nd-Year Scholars: Major/Career Exploration Assignment is due to the TSLC Office.

**Sunday, April 5th:**
2nd-Year Scholars: Halfway to Graduation Celebration. 6:00-8:00 PM at the Holiday Inn. Business attire is required.

---

TSLC Community Conversations:
**UNK Graduate Studies**

Is graduate school on your horizon? If not, maybe it should it be. Depending on where you are in your college career, it might seem really early to be thinking about graduate school. But maybe it’s not too early after all. Certain fields will require an advanced degree to practice, but even if you don’t need a graduate degree to get a job in your chosen field, it might benefit you to do so. A graduate degree could improve your career, better positioning you for advancement in title, salary, or responsibility. It could increase your options by helping you gain advanced skills and knowledge. That can mean more flexibility in the type of work you could do and how easily you could transition between professions.

UNK offers over 30 graduate programs through both on-campus and online formats. The staff from the Office of Graduate Studies can help take the mystery out of graduate school: how to find the right program for you, how to apply, what to expect, how to afford it. Stop by the upcoming Community Conversation to chat with our featured guest, the Office of Graduate Studies, to learn more about what graduate school could mean for you. This Community Conversation runs from 4:00 to 5:00 PM but feel free to come and go as you please.
Student of the Week

Name: Joclyn Staman

Hometown: Crawford, NE

Major: Criminal Justice

**What is the best part about being a Thompson Scholar?** The best part about being a Thompson Scholar is the people I have met through this program! Without the Thompson Learning Community, I wouldn't have met my best friends or have the support I do to get through college.

**Where is your favorite place to visit and why?** My favorite place to visit is Bigfork, MT. My sister and grandparents live there, and the scenery will take your breath away.

**What do you binge-watch?** I can binge-watch *Friends* or *That 70’s Show* any day!

**What’s the clumsiest thing you’ve done?** Every year of high school, at least one game per season, I would fall down during warmups in front of the whole crowd. Never failed.

**If you could have a conversation with any historical figure, who would it be?** I would love to have a conversation with Margaret Sanger. She is an extraordinary woman who fought hard for women’s rights during a tough time.

**What are you obsessed with?** I am obsessed with exotic pets. My life goal is to own a skunk.

**What is the best book or series you have ever read?** The *Hush Hush* series is amazing!

**What are you grateful for?** I am extremely grateful for the Susan Buffett Scholarship. It has already gifted me with experiences and friendships I will never forget.

---

**Mid-Semester Grade Check Form Due 2/26/20**

The TSLC Mid-Semester Grade Check Form has been distributed to Thompson Scholars via email today; completion is required as part of our program expectations for 1st and 2nd-Year Thompson Scholars, for Spring transfer TSLC students, as well as for Thompson Scholars on scholarship probation, learning community warning, or academic warning with the TSLC Program. **The form will require students to calculate their GPA once all grades have been collected; please use the new GPA calculator listed on the form** ([https://registrar.unl.edu/academic-standards/gpa/](https://registrar.unl.edu/academic-standards/gpa/)). This completed document is due to the TSLC Office by Wednesday, February 26th at 5 PM; please have it folded or in an envelope when you turn it in to keep your academic information private. The TSLC office staff will make copies of your completed grade check form for you to submit to other programs or offices upon your request.

Mid-semster grade checks are helpful to students in several ways. First, the form provides a chance for students to gauge where they are academically, given the scholarship requirements to keep a 2.0 cumulative GPA and earn credits each term. Second, the process allows students to compare the current grade against the syllabus, so that goals can be set for the remainder of the semester. Third, completing grade checks presents an opportunity for students to interact with faculty members and have conversations about the current grade in individual classes. Fourth, it gives students the chance to consider if they need to drop a class prior to the final day to drop classes, which is March 13th, 2020.

**Please visit your faculty members during their office hours to have them complete the forms with your accurate grade;** please use good manners and exercise patience when requesting grades and signatures from instructors. While some instructors may know your grades and may be willing to sign at the end of class, it would be most appropriate to not rush them between classes. Please contact your instructor to see what they would prefer in terms of a time for completing the form, which also gives them time to adequately assess your grade.

Grade check forms will be reviewed by TSLC Staff; a TSLC staff member will contact a student for an individual meeting if a course grade or the overall GPA is low. Any questions or concerns about the deadline for grade report forms should be directed ahead of the deadline to a staff member at the TSLC Office.

---

Thank you to Thompson Scholars (L to R) Logan Johansen, Marissa Asche, Paola Pinedo, and Catherine Arias-Barrios for attending our 1st-Year February Community Dinner and sharing about their experiences with UNK study abroad programs.

More information about UNK Study Abroad and National Student Exchange Programs can be located on the UNK website:

[http://www.unk.edu/international/study_abroad/index.php](http://www.unk.edu/international/study_abroad/index.php)