

Ask the Professor #2039

Announcer: The University of Detroit Mercy presents another brand new episode of Ask The Professor! Today's program was recorded using zoom video conferencing technology.

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 today. To my left is Professor Mara Livezey!

Mara: Hello, hello hello!

Matt: Hello, hello, how are you doing Mara?

Mara: Feeling good, it's nice and warm out. Little muggy but it's alright with me.

Matt: We can see that the sun is streaming in just boldly behind you and it's wonderful. It's been great for the last two days.

Mara: Absolutely.

Matt: We're glad to have you here. Continuing around the Brady Bunching, it's Professor Stephen Manning on my screen.

Steven: Hello, Matt.

Matt: Do I see, it's actually difficult because I have poor eyesight. Is that a B or a D on your cap?

Steven: It's a B.

Matt: Okay, so that's a Red Sox hat.

Steven: Correct, yes.

Matt: Okay. I think it's funny. Stephen you'll appreciate this, because my middle son's favorite player is JD Martinez. Bought him a JD Martinez Red Sox jersey a couple years ago. Now, every single time the Major League Baseball online store sends a promotional email, I get a Tigers version of it, and I get a Red Sox version. Once purchased! Just one thing!

Jim: They know you well!

Steven: Yeah I get tickets stuff for both the Tigers and the Red Sox.

Matt: There you go. There you go.

Beth: I got something from the Red Sox today. Red Sox mask.

Matt: Oh, of course, you know, proclaim your sports affiliation through masks.

Beth: And I'm happy about them.

Matt: I hope I'm not overstepping here, Heather. My wife went on to, I might have even mentioned it the last time we were recording. She went to Etsy, and bought every member of the family a correctly sized mask, very very nicely, you know handmade, and most of them have some sort of fabric image on the front that has to do with that person. So my wife and I are talking about this and we got this letter from the Archbishop this week about starting to go back to mass at the end of the month. And I go, "Are we going to be able to send our eight year old with the like Incredible Hulk mask, like?" It's going that way, because I need a mask like everywhere I am to make sure I don't forget it. I'm already forgetting it left and right and having to come back home and...

Beth: I still don't know how I feel about it. Are we using it as an opportunity for a fashion statement? I don't know. I mean I think it's fine for kids, you know to help them wear their masks but no...

Dave: I'm absolutely guilty for being a fashion plate. I've got a My Little Pony and the Millennium Falcon one so I got choices.

Steven: The DIA is also selling them. I was thinking of getting one with a picture of The Scream.

Matt: That's right.

Dan: Now that would be good.

Heather: I think that's for a good cause. I mean, all proceeds go towards combating the virus.

Steven: I figure it will keep people more than six feet away from me when they see me coming without that on the my face.

Heather: Or the Red Sox's mask will do that too.

Steven: Ohhhhhh, ouch!

Beth: Matt you should keep your mask in your car or keep one in your car.

Matt: You know, Beth that's it, that's my problem. I keep leaving it in that car and then getting in the other one, or we go on a family walk and, "Let's go out for ice cream!" okay, I guess I'm walking back home! You know it's just all the time to be wearing it or something,

Dave: Matt if you need one, I've got relatives that are making them so.

Matt: Well there you go.

Dave: Let me know.

Heather: Olivia can make them too.

Matt: Okay Okay...Professor Jim Tubbs is here with us today.

Jim: Yes, and I keep masks at home. I keep masks in the car, and when I go for a walk I fold one and put it in my pocket, in case I decide to go in

anywhere. So, yes, I understand how hard it is to keep them at hand, when you need them.

Matt: So, a little known fact about me, is that I'm just an eensy weensy bit obsessed with chapstick. I have chapstick stored like everywhere. My wife goes, "You need to put a mask wherever you have your chapstick and then you'd be all set," and I'm like well that's the plan now you know!

Jim: If you live right in Arizona, you have to have chapstick every day.

Beth: Every day, everywhere.

Matt: Absolutely no better person to teach us about the American Southwest and chapstick then Professor Diane Manica.

Diane: Well, hi there Matt! Good to be here with you!

Matt: It's so good to see and hear you again.

Diane: Thank you! And speaking of chapstick I have a little bag of brand new chapstick for anybody who visits, because most people don't think about it, and you really do need it I have em anywhere around here.

Dan: Is that because you have no water in Arizona?

Diane: Yeah, it's so dry. I mean, today is 17%.

