October 3, 2019

ALT – DISNEY: An Anthropological Look at Disneyland

Stephanie Takaragawa, Ph.D.
Professor and Associate Dean, Department of Sociology, Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

What makes Disneyland so successful in compelling people to comply with its culture at the ‘Happiest Place on Earth’? Focusing on the environment of Disneyland, Dr. Takaragawa examines how architecture, the environment and other mitigating social factors encourage certain types of behaviors and create specific types of expectations.

Using research models from the anthropology of space and place, Dr. Takaragawa will explain different theories of social behavior that she and her students have found at the park. This includes why people behave the way they do and whether the idea of a ‘Disney culture’ is something other than real life.

November 7, 2019

Anchor Babies, Criminals, and Terrorists: Immigration Rhetoric and Facts

Marisa Cianciarulo, JD
Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Fowler School of Law

Just about everyone has an opinion about immigration. Many opinions are influenced by the rhetoric of immigration, which is full of powerful imagery: caravans of immigrants invading the U.S. at the southern border, pregnant women coming to the country to obtain citizenship through their U.S.-born children, terrorists infiltrating the refugee population, and immigrants stealing jobs from Americans. It is not unreasonable for people exposed to this rhetoric to conclude that immigration is a threat to the safety, welfare, and economic stability of the United States.

Understanding the facts is key to moving the immigration debate forward and to reducing the toxic divisiveness of this important topic. Associate Dean Cianciarulo seeks to expose some myths prevalent in today’s immigration rhetoric and to provide facts about legal and illegal immigration.

February 6, 2020

Heart Attacks, Volcanic Explosions, and Drones: The Grandest of Challenges

Gregory Goldsmith, Ph.D.
Professor of Biological Science
Director, Grand Challenges Initiative
Schmid College of Science and Technology

The magnitude and complexity of today’s problems can feel overwhelming. Where do you even begin to understand how to cure cancer? How do we provide a growing population with clean water? How can we conserve the planet’s biodiversity for future generations? Chapman University’s new Grand Challenges Initiative empowers students with the skills to identify solutions to society’s most pressing problems.

Dr. Goldsmith will moderate a student panel that will share how, with the skills they’ve learned through Grand Challenges Initiative, they are working on approaches to problem solving which include helping individuals with autism, realizing unlimited renewable energy, using genetics to remove plastics from the ocean and so much more.

March 5, 2020

Orange County Real Estate: Real Talk

Fadel Lawandy ‘99, MBA
Professor and Director, Hoag Center for Real Estate and Finance, Argyros School of Business and Economics

Will Orange County turn into a renter community as affordability continues to be a major challenge for many of its residents? Home values, interest rates, residential market conditions, social norms, job creation, and wage growth vs. home value growth all play a role in answering this question. In his discussion, Professor Lawandy will examine these factors and more as he evaluates the impact of such a transition.

The Hoag Center for Real Estate and Finance, of which Lawandy is the director, is providing academic and professional opportunities in real estate and finance to students in the Argyros School. He will also share more about the center and the exciting future of real estate education at Chapman.

May 7, 2020

How Music Affects Us

Robert Becker, M.M.
Professor and Director of String Studies, Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music, College of Performing Arts

What are the advantages of learning an instrument? Does one get smarter? Is one better prepared for careers other than music by playing an instrument? Can others’ lives be affected by one’s performances? How do the composers’ tonal selection, decisions, and period of music affect an audience and one’s own emotional state, preparation for work and interaction with colleagues?

Professor Becker will give you these answers and more, as questions will be answered while you listen to music played by talented students of the Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music. Please bring inquiries with you about all things related to string playing; Professor Becker will be taking questions ahead of time, so that he can address them during his presentation.