

Ask the Professor #2036

The University of Detroit Mercy presents another edition of Ask The Professor. Well, all of our faculty and staff are continuing to follow our Governor's order to stay home and stay safe. But that isn't preventing our panel from getting together through Zoom Video Conferencing technology and recording another episode of Ask The Professor.

Matt: The University tower chimes ring in another session of Ask The Professor, the show in 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, using the way everybody looks on my screen. To my relative...Oh man, left, right, I don't even know it's a mirror image - from the Department of Biology is Professor Stephanie Conant.

Stephanie: Hello!

Matt: So, what is it like teaching second grade Stephanie?

Stephanie: Well, my kids hate to write things, is what I've learned.

Matt: Oh!

Stephanie: So, they'll do math, they'll watch science, they'll watch videos, but making them like, think of something you want to write about! 'Write three sentences!' They would rather poke their own eyes.

Matt: I think having a second grader in my home as well, I understand the sentiment. Although the push point the other day came to art. It's just sort of like pick one of these, you know, famous art pieces and mimic it basically. Mimic its style. "Oh, I just don't want to do that."

Stephanie: Right? Just go find three jokes, write the joke down, and then come tell me the joke, and they thought that was the worst idea ever!

Matt: Because it was mom's idea, that's why!

Stephanie: Exactly!

Matt: Continuing around the horn here, I see Professor Dan Maggio.

Dan: Hi Matt.

Matt: From the First organization. Poor First has got to be under some dire times here, the nature of Lego First is getting together and doing stuff.

Dan: Yes. So we're spending a lot of time trying to provide resources and solutions to our partners for next fall. Our teams can't get together in the traditional way for events so, when that can't happen we're working on a toolkit to give them other solutions. So it's going to be an interesting ride next fall.

Matt: Yeah. Cool! Well at least there's a plan in place about you know...

Dan: There's a plan to develop a plan. The difficult thing is you just can't give answers in a day. It takes time. So we're pushing it as quickly as we can.

Matt: Right. Professor Dave Chow is here.

Dave: Oh. Pleasure to be here, as always!

Matt: Excellent, excellent. And what's going on in your big-headed world?

Dave: Oh, working on chocolate marketing and doing a caricature for a friend of mine's son who is graduating from the University of Michigan, but isn't graduating. Yeah, it's like, no ceremony! So they're doing all these video montages so I've been asked, this is like my fifth caricature this week.

Matt: Oh my gosh, that's a lot.

Dave: So, "My son's graduating! My daughter's graduating! Can you do something fun for the video?" Sure.

Matt: We call it job security.

Dave: It's a living!

Matt: Glad to have you here Dave.

Dave: Could be worse!

Matt: And thanks for the tip on all the streaming Star Trek's. One thing's for sure, 'Star Trek Discovery' for those who want to dabble in it, there's enough episodes in the bank to keep it going for about a week so that was a quick, nice recommendation. Professor Mara Livezey is here with us today.

Mara: Hello!

Matt: Hey Mara, what surprising, non-Tiger King related series have you found yourself getting into?

Mara: If you want to be incredibly sad and frustrated, I highly recommend Little Fires Everywhere. Reese Witherspoon, Kerry Washington...Just like really great acting.

Matt: Interesting, very interesting. This is on Netflix, I assume?

Mara: No, it's on Hulu.

Matt: Oh Hulu! Okay, excellent. Everybody's coming to Ask the Professor for all the latest recommendations. Next on my list is Professor Heather Hill from English! We need you to unmute Heather!

Heather: Yeah, I got so you know, enraptured, listening to everybody's activities during this crisis situation that I forgot to unmute.

Matt: What have you been up to Heather Hill?

Heather: I am just so excited that gardening centers are starting to open up. My bulbs are up.

Matt: Nice, nice.

Mara: Her flowers are beautiful.

Heather: Yeah that's actually because Beth lives nearby, we you know when we go out we ask each other if we need things from the supermarket and she actually bought me some stamps today.