Dan: 17, wow.

Diane: And that's high.

Matt: Yeah. It reminds me, the only time - I've never actually been to Arizona, except for maybe the airport, Diane but - in my multiple trips for whatever reason to Utah, it's exactly the same. If you don't have chapstick, you're going to pay for it.

Jim: I remember walking in some kind of variety store in Sedona, and ask the greeter, you know, where can I find chapstick, and they said, "Oh well you know you can go to the pharmacy department, or you can go to any one of the checkout counters because all of them have a big supply."

Matt: Professor Dan Maggio is here with us today.

Dan: I've learned a lot already, thank you. Glad I came. Hello everybody!

Matt: Hopefully at least a few things you wanted to know.

laughter

Dan: Yes, I did. I wanted to know all that and more. So I'm looking forward to the rest of the show.

Matt: Dan, I can't help but notice the flickering candle behind you.

Dan: Yes, it is a real candle in front of R2D2.

Matt: Very, very nice.

Mara: It looks like it's burning R2D2 from below.

Dan: I forgot that I had a candle lit in here so.

Matt: Well there you go. Professor Heather Hill is here with us today.

Heather: Hello.

Matt: How are things?

Heather: Good, I just thought of a ATP favorites.

Matt: What's that?

Heather: Favorite Flavor of chapstick. So you can save that for later.

Matt: I guess we'll have to hold on to that one.

Heather: It's nice to see the weather finally turning, even if it's raining.
Good for the plants.

Matt: Absolutely.

Heather: And the flowers.

Matt: Yep, and I've been thinking about you a lot lately because I pretty religiously, almost daily, I've been reading Farmers Almanac and they had already called for, from this point forward, a very wet spring. And

from here to just about the middle of June, it looks like it's gonna rain quite a bit, at least once a week, which is good.

Heather: Yeah, as long as we get some sun and it's warm. I'll take it.

Matt: Now, if I was spying out of the corner of my eye correctly, I think Professor Chow has decided on an official Detroit Mercy professor's mask? Is that what you were showing.

Dave: Yeah, well I don't know if I want to necessarily show that to the President just yet, but it's, you know, you turn it around. You can also use it for Lions fans too so.

Matt: I was just gonna say, having grown up in the 70s in the 80s, that is the that's the uniform for going to a Lion's game.

Dave: Anyway, but pleasure to be here. As always.

Matt: Excellent, excellent, excellent. And last but most certainly not least, Professor Beth Oljar is here with us today.

Beth: Good to be here! Have you gone to a Lion's game with a bag over your head?

Matt: Was gonna say that you could be there but you were embarrassed to have your face seen at the game.

Beth: Ok. Got it.

Matt: So people would come with them already sort of pre-cut and in their back pocket, just like Jim's pocket mask, and then if the game started turning south, you would put it on and be like, "I was here!" Funny stuff.

Heather: But everybody wore chapstick.

Matt: Yeah well, especially if it was winter. Folks, this is a program you can send us questions regarding anything. It's been a while since we had a chapstick-themed question set; If you stumped the panel 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, or listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play Ask the Professor at University of Detroit Mercy. We have some questions here. Oh my. These were sent way back in February by our good friend, Marilyn Bachorik of the Great White North, and she says, "It's snowy and, oh so cold here in the Upper Peninsula. We're staying indoors and thinking of questions. Here are a few about TV that are a bit obscure, so I'm pretty sure we're going to stump you. I'll give you six out of 10 for passing," which sounds nice.

Dan: Very generous.

Matt: Yep. "Have fun, Marilyn Bachorik" again, from the upper peninsula. And I can't help to get a little too you know dramatic and

nostalgic about seeing a date of 2/16 on an email and seeing that it was on the other side of a completely different world.

Jim: Pre plague. Okay, so these are about television firsts, television funniest, televisions biggest.

Dan: Oh.

Matt: You'll see where the superlatives take us here. "What was the first permanent commercial television network in the United States, launching 15th of August, 1946?"

Jim: NBC? You know, that's the trap here Jim. So NBC was number two, it launched almost exactly a year later. This network does not exist anymore.

Dave: Was it Dumont or something like that?

Matt: That is exactly correct it was the Dumont network. Now how did you know?

Dan: I don't know.

Mara: Never heard of it

Heather: Me neither.

Dan: I mean, I wouldn't been sort of way off. Like I maybe would have said 49 or something like that, maybe even 50 or 51 but 46, that's like. Incredible.

