

Ask the Professor #2037
TRANSCRIPT

Anncr.: The University of Detroit Mercy presents another brand new episode of Ask The Professor, the radio show on which you match wits with University of Detroit Mercy professors in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. Today's program was recorded using Zoom Videoconferencing technology.

Matt: The University tower chimes, ring in another session in of Ask The Professor, The show on which you match wits with University of Detroit Mercy professors in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. I'm your host Matt Mio, and let me introduce to you our panel for today. To the bottom of my, screen, it's Professor Heather Hill.

Heather: Oh, hello! How are you?

Matt: Um, terrible, how are you!

Heather: Ohh I'm sorry to hear that.

Matt: It's nice. It's not easy, nothing's easy, y'know.

Heather: I know. Everything's different and bizarre and dystopian.

Matt: The quote from the chronicle this morning was, as colleges prepare for Fall, it's like driving very very slowly through the densest fog, that you've ever been through. Nobody knows what to expect.

Heather: Correct. For sure. But, the sun is shining and things are getting better, right? I think? Fingers crossed yeah?

Matt: Fingers crossed. And it's gorgeous today, it's gonna be gorgeous tomorrow. Absolutely.

Beth: Yeah, I have all the windows open

Dave: Matt's just saying that so he wants us to come over and help him with the mulch.

Heather: I'll come! I like spreading mulch!

Matt: I had to use a pitchfork unironically.

Dave: You need one Matt?

Matt: Uh, sure!

Dave: We got one!

Heather: Unironically, what does that mean?

Matt: Well, not for, you know, pretending like I'm sticking my boys in the butt or you know pretending like I'm American Gothic or something like that.

Heather: Yeah, yeah maybe just a little for Facebook purposes or something like that.

Matt: It's just interesting. Usually I have the boys recover the memory of, it's impossible to move at least eight cubic yards with a shovel, it just doesn't work, you need, you definitely need a pitchfork to do it.

Beth: Yep. Sounds good.

Matt: Professor Beth Oljar is here.

Beth: Hey!

Matt: Oh, there we go.

Jim: There's the pitchfork. That looks like a devil's pitchfork

Matt: Hey Beth, do you have like a victory garden or something.

Beth: Um, I do not. I have made some attempts at gardening in previous years. One year I was successful with growing herbs when Heather help me but I just can never, I can't get to it. I think.

Matt: Do you mind me asking what herbs that you tried to grow?

Beth: Chives, thyme, basil, parsley.

Matt: Nice.

Beth: You know, the usual things.

Matt: The usual suspects?

Beth: Yeap. Indeed.

Matt: Basil is a good one. I always feel like if you let it take over it will. And then you can make lots of pesto, which is always fantastic.

Beth: I love pesto.

Matt: Excellent, excellent. Professor James Balfour Tubbs is with us today.

Jim: Yes, sir.

Matt: How are you?

Jim: I'm doing well. How about you?

Matt: I, you know, it's, it is what it is.

Jim: Y'know you hear cliches about how things work. I had a friend in college, who if ever you complained about anything, she would just carefully say, "Well, life is hard and then you die!"

Matt: Oh!

Dan: It's very depressing. I hope she doesn't write cards.

Dave: Or fortune cookies.

Jim: Or Hallmark!

Matt: It's interesting you use that as your story Jim, because I don't know what it was, but it was...Oh there we go. Nice. This morning I was trying to

remember who it was, you know, who said there's only two things in life that are certain, you know, death and taxes, and you go down the rabbit hole when you have Wikipedia right in front of you and so this is a variation of what you said, y'know.

Beth: Mark Twain, Roy Rogers?

Matt: Apparently it was originally attributed to Benjamin Franklin.

Jim: Yeah, I think it was Franklin, from what I've heard.

Matt: Feel like I should get to know that guy, a little bit more.

Beth: He is awesome.

Jim: Our first Postmaster General, among other things.

Matt: Right underneath me my screen is Professor Stephen Manning! The newly retired Professor Stephen Manning. Congratulations!

Steven: Thank you!

Matt: Is that what you're supposed to say when people retire?

Steven: I don't know. It's not official until August, but I was wondering how our lives would change once the semester is over. Classes are done and we're no longer doing that, grades are submitted and, uhm, what do we do now? Clean screen windows and plant flowers and stuff I guess. It'd be interesting to see, depending on how long this thing goes on, what we do with ourselves at this point.

Matt: It's quite true. You know, we went on the first ever all five Mios independent bike ride the other day. It's kind of been a big deal for my youngest because he was afraid of getting to ride a bike but now it's like the first thing he thinks of when he wakes up. But you got to have things like that Steven, got to have stuff like that.