Matt: Nice!

Dave: Good!

Heather: Yeah, she came by and saw my pretty flowers, so I'm very excited about them!

Matt: I was thinking about you, Heather because we've been doing a lot of weeding at my house recently and this will result in-

Heather: Reading? Did you say reading?

Matt: Weeding.

laughter

Matt: Yeah, we're getting, you'll be pleased to hear that eight yards of mulch are being dropped off in my driveway tomorrow morning, which will likely keep me and the boys busy all weekend.

laughter

Heather: Lovely. What color?

Matt: It's just a contrast thing at the Mio house. We get the dyed stuff. It is a natural dye so don't feel too bad about it, but it's black.

Heather: Yeah.

Dan: What time does your family get up?

Matt: We're gonna go over to the junction!

Dan: Yeah, early morning run over to the -, you won't miss a little truck load.

Matt: Right. They actually said they could drop it off at 8am and I was really really surprised. I was like, "Whoa, like that's, that's awesome,"

Dave: How many yards again, man?

Matt: 8 yards.

Dave: Ooh, that's a lot!

Matt: It's a lot.

Heather: Who's dropping it off?

Matt: That's a good question. It's a little joint in Clawson. I just started casting a little circle on my phone until I found who is available and who would service domestic because there are a lot of contracts for big stuff lately, so.

Heather: Right, right.

Matt: He claimed, I'm sure you'd be happy to hear Heather, like, business is as good as it's ever been and I'm like well it is spring so you know,

Heather: Cool, so I'm gonna need some mulch, at some point, so.

Matt: There you go.

Heather: Having it delivered is a good deal. But, I'm good. and well.

Matt: That's excellent. It's good to hear. Professor James Balfour Tubbs is here with us. Always looking rested.

James: Oh well, it hasn't been a restful day but...I'm sitting in my armchair so I'm resting at the moment.

Matt: That's okay. It just, It looks very genteel! You almost look like you're going to give us a fireside chat or something like that!

James: Aha, well, don't get me started!

Matt: How have you been, sir?

laughter

James: Pretty good, pretty good. Yeah, this is the second video conference meeting I've had today so it's just keeping up with things.

Matt: That's right. Sometimes I feel like it's exactly the same as the way it used to be, except for I don't really move in three dimensional space. I just stay right here, you know.

James: Virtual, everything that was before. Yes.

Matt: That's right.

Mara: Your folks ok James?

James: Well, my mom had a fall today, and had a brain bleed from that, so she's not really responding to anything except when she's in pain. So we're sort of waiting to see. She's in the hospital, so I've been getting updates about that as we went so you'll see.

Matt: I'll keep them in mind.

James: Thanks.

Matt: Last, but most certainly not least, it's Professor Beth Ojlar from Philosophy.

Beth: Who always brings up things for people to worry about apparently.

Matt: No, it's good to worry sometimes!

James: Thank you for worrying!

Beth: Well, I've always been thinking about everybody's parents too so.

Matt: Right. Right, exactly. Well, that there's nothing wrong with that. And I see that you are in the library of your home?

Beth: Sort off, yeah, my office.

Matt: Yeah, nice and studious that's the way it feels. How have you been lately?

Other: Right on the wall behind me Dave, I don't know if you can see but.

I can see! I know my handiwork even from here!

Matt: The Zombie Beth calendar.

Beth: And everybody should watch the marvelous Mrs. Nasal.

Dave: Oh yes, I've heard good things about that.

Beth: It is especially funny. And the clothes alone, and music from 19 late 1950s in New York. I mean, Frank Sinatra, you know, Dean whatever, it's great. Everybody should watch this show, they can go get it.

Matt: Oh, we have a visitor here,

Dan: You weren't allowed to contribute anyway.

Mara: Heather.

James: It's a talking disembodied head.

Matt: I notice how Heather kind of muted everything there when he got involved.

