MY ADVENTURES IN TV LAND  J.MARKLEY

Dr. Markley is an associate professor of History as well as one of our University Honors Program professors. He attended the University of Auckland for both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees and earned his Ph.D. at Macquarie University. Recently, Dr. Markley was involved in the History Channel show “History of the World in Two Hours” and more recently has been working on a upcoming new series called “Big History” that grew out of the first show.

It began with a simple email from Flight 33, a production company that makes documentaries for the History Channel. They wanted to know if I would be available for an interview at a sound studio in Van Nuys for a show they were making on Big History. Of course I said yes. Would you refuse the chance to be on TV? “Sound studio” sounds so glamorous, I wasn’t expecting a large empty room with concrete floor and padded walls. They sat me in the middle of the dark room with a spotlight in my eyes, and fired questions at me for two hours, and I wasn’t allowed to look like I was answering questions. For example, if they asked me “what is an apple?”, I couldn’t say “it’s a fruit”. I would have to say, “An apple is a fruit.” I later learned that one of the other interviews in the show (called “History of the World in Two Hours”) was shot in the same room, but in that case they pushed a large cabinet behind the guy so you’d think he was sitting in his office! That was all I knew, until some months later they asked me to look at a rough cut, which had a different person doing the voice-over, and quite a few of the fancy graphics missing. There was only one section where I had a few misgivings about what they were saying, and I was very pleased when they modified the wording in that section to remove the doubtful statement. Then it hit the screens, not just in the US, but also around the world. Someone actually phoned my mother (who lives in New Zealand) to tell her to turn on the TV to see her son! I’ve even got random fan emails since then after seeing my name and university on the show. The network liked the 2 hour show, and so commissioned an entire series, and I’ve been heavily involved in that. It’s called Big History, and we’re not totally sure when it will be broadcast, but hopefully before the end of this year. It will be called “Big History”. Unfortunately they only asked for half hour episodes, which means about 21 minutes of content after ad breaks and credits, etc. That seriously limits the kinds of things they can talk about, but I’ve been happy with the rough cuts of the first three episodes. Watch out for it, coming to a screen near you.
GET INVOLVED!

HSAC
Join our Honors Club! This is a great way to get involved, meet other students, and honors faculty!

Mentorship Program
Become a mentor or mentee! Contact UNIVHONORS@fullerton.edu for more info.

Dr. J's Advisory Board
Be part of Dr. J’s group of students who converse with her about the University Honors Program.

Strategic Planning Committee
Join Faculty and Dr. J to write the goals and missions for our program! Our next meeting is October 4th at 11 am PLN-120.

Contact us:
University Honors:
(657) 278-7440
Univhonors@fullerton.edu
Joyce Kropacek
(657) 278-7442
Jkropacek@fullerton.edu

THE SENIOR PROJECT A. GONZALES

The Senior Honors Project seems scary for many of the students that have not taken their colloquium classes or thought about the possible topics they can write about. I know for myself, when I heard I needed to do this “thesis”-like project by the end of my honors career at school, it scared the juices out of me. I entered my Honors 300A classes not knowing what in the world I was going to do or what to research, or if I had the time and the energy to do it. The truth is, by the end of that fall semester when it was time to transition to the real deal, have mentors, and actually have a proposal written, I was not too scared nor too overwhelmed by the idea that I was going to do a thesis before graduating from my B.A.

Don’t be afraid of something bigger than yourself.

This honors project that seems to be a lot of work and that will stretch your academic abilities, will give you training to know yourself as someone bigger than who you know yourself to be now. Take the challenge and don’t be afraid to ask, at the end you will learn something new out of it.

A Guide to the University Honors Program Center:

Welcome to the UHP Center! This is a place for honors students to meet other honors students, study, hang out, talk to Dr. J, and generally make yourself at home. Here is a brief guide to the ways of the UHP Center:

Make sure to check-in at the front desk by swiping your Titan card in the swipe machine (even if no one is currently at the front desk).

The center is reserved for honors student use only (sorry no non-honors students allowed).

Seeing as your non-honors student friend is not allowed to come into the center, take the time to meet the person in the chair next to you!

Free printing! Yay! You may print for free here, but limit printing to fifteen pages and for your academic classes only.

Sorry, no eating in the library and that means no eating in the UHP Center either, with the exception of food items brought in by Dr. J (please don’t make the student assistants have to tell you to leave).

R-E-S-P-E-C-T! Tell me what it means to… the UHP Center. Please treat everyone with respect by keeping the noise level low and being mindful of the amount of time spent on the computer. Also, treat the room with respect by not leaving any trash and leaving the room as you found it.

The UHP Center is a place of study and socialization, but not nap time (so please no sleeping here; it is really awkward to have to wake you up).

Make sure you keep up with announcements posted on the bulletin boards and posters!

The room is for you, but it is also the home of Dr. J, Joyce, and the student assistants. Please remember the ways of the UHP Center and also make sure to say hello to all of them!

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