Steven: Absolutely.

Beth: I cook a lot of things.

Matt: Yeah. Fire up that grill, come on. Speaking of people who like to cook, mostly bake, Professor Mara Livezey is here. Have you happened to bake something today?

Mara: Noooooo.

Matt: Ooh

Mara: I actually haven't baked since I made the best buy sugar Scotcherroos. I'm taking a break from sugar.

Matt: Does that have anything to do with Josh, by any chance?

Mara: You know, even though he's a type-one diabetic, I am constantly baking, so it's not for him. More for my sake.

Matt: I'm trying to remember the Scotcheroots were actually two weeks ago and you were eating them on camera right?

Mara: Yes!

Matt: This isn't something I've had a chance to indulge in yet. But I know I will sometime.

Jim: And they all looked great.

Matt: Mmhm.

Mara: Next time we can all get together. I will bring them back

Dave: Remember we're having the ATP potluck!

Mara: That's right.

Matt: Professor Dave Chow is also with us today.

Dave: Pleasure to be here, as always.

Matt: I've been staring at the, is that tiny posted notes behind you

Dave: Yes.

Matt: Okay.

Dave: Character sketches I just made.

Matt: Oh, very cool! I didn't know whether it was a calendar or y'know.

Dave: No, it's just post-it notes on a nice framed piece of art that I just have back there that's all, amongst other clutter.

Jim: Are we caricatured up there?

Dave: No no no, I've got other places to put those caricatures. I've got that blackmail file ready to go at a moment's notice.

Matt: Which reminds me Dave. Would you mind caricaturing everybody on the zoom right now and like putting it on the giant thing and getting it in my front yard by tomorrow morning.

Dave: Sure! Get in line. I'll get the purchase order ready to go too! Everybody's on a deadline.

Matt: Yep, everybody's on the deadline. Well, we're gonna probably see, speaking of an exponential curve, a number of unique ways to celebrate student graduation over the next few weeks. That's for sure.

Dave:Yep.

Matt: Professor Dan Maggio is here. Daniel Balfor Maggio.

Dan: I like James I like his middle name so I thought I would fit. So what's the University doing graduation? Anything special? Virtually?

Mara: Nothing yet.

Dave: I'm not doing caricatures at that gig am I?!

Mara: Yeah.

Matt: You know Dan, we have plans that Stephanie and I would have learned about this morning, to do a sort of a very small scale award ceremony in the College of Engineering and Science because we didn't get to have our slide rule dinner dance that I'm sure you remember very fondly.

Dan: Mmhm.

Matt: We got a message that Dr Garibaldi doesn't want any whispers about commencement, because he's holding out hope that we'll be able to throw something together in the middle of the summer but the more that I read headlines, the more I see the other writing on the wall.

Beth: We can have a celebration. As long as we don't say congratulations and graduation. We can say like, "You're done!" and all that stuff but yeah.

Dave: "Beat it, kid!"

Matt: Professor Stephanie Conant, is reminding me from this meeting we have this morning that it sounded a lot like that thing where you are not allowed to say the word 'Super Bowl' but you can call it like. "the big game" and stuff like that.

Stephanie: We may have an event that might have something to do with them graduating, but we can't directly announce it.

Jim: Ohhh an event.

Beth: Right. This is like theater and calling it the "Scottish play", right?

Matt: Right Yes, yes. Well we were told explicitly - No regalia allowed.

Wasn't that what was?

Dave: Define regalia!

Stephanie: It's like graduation regalia value. That doesn't mean we can't put other regalia on. We can make it fancy in other ways.

Jim: Leather boas? (not sure)

Stephanie: Right? Yeah.

Matt: That's right. Y'know, it's been a while, folks, since we had questions regarding things like academic regalia, but we'll take questions regarding anything. If you stump the panel you win a prize, if you don't stump the panel you win a prize. You can send the questions to us in a number of ways. You can email us at atp@udmercy.edu. You reach us on the web at udmercy.edu/atp, find us on Facebook or listen to your favorites smart speaker by asking you to play Ask the Professor at University of Detroit

Mercy. Our Facebook group is on the cusp of 250 members! Kind of a big deal!

Dave: Now if they send us a \$1 a piece...

Dan: They can send us cookies instead.

Matt: Go into Mom and Dad's wallets and purses...

Heather: Soupy Sales.