Yes, It's good to see you Stephen

Dan: Officially retired now yes,

Matt: Oh yes. Oh my. There's people coming from all sides here. I'll tell you what folks, we're gonna continue with the show here because of course this is a program. You can send us questions regarding anything. You stump the family you win a prize. You can send us the questions in a number of ways. You can email us at atp@udmercy.edu, reach us on the web at university.edu/atp, find us on Facebook. We're listening in on your favorite smart speaker by asking you to play Ask the Professor at University of Detroit Mercy. So we have a set of questions here that were sent in. Melania Petrovski of Sterling Heights, Michigan. Former student of Professor Jason Roche who of course is our executive producer. "Dear Professors, if you're looking to be stumped, then find a tree why don't cha. All jokes aside, I believe you'll have a hard time figuring out these brain benders. I hope you'll have

some fun, you clever people, and figure out these challenges. Good luck, Melanie." Let me just give you a little warm up to see where this is going, because the body and the mind, right, you know, sharpen these uncertain times. "We see it once in a year, twice in a week and never in a month. What is it?"

Dave: The letter 'E'.

Matt: The letter 'E', yes. Okay, so that's the kind of questions that are going to be coming our way here. No grade scale by the way, just double checking that.

Dave: We pass!

Dan: Was gonna say, in that case, could you speak slowly?

laughter

Matt: "What, ladies and gentlemen, is as big as a hippo, but doesn't weigh anything?"

Dan: My shadow?

Matt: Yeah that's right the hippo's shadow.

Dan: I didn't mean to suggest that I was a hippo. Thank you for not making that connection.

Dave: So your shadows' heavier than a hippo or how's that work?

Matt: No, this is, this is getting complex. Let's see... "If we dig a hole in our backyards," - so this might be Heather's alley - "and it's three feet deep four feet wide, how much dirt is in it?"

James: I mean, none if it's a hole!

laughter

Dan: If you want cubic, you need another dimension there I think.

Yeah I think we need another dimension but Heather, answered the question without even saying a word I loved it, it was just like...

Dan: Why, you're black and white. I like the look.

James: Well it's monochromatic. It was Heather's anxious look

Matt: How about this one? "I weigh nothing," - and I see a trend here - "but no one on this planet can hold me for longer than 10 minutes without dying."

Dan: Breath.

Mara: Yeah.

James: Water! Oh...Wait who can hold their breath for 10 minutes??

Dan: Not me. I can try it'll make for a great show.

Mara: Wouldn't you be brain dead after like, 2 minutes?

Matt: Yeah I think I seem to remember that. Isn't it like two weeks two hours two minutes for like water, food? Or whatever it is I don't know.

James: Tell that to the Naked and Afraid people.

Matt: "You can hold this without touching it. What is it?"

Dan: Somebody's gaze?

Matt: You're on the right track! We're doing it right now actually.

Matt: What was that, Heather?

Heather: Attention? what was

Mara: It might be conversation.

Heather: Attention?

Matt: Yeah, attention conversation, I'm giving full credit for this one. "How do you make the number one disappear?"

Mara: Subtract it from itself?

Stephanie: Yeah.

Dave: Fancy eraser?

Matt: Ah, partial credit.

James: Add any other digit to it.

Dan: Yeah, or you make a four out of it.

Matt: You can add something to it to get it to disappear, that's for sure. How about a letter.

James: And then make it a T, or an L.

Mara: Yeah.

Matt: How about if you add the letter G. And then it would be gone.

James: Ohhhhh."

Dan: Stephanie I think there's a there's a lot of good questions here for your kids.

Dave: Let them know it's like the junior PSAT that's all.

laughter

Matt: "Hey, why does ;Waldo of Where's Waldo' fame, wear stripes?"

Stephanie: Because they get that outta jail? (not sure)

Matt: And it's also the 1920s! No.

Dave: So he's easier to find?

Matt: You're on the right track.

