

Dr. Mark Savickas

Introduction

Kent State University Distinguished Alumni Award

September 28, 2012

Dr. Mark Savickas is the most modest star you will ever meet. He is also the only doctoral student I ever had that knew more psychology than I did before he entered the KSU doctoral program. The biggest challenge of being Mark's advisor was to help him in his quest to be the very best scholar he could become. It became obvious in the first few months of our relationship that Mark needed more than we had to offer, so I contacted three of the most illustrious scholars in the field of career psychology, to see if Mark might intern with them.

All agreed, but the most illustrious of the three, Dr. Donald Super, said that if Mark was not productive, he would "send him home in a minute." When Mark arrived at Columbia, Dr. Super handed Mark a packet of what he later told me was two weeks worth of work and told him to return when he had summarized the material. Mark returned two days later with the work completed, and discussed it with Dr. Super. Dr. Super asked Mark where he was living in New York City and invited him to live with him and his wife for the semester...and...a life long relationship developed...only to have Dr. Super announce, twenty years later, at his farewell retirement speech at an International Convention, that Mark had replaced him as the foremost Career Psychologist in the world.

Mark is Professor of Behavioral Sciences at the Northeastern Ohio Medical University and Chair Emeritus of Behavioral Sciences at NEOMED, an honor bestowed on Mark for his twenty-seven year leadership of the Behavioral Science Department. Mark currently also serves as Professor Extraordinaire at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. He has also served as: Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Psychology, Vrije (Vree High) University in Belgium; Visiting Professor in the faculty of Education and Psychology in Organisational Behavior in the School of Business at Loughborough (Luft Borrow) University, United Kingdom; and, Visiting Professor in the faculty of Education and Psychology at University of Lisbon, in Portugal.

Mark has authored 80 articles, 40 book chapters, five books and made over 500 professional presentations in thirteen countries...almost all on his specialty... Career Psychology and Career Counseling. He also has served as a journal editor for over twenty years, twice being named by “Elsevier’s (Else-veers) Author Feedback System” as the highest ranking of its 1200 journal editors.

Mark has had over 5000 students attend his Career Psychology class at KSU... and has been the Major advisor to 35 Ph.D. graduates. Mark has won the four major awards from the American Psychology Association, and is a Fellow in four professional associations. He has also been named the Outstanding Alumni of John Carroll University. Mark has received the highest administrative, research and teaching awards from NEOMED... and Honorary Doctorates from the University of Lisbon and the University of Pretoria.

Whew! How does this man stay so humble? So centered? It is because of who he is and how he has lived his life...one of commitment to his wife, MaryAnn (a Master's Degree holder from John Carroll herself), and their daughter, Sue (a KSU Doctoral Student). Mark has an altruistic outlook on life...one of wanting to serve others and to help others be the best they can be. Mark always had time for Saturday Afternoon Tea Parties for Sue when she was young...and for his wife Mary Ann.

One last story to let you know that Mark is not just a nerdy professor. At the College of Medicine, students soon learned that Mark knew all types of music...classical, rock, punk, country, folk... and started an ongoing game to stump him! It was not uncommon to be walking with Mark and a passing student would say, "Drummer, Pink Floyd," and Mark would say, "Nick Mason," and continue our discussion without missing a beat. His general appeal is also amazing too! He appeared on a talk show in Pretoria, South Africa several years ago and that particular one-hour show was awarded the Emmy for the best show of the year in South Africa!

The only downside of Mark winning this award is that now you know all of these things about him. Family man, outstanding teacher, modest award winning scholar, author, music buff, great friend, Emmy winner and your 2012 Kent State University Distinguished Alumni Award winner...Dr. Mark Savickas.

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