Matt: There you go, there we go. Okay folks. "Dear, Professors, I heard through the grapevine that you had a need for questions. Seeing as how our family has been sequestered for the COVID-19 dilemma, we've had time to come up with some more very questions for you in the show. We hope you can use our questions and say they bring some cheer to your crew as much as they give us a few laughs during these -Professor Livezey-blank times. Professor Livezey sent out unofficial Twitter poll the other day. Fill in the blank. 'These blank times'.

Mara: I've said that phrase say too many times to count, over the last like seven weeks.

Matt: Don't forget the runner up to that which is 'a grim milestone. We're laughing about it. Stay safe and warmest wishes as always from Valencia California. It's long time question sender Frank Burroughs. Thanks Frank and Family. Let's see what we can do with these questions that are indeed, the number... 20, excellent. And they are all over the place. Just to show you how all over the place they are. "One of the Beatles got arrested for setting a condom on fire, which was it?"

Beth: Lennon.

Heather: Ringo.

Matt: So far we've gotten nothing.

Jim: Four. Oh!

Matt: Oh my gosh...

Beth: Well, you're four for four unless you really go into the insights.

Dan: I have several rude things to say, that I'm sure the University wouldn't appreciate...So I'll just, I'll leave the guessing up to my colleagues.

Matt: Well this is what it says. It says in Germany once, Paul, and original drummer Pete Best lit one on fire in order to use it as a light as they were packing up gear in a dim room. They were basically confronted by the police and accused of trying to set the building on fire. A few hours in jail.
laughter

Beth: Well they were arrested in Germany because George was under age when they were playing there.

Matt: I remember that. Yeah. Um, you know, it just fits into the category of, 'This will be a great story to tell the grandkids!'

Jim: How flammable are condoms...?

Beth: I think part of hamburg (not sure) that was pretty uh...It's red light district, shall we say, the Reeperbahn is where they were playing.

Matt: So, under age for, would have been what, Beth?

Beth: Playing in the kind of clubs, they were playing in.

Matt: What I mean is, what chronological age.

Beth: 18.

Matt: Okay. Okay.

Steven: No one's going to answer Jim's question?

Matt: What was that?

Jim: How flammable are condoms? I mean, I never would have thought of that as a source of combustion.

Dan: I would google it, but I don't want that in my history so.

laughter

Stephanie: Y'know what I think it's just the package, like the wrapper!

Jim: That's foil usually, I mean that doesn't seem very flammable either.

Dave: Let's just say the lubricant could be used as an accelerant.

Jim: There you go.

Matt: Moving on.

Dave: Yeah, thank you, please!

Matt: Approximately - pay attention to the units - Approximately how many miles of yarn, come from one pound of wool?"

Mara: 3.7

Matt: 3.7 is a little closer to the order of magnitude but you know you're a little low Mara.

Dan: 20?

Jim: 5.1

Matt: It's higher than 5.1 and less than twenty whatever point. I'm giving it to Heather within the error bars, it's 10 miles of yarn can come from one pound of wool.

Heather: Seems like a lot.

Dan: Doesn't that depend on the thickness of the yarn?

Matt: We're kind of stretching the definition here, aren't we,

Dan: I forgot this is just a radio show. I make these comments during movies and then everybody always says to me, "Dan. It's just a movie." So...

jim: Dan it's just a radio show.

Dan: It's just a radio show, sorry.

Anncr: You're listening to a special edition of Ask The Professor, in which each of the ten professors participating in this recording session were connecting to each other from different locations, thanks to Zoom videoconferencing technology. We're grateful to those who sent questions for today's program and we welcome your questions at atp@udmercy.edu. Now, let's return to our host Matt Mio with more questions for the panel.

Matt: From Valencia, California, it's long-time question sender Frank Burroughs, "For as tall as they are, how deep do redwood trees roots go in feet?"

Jim: 10.

Heather: Doesn't depend on the size of tree?

Matt: You know that's actually the first part that it says here Heather, but Jim also jumped all over it. It says at the most it's been clocked at about 12 feet, but they can spread side to side over 100 feet. That's a serious anchor right there.

Dave: That's what they're saying about us during this pandemic too so.

Matt: Exactly. "What famous actor played the TV repairman, in the movie Pleasantville?"

Stephanie: John Talent?"

Heather: Don Knotts.

Matt: Don Knotts that's right Heather, that's correct. Famous actor from the era that was being parodied in that movie. "By population, what are the only two top 30 cities in America, who have declined in overall population since the year 2010?"

Stephanie: Detroit?

Matt: Detroit is number one.

Steven: St. Louis.

Matt: It's not St. Louis.

Dave: Some California city?