James: Do the forty other figures in the pictures wear stripes?

Matt: I think that that was the original design element Jim but that's not the sort of joke answer that they're going for here.

Heather: He's a dork?

Dan: He doesn't know how to dress himself?

Matt: Heather gets partial credit.

laughter

Dave: Oh really?

Matt: Yeah, it's not exactly a common way to dress Heather. It says here, "Well, he doesn't want to be spotted."

Collective: Ahhhhh.

James: Then what's wrong with herringbone then?

Matt: As Dave frantically draws a uh...

James: Paisley!

Dave: I could!

Announcer: You're listening to a special edition of Ask The professor, in which each of the 10 professors participating in this recording session, were connecting to each other from different locations, thanks to Zoom Video Conferencing technology. We're grateful to those listeners who submitted questions for today's show, 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: So, "How do you put together a space party?"

Dave: In orbit?

Matt: That's not snarky enough.

Dave: Literal okay I'm sorry,

Heather: Social distancing by the coronavirus?

Matt: Partial credit! You don't because you can't! The end, go home, go to bed. No, think of a good pun here, how do you put together a space party.

Dave: Order lots of it.

Stephanie: Blast off.

Matt: Getting closer!

Mara: Don't invite many people.

Heather: You plan it!

Collective: Ahhhh.

Matt: Y'know you didn't say these were Dad joke questions but they definitely come across as some.

Mara: Yeah these are like, real metaphysics jokes.

Dave: What would Socrates say to these?

Mara: Well, he didn't do metaphysics. So.

James: Or perhaps contra physics!

Matt: Contra physics...Oh my Gosh.

Stephanie: Yeah that just makes it more interesting.

Matt: Speaking of parties! "What do houses wear when they attend a party?"

Dan: House coat? No...

Matt: Most of the houses I know would wear.... a dress.

Collective: Oh, my gosh.

Matt: First one we've gotten wrong.

James: Except on reservations in South Dakota.

Matt: Oh okay, well that's different.

Dan: They don't have addresses?

James: No, they don't have street names or numbers.

Dan: How do they identify themselves?

James: Well, the problem is how do they register to vote because of that, when they are required to have an ID that requires a street address.

Matt: Let's try this one. "I have a neck, but no head. Two arms but no hands. What am I?"

Beth: A jot.

Matt: What was that, Beth?

Beth: An urn!

Dave: A yure! Yeah.

Matt: That's not bad actually. That's not what it says but that's not bad at all.

Dave: A neck and what again?

Matt: A neck with no head. Two arms but no hands.

Dan: Could be a chair of some kind.

James: A bottle?

Matt: You know you're all in the wheelhouse, it's actually kind of amazing to see how you can compartmentalize sort of like 20 questions you get into that area. They're looking for a shirt.

Dave: Okay, all right.

Dan: A shirt...

Stephen: We weren't in the area at all.

Heather: You were in the sense that we were coming up with things and strictly speaking method correction.

Matt: Yes.

Heather: Even though they were not the intended answer.

Heather, you're correct, it could have been a blast. It definitely could have been the blast, there's no question about it. "What two numbers whose product added to the sum of the squares is 109, and the difference of those squares is 24?"

James: Dan?

Dan: I'm waiting! See this was the speak slowly part, can you repeat that? Because I'm not guaranteeing anything, for the benefit of everybody.

Matt: What two numbers, whose product added to the sum of the squares is 109. And the difference of those squares is 24.

Dave: Man, you lost me after the word 'what'.

laughter

Dan: Seven and five?

Matt: That is correct.

Jim: Mathematical genius.

Matt: I know, he's unbelievable.

Dan: No, it was kind of a guess because the numbers were low, and he was talking about squares, so.

Matt: What is, let's wrap this one up because I don't know, I mean that was actually kind of out of left field considering the rest of these!

Dave: Yeah

Dan: It was. there was no, there's no real pun there.