Matt: "What is the largest broadcast television network in the United States?" Don't think too hard.

Dan: Comcast?

Matt: No.

Dan: PBS?

Matt: PBS yeah, it's the Public Broadcasting System.

Dan: I can deal with that.

Matt: Pretty much every major metropolitan area and some not-so-major ones have an affiliate. Okay here we go this is more up my alley. "In what year did the Nielsen Company develop and begin to use a television rating system?" Think about this.

Steven: 1962.

Matt: You know, it was way before that, Steven.

Dan: Could be with McCarthy around the time of...No?

Matt: In what years were McCarthy Trials?

Dan: Uh, 52?

Jim: 54

Matt: So you're definitely getting closer. We certainly know it couldn't have been before 15th of August 1946.

Dan: That's true.

Matt: But you know you're very, all of you are getting close to the focus here. It says here 1950, they started taking ratings.

Dave: So that being said, how many of you guys have ever done one of those things?

Heather: I haven't.

Dan: I haven't.

Steven: My parent's have gotten steak three times one year.

Dan: Did they used to actually have boxes that they would put on people's TVs?

Matt: Mhm.

Dan: So were those boxes intended for the viewer to go up and like push a button? Or were they collecting data.

Jim: It was to keep track of what the TV was watching.

Steven: They sent us these little journals that we were supposed to write down everything we watched.

Jim: That was difficult to have a journal that you would write down what you're watching at what hours of the day or night. So you would do that for like a week.

Steven: That's what we did. I think they paid us like \$1 or something like that back in the day.

Matt: Of course, all bets are off going forward in the world of streaming. All the way up to the very top right, the recent announcement by the Oscars, that based on the fact that we're about to have like the first ever non-blockbuster movie summer, all streaming service features will be part of Oscar consideration in 2020.

Mara: Finally.

Dan: So basically, the end of the Oscars.

Beth: It might be the end of the entertainment industry

Matt: I actually start thinking about it the way that Beth does, yeah. I've just like how I have a restaurant...(ns) that is a movie house.

Beth: And to make a movie or a TV show you can't. It requires large numbers of people in the same space, doing different kinds of tasks so.

Dave: That's right. Like right now I'm working on three pilots for people in Hollywood that don't have work.

Matt: Interesting

Dave: So, I mean, I've got directors that are paying me out of their own pocket - which isn't much usually but - because you know they're not working right about now, now's their time for them to work on their pilots and ideas and hear your pitch.

Beth: We might not get a fourth season of The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, which is just a terrible possibility to contemplate.

Dave: I'm still waiting for a second season of Picard!

Dan: Yeah, me too.

Matt: So it says here, "The first sitcom broadcast in the United States was called Mary Kay and Johnny. In what year did that sitcom start being broadcast?"

Dan: 56.

Dave: No, it's gotta be...

Matt: I mean, I feel like I got to give it to you, it was 57 and he's like.

Dan: I want you to give it to me. Okay.

Matt: Our human history was that we invented the sitcom. "It was a deeply scandalous for having shown something on television in 1947." Don't think too hard.

Dave: Toilet?

Mara: A ladies ankle.

laughter

Matt: I'm gonna give partial credit to Professor Livezey, but we have to go a little bit deeper.

Dave: Was it the same bedroom?

Dan: A single bed.

Matt: Basically, Mary and Johnny were shown in the same bed as a married couple.

Dan: Ohh.

Matt: Yep, that's a big deal. Big, big deal. All right. "What was the first toy that was advertised on American television, circa 1952?"

Dan: Mr. Potatohead.

Matt: Yes.

Dan: Oh.

Matt: Yeah, good ol' Mr. Potatohead. Did you have one Beth?

Beth: Um, no, I did not.

Jim and Mara: I did.

Dan: I did, but I ate it.

laughter

Dan: Cooked it, and ate it.

Matt: That was a big wake up call for me. Okay, basically childhood at me (not sure) knew the plastic shell that you would stick things in, and I remember - I did not have one - but I remember talking about it. My dad goes, "Don't you just buy a potato and stick crap into it?" And I'm like that's the way it used to be!

Jim: I mean yeah, you had to have your own potato!

Mara: I didn't know that!

Diane: Oh yeah. Poor baby she doesn't know it!

Dave: Part of the reason, think about how sharp those things were!

Matt: Oh yeah, oh yeah, sure.