Matt: Sit still and sit down, St. Louis is growing. So far all we have is Detroit.

Dan: Cleveland?

Matt: Not Cleveland.

Beth: Chicago?

Matt: Not Chicago.

Dan: I would say it's not Pittsburgh.

Mara: Baltimore?

Matt: It's Baltimore yeah. Yes. For the record, we have the data here. Detroit since going into the 2020 census, had a minus 6% in population and in Baltimore is at minus 3%. Well this is kinda interesting.

Beth: Well, if you're in choir you know why that's the case.

Matt: I'm looking in a Heather and Beth kind of direction when I ask the next related question. "Of the top 30 cities in America, based on the 2010 census, which three saw well over 20% growth?"

Beth: Seattle.

Jim: Seattle. Yeah.

Heather: Portland?

Dan: Houston? How about Houston?

Matt: No, but the other two are both in Texas.

Steven: Austin?

Dan: Dallas, Austin.

Matt: Dallas, Fort Worth, and Austin. That's correct. Yes. The highest of those was Seattle with a whopping 23% growth.

Dan: That's amazing.

Mara: That's what happens when you legalize weed.

Beth: They all want to work. You better have 24 hours a month. (NS) My sister and her husband were planning to move somewhere else and move to Idaho because of how expensive it is to live in Seattle.

Matt: Wow. "Which spacecraft - fictional spacecraft - costs more to build? The Robinsons Jupiter 2, or the Starship Enterprise?"

Dan: Got to be enterprise

Mara: I was gonna say it's the Jupiter.

Dave: Yeah, that sounds about right, the Jupiter 2.

Matt: It says the Jupiter two here and it gives absolutely no even fake money values, which is too bad because that would've been cool.

Dave: Okay, Dan? Entertain me on this Star Trek geekiness. Probably by the time they built the enterprise, they weren't talking, you know, dollars and cents at that point. Yes? No?

Dan: Did they mention currency ever in Star Trek? Could be a great trivia question.

Dave: I mean, as was a car give that speech where money is not an issue in the future. (NS)

Matt: That's right.

Dan: Mm, I don't know Dave,

Beth: Whenever Aries has the perende, or the great, y'know. (NS)

Dan: Yeah, that's in Deep Six Nine, they probably talk about currency a lot.

Beth: Yeah, something like that.

Dan: I was thinking the original series. The real one.

Matt: "What city is the main distribution point for the services of UNICEF?"

Dan: Is it international?

Matt: It's not American

Beth: Stockholm? No that's not right...

Jim: Geneva?

Matt: You're very close with Stockholm Beth, you're very close.

Beth: Helsinki?

Dan: Copenhagen?

Matt: It's Copenhagen, yeah. Beth gets the lead and Dan gets the assist.

Dan: I get the assist? Nice, very nice.

Beth: We make quite a team Dan.

Dan: Thanks.

Jim: He makes a great assistant!

Matt: Ooh, this is one that's a solvable problem here. This is pretty interesting. What was the very first year that the BBC would have broadcast Big Ben's Chimes on New Year's Eve? What year was it? A hint - it hasn't been 100 years yet.

Beth: '46

Jim: 1922.

Matt: Jim, I don't know how you do it. 1923 and that's pretty dang close in my book. 1923. Give it a few more years and then we'll have done it for 100 years here.

Steven: How do you do it, Jim?

laughter

Jim: I don't, I don't. It's all an illusion.

Stephanie: It's just what he does. He drinks coffee, reads books and he knows things.

Matt: There you go. "What river is the largest tributary of the Columbia in Washington State?"

Dave: Snake? Snake River?

Stephanie: Yakima? (NS)

Matt: Snake River is what it says here.

Steven: My Evil Knievel geekiness bubbles on surface.

Stephanie: Ah, that's great Steven.

Jim: The great jump.

Matt: "What percentage of the world's lumber is used by IKEA to make products?"

Steven: 12%.

Matt: It's lower if you think about the world lumber, it still is pretty good.

Beth: 4%

Matt: It says here that it's only 1%, but to me...

Jim: That's still a lot.

Heather: That's real wood is what you're saying?

Matt: Yeah.

Dave: What is it, pressboard?

Beth: Literally more real than others.

Steven: I think that's too low. I have 1% in my house alone!

Matt: I'm just thinking... I'm sitting at the Mio family laundry folding table, which is an Ikea product and I'm like, "Yeahhh, looks about like 1%."

Steven: As soon as they open I'm going back for a few more!

Beth: I guess it's more than 1% now that I'm sitting at an IKEA desk. Sits in the corner.