Matt: Yeah, well, I've got a doozy for you here at the end. "What's the most romantic part of visiting the ocean?"

Dave: Waves?

Jim: When the waves kiss the shore.

Matt: That's good, Jim, I like that. That's like 80% credit like seriously.

Dave: The hopeless romantic that you are.

Mara: Jim has a poetic soul.

Jim: Well it's actually a poetic liver.

laughter

Dave: He's just getting off the cruise ship, that's why!

Jim: Yeah.

Matt: So what's the most romantic part of visiting the ocean? Well, it would be when the buoy meets the gull.

Jim. Oh gosh.

Mara: Oh man.

Matt: It's brutal, it's gendered you know that's not very good either.

Jim: That's painful.

Heather: Oh, very heteronormative.

Dave: I felt like I just passed the staghorn!

Matt: Thank you very much for sending us those questions Melanie, those were uh...

Jim: Challenging!

Matt: They were very challenging.

Heather: Right.

Matt: Let's switch gears real quick to something a little more lighthearted. Thanks again to Professor Livezey for encouraging her students last fall, to send in questions so this is from Clayton Blackwell who's graduating, one of our more interesting stories in Detroit Mercy getting his BA in religious studies and going to dental school. So, anything is possible.

Dan: Oh, he's a very sharp guy.

Matt: Absolutely. "Located near the coast of Lake Huron, This ancient zoo-like attraction is a must see, no bones about it. What is it?"

Dave: What is it, like a mastodon dig or something like that?

Matt: No. For the record, I'm doing the opposite apparently with the way Jeopardy is supposed to run. These are roadside attractions in the great state of Michigan is what this uh...

Dave: Giant dinosaur?

Matt: Yeah, it's called dinosaur gardens. They have a whole bunch of dinosaurs just hanging out in the forest. He's included the hyperlinks to all the interactions. dinousarguardansllc.com

Dave: It's the next remote, right Michael?

Heather: Does he work part time for the Tourist Bureau?

Matt: Y'know it's entirely possible now that I think about it. "A little more close to our home is the world's largest tire. What brand is it?"

Dave and Dan: Uni Royal.

Matt: Uni Royal tire!

Jim: I rode it as a ferris wheel at the 1964 World's Fair.

Matt: That's right. FYI, I can't help it up, bring it up because I always do, a very recent - as in the last couple of weeks episode of The Simpsons had one of the child characters reveal, this is me and you talking to a girl on our honeymoon, and they're driving past the Uni Royal tire!

Jim: Hm!

Matt: Yeah! Like only people from Michigan would get that joke. Let's see here. "This Detroit icon was installed on September 23, 1958. The locals like to dress it up at certain times of the year."

Dan: Oh, the statue. The Spirit of Detroit statue

Jim: The Spirit of Detroit, The Green Giant.

Matt: The Green Giant! Marshall Frederick's, the great Marshall Frederick's. "This waterfall is located in the Lower Peninsula. How do you even pronounce it though?"

Dan: Tahquamenon?

Jim: No that's in the UP.

Dan: Yeah, my bad. Let's see.

Matt: The hint is it starts with the letter, 'o.'

Dan: There are lots of places where water is falling. Does that classify as a waterfall?

Jim: Yes earlier today in fact!

Matt: It says here it's Oc q u e oc. Ocqueoc Falls?

Jim: Yeah, problem is well problem is none of us could pronounce it.

Dan: Do we know where that is?

Matt: Yeah, we're gonna have to look that up. That one was not hyperlinked.

Heather: The disadvantage of basically taking over the country from Native Americans, is we're left with all these names nobody can pronounce. Like Soumanish, Ojama, just to name a few in our part of the world, our world.

Dan: Oh.

Matt: That's right.

Heather: Y'know we have tons of names now that people can't pronounce because they're always Native American. Which is really cool.

Dan: Is slightly due west a Roger city off of the coast of Lake Huron sorry.

