



Having JT Tran come to Northeastern University was a fantastic experience. We, the NU Vietnamese Student Association, requested for him to come and speak on “Tran-scending Racial Stereotypes” as part of our annual Asian American Heritage Week, which occurred this year on 2/13/13.

Correspondence with JT and his agent Sarah Ann was very professional and cordial. JT is flexible with his fees, and for our college student group, only required flight and hotel arrangements with a negotiable honorarium. They were both very quick to respond and helpful with whatever information we requested, whether it was paperwork that needed to be filled out or examples of advertisements from his previous talks, and showed their enthusiasm to come out to our school. When we mentioned that we would prefer a more serious topic of his transformation, overcoming stereotypes, and building confidence, he readily agreed and said he preferred to speak on those kinds of higher issues. He also helped publicize the event, with an article appearing in the *SF Gate*.

Though a few of us were initially somewhat cautious and wary of what JT would speak on, those misgivings were swept away at the event. JT is every inch a professional speaker, entertaining with his anecdotes and engaging with his audience. For our talk he came prepared with a slideshow that included clips of interviews with strangers on the street to get their initial impressions of Asian men, information on recent phenomena such as Jeremy Lin, and stories from past students of his boot camp. He made the admittedly serious topic about negative stereotypes and hurdles fun as well as informative. He responded well to questions from the audience afterwards as well.

Overall, it was an immense pleasure to work with JT and Sarah. We were very pleased with how he approached the topic and interacted with the students, and their professionalism and helpfulness during the planning of our event.

Yvette Kim

Program Coordinator

Northeastern University

Vietnamese Student Association