Matt: You know, it fits perfectly and by the way, if you haven't checked this out before, go online. There are people that are super nerds, who find ways to agglomerate parts from multiple IKEA products and recombine them into different kinds of furniture that you might need based on shape and function. It's fantastic

Stephanie: Some variation of reverse engineering?

Matt: There you go! Okay, a couple more of these questions from Frank and his family. "Where would you use a tromner?" It's something.

Stephanie: Fishing?

Matt: What were you saying Stephanie?

Stephanie: Fishing?

Matt: No, that's good. I kind of like that, but it's from the medical field.

Beth: Brain surgery.

Matt: Brain surgery is a little far from where you would use this.

Dan: Is it diagnostic in nature?

Matt: It is mildly diagnostic.

Heather: Is it their little hammer that they check reflexes with?

Dan: Ahhh, good one!

Jim: Yeah.

Matt: Because God forbid you like sort of whip out the claw hammer, and be like, yeah whatever.

Jim: Wonder what they call the little hammer that you hit the knee with!

Mara: For real!

Matt: Well, chances are, it was invented by somebody and they got their name attached to it.

Stephen: I'm going to impress my doctor my next physical when he pulls it out and say, "Oh, you brought your tromner!"

laughter

Dan: He probably doesn't even know or she doesn't even know.

Matt: I just, what I'm afraid of Steven because that's a great joke, is that it's gonna be like several years before you're gonna have a chance to, you know.

Heather: Always a ray of sunshine man.

Jim: So write it down Steven so you can use it.

Dave: Just put it on your knee! "Insert tromner here!"

Stephanie: Tattoos.

Matt: Let's see if we can put this one together. "What soft drink, was the first in America - not too surprising - who debuted a two-liter container in 1976?"

Stephen: Mountain Dew.

Stephanie: RC Cola

Jim: Sprite?

Dan: It's either Coke or Pepsi

Stephen: Yeah it's gotta be a coke product.

Matt: It's actually Pepsi is what pioneered the two liter, yes. For the record (NS) America closer closer and closer to adoption of the metric system and yet, somehow, eight cubic yards of mulch are being delivered.

laughter

I have to tell you, I sent my middle son out with the tape measure, because I needed to get a rough estimate. And he literally said to me and I was like, "Oh, we're this close." He goes, "Dad, what are these markings?" "Son. Those are inches."

Stephen : Oh, yeah, nice.

Dave: So man are they dropping the thing off in your driveway.

Matt: That's exactly correct.

Dave: Oh boy!

Matt: We've done it before, it's not that big of a deal. All right, let's do one more of these wonderful questions and then we're basically all set. "Which US president was the only one to have traveled to, and inside, the vaulted Fort Knox?" Only one president has actually ever done that. Did you know what, Roosevelt you should have just stopped because it gave you like...(NS)

Stephen: It was FDR.

Matt: It was FDR. The reason that this was on the tip of my tongue just at least in terms of the idea was, I don't know why, was flipping channels the other day - because let's be serious there's not much good on broadcast TV - but it was Goldfinger and they were also interspersing all this trivia about Fort Knox which I just think Fort Knox is cool, I like the idea. If we were to set off a nuclear device inside and radiate all the gold that it would take hundreds of thousands of years, it was sort of a, like a supervillain you know perfection plan. I loved it. I love that movie so much.

Stephanie: Where Sean Connery wears this little romper? Is that the one? Or is that Doctor No? I can't remember.

Matt: Let's just say that he was very young looking. And I was going for, you know, Bond on the table with the laser.

Jim: Yes, almost lasered in half.

Matt: Yes. "Do you expect me to talk?" "No Mr. Bond I expect you to die," and then walking away.

Jim: Love that line!

Matt: What a great line. Folks unfortunately, we've come to the end of our show here so the time has come to say goodbye. Stephanie.

Stephanie: Goodbye.

Matt: Daniel Bellfor Maggio.

Dan: Bye!

Matt: Dave!

Dave: See ya.

Matt: Beth.

Beth: See ya!

Jim: Take care.

Matt: Stephen!

Stephen: Bye, stay safe

Matt: Mara.

Mara: Peace.

Matt: Heather!

Heather: Bye!

Matt: And now these words from University of Detroit Mercy. Well you know today Ask the Professor is transcribed at the facilities of the basement laundry folding table at the Mio house in Berkeley Michigan, and in many other suburban Detroit locales. Ask the Professor is produced and technically directed today by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our Executive Producer is Professor Jason Roche. Until next week, I'm your host Matt Mio.