Matt: There you go. Roger city, I know where that is. "What is the name of the lighthouse on Belle Isle?"

Dave: Livingston?

Matt: Uh Livingstone, is what it says that's right. William Livingstone Memorial Lighthouse. Very good.

Dave: Tallest marble one too, if I remember right.

Matt: Mhm. "Detroit has a small district, sometimes called the Venice of Detroit on the Upper East Side. What is the name of the island, that is formed by those

canals?" This is serious trivia here. The Venice of Detroit. And New Baltimore is not what I'm going for.

Dan: And I know somebody who lives there.

Dave: What, we're talking like what like one of those gross points?

Dan: Because if they go with a K...

Matt: It DOES begin with a K!

Dave: Do I get partial credit for that?

Heather: Yes.

Dave: Thank you.

Matt: Neck of the woods

Dave: Decided to tip my tongue.

Matt: "If you can think of a current mechanical engineering professor's last name that starts with K, and only say the first syllable, you'll get it right."

Heather: K? No. No.

Matt: His first name is Darrell.

Dan: Thank you.

Matt: Island.

Dan: Yes. Yep.

Jim: Klenk Island?

Matt: Klenk with an 'e', Klenk with an 'e', yes.

Jim: Oh, Klenk. Oh.

Matt: Things that go klenk in the night

Jim: But not like Colonel Clink.

Dave: That's where I was going with a Werner Klemperer thing, that's all.

Matt: Ooh, here's a good one that I would guess, Professor Chow knows right off the top of his head. "What mile road is at Frank Lloyd Wright house can be found on?"

Dave and Dan: Seven.

restoring it,

you could, you could walk to it, Heather and Beth.

run by it every other day.

Oh, great.

The last question, and I think there might be a piece of missing information here, even though most of the bits and pieces are there. The Christmas capital of Michigan," or wherever that is that's I guess the point of the question, "is how long of a drive from Detroit Mercy's McNichols campus?"

Jim: It depends on who's driving, very much. So we're talkin Frankemuth here? With a half and a hour or so?

Heather: Like an hour?

Dave: No, I would say 72 miles.

Matt: Right, so uh...

Mara: Hour and a half.

Dan: So you want a time? Doesn't that depend on how fast you're driving?

Heather: Yes. Yeah.

Jim: Yeah, so an hour and 15 minutes maybe?

Matt: It says it's an hour and 27, you know I gotta give it to Stephen, with error bars, you know.

Dave: Yeah but what about construction northbound 75 right about now, looks god awful

Matt: Forget about the construction again. What about driving 118 miles per hour on 94?

Dave: What, you saw me?

laughter

Dave: Who did that?

Matt: Somebody did. It was in the news the other day and they landed in New Baltimore and were arrested, partially, (not sure)

Jim: And then claimed to be an off-duty police officer.

Matt: Yes. Having. Oh, it, I would guess that they're referring to Frankenmuth. The time has come for us to say goodbye. I'll work my way up to the bottom of my screen back up to the top of Professor Hill.

Professor Hill: Bye!

Matt: Professor Ojar.

Professor Ojar: Bye!

Matt: Professor Tubbs!

Professor Tubbs: Goodbye!

Matt: Professor Manning!

Prof. Manning: Goodbye. Nice to see you're all safe and sound.

Matt: Professor Livezey!

Professor Livezey: See ya!

Matt: Professor Chow!

Professor Chow: See ya!

Matt: Professor Maggio!

Professor Maggio: See ya!

Matt: And Professor Conant.

Professor Conant: Bye!

Announcer: You can email ask the professor at atp@udmercy.edu or visit the Ask the Professor Facebook page! Ask the Professor is transcribed in the facilities of the Briggs building in the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Education that University of Detroit Mercy's McNichols Campus (question mark)? No, it's coming from our basements and spare rooms. Ask the Professor is produced and technically directed by Michael Jayson with help from Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Until next week. I'm your host, Matt Mio.