Dave: There's no way they would let that happen now so.

Heather: Now that was a subtle glimpse at needing some chapstick.

laughter

Matt: So, "On ABC. From 1950 to 1953," it's only a few years after TV started so here's for hope, "The Beula Show was on ABC 1950 to 1953. What was the claim to fame the first about the Beula Show.

Jim: Live audience?

Matt: Not a live audience.

Dan: It had a female lead?

Matt: Not a female lead!

Dan: African American female lead?

Matt: African American female lead.

Mara: Oh.

Matt: Absolutely. Okay. According to the people who keep track of these kinds of things... Love questions like that love questions like that. So, "There was a 65 second long studio audience laugh with no break in the middle, on what TV show?"

Steven: Red Skeleton.

Matt: Not Red Skeleton. Good guess though.

Dan: Did you get a year, was there a year associated with that?

Matt: You know, there could be a year but it's not given and I don't want to spit ball too much here.

Heather: The Dick Van Dyke show?

Matt: Good guess but I think it was a little bit before Dick Van Dyke,

Steven: I Love Lucy?

Matt: I Love Lucy!

Dan: Was it the Chocolate Factory?

Matt: You know it wasn't that one it was Lucy does the tango. Lucy dances with Ricky, with several dozen eggs stuffed into her shirt.

Diane: I don't remember seeing that one.

Matt: Those were pretty cool questions, Marilyn thanks for that.

Heather: Dan and I know the show that had the first interracial kiss on it. Star Trek

Matt: The claim to fame of Star Trek The Original series right.

Absolutely. Okay, we had some questions sent to us by someone who wishes to remain anonymous. And they're there they're kind of mysterious. They're kind of fun. And I think we're going to have some fun. There's quite a number of questions so we'll do a few now and save a few for our next episode as well. Let's start with this one. "In what percent of criminal cases is the insanity defense deployed?" So we're doing this numerically.

Dan: 12%

Jim: 5%

Matt: Well, it's less than 12 it's less than 5.

Mara: 2.

Dan: 1%

Matt: 1% is what it says here. 1 out of every hundred, yep. And to go even deeper into the data, "At what level of that 1% whatever that capital N number is and what percent is it successful?"

Dan: 1%

Mara: Thirty percent.

Dan: 1 ten-thousandth of a percent.

Matt: Mara said 30% and you know, close enough. It's about 25%, about a quarter of the time. So once 1% Dan.

Dan: Does that mean that they're really insane or they were just able to convince some jury that they were really insane or the judge?

Matt: That's actually really good. That's very insightful Dan. I just got into an argument...

Dan: Thank you, I was told yesterday I was very insightful, so this is very refreshing.

Matt: I was thinking about you yesterday Beth, because I got into an out-spirited discussion, not an argument with somebody. The most

recent CDC numbers make it very very clear. The total infection rate for young children, elementary-age children is about 0.5%. And they shoved it in my face and said, "Open the schools." And I go, you know, last time I checked, my kid needs adults around him to rein him in. Like, just because their infection rate is low, doesn't prove that we can just open school!

Steven: It's not like I can drop the kids off and there's no adult supervision right?

Matt: I thought it was highly illogical but I was amused by it.

Beth: I mean, is it logical. Yeah,

Matt: Let's move on to something probably more fun. Let's see, "Since the pandemic, subway ridership in New York City is down x %?"

Dan: 70%.

Beth: It's a lot.

Matt: "A lot" is partial credit all the way.

Mara: 90?

Dan: 70.

Matt: 92%!

Dan: Really, that much.

Matt: Well subways are not very profitable.

Beth: Yeah, they'd have to clean it periodically. They can clean and disinfected it

Dave: It's a good time to be a graffiti artist in New York subways, so. Did I say that?

Matt: "Since the pandemic, the sale of beans has skyrocketed. Goya's sale of beans and other canned goods like beans are up by what percent?"

Beth: 200.

Dan: 1500%.

Matt: Oh, woah. It went to \$1 billion dollars!

Dan: Well it's like 15 times. So, I don't know, 300.

Matt: It's four times four 400% farmers

Dave: Does that mean Febreeze has also gone up 400% as well? You know, Febreeze?

Steven: Is the question canned goods or damned goods?

Matt: You know that, yeah, that's a good question.

Steven: Somethin I guess when it comes to beans.

Matt: "In 2019, what percent of its budget revenue did Russia receive by taxing the sale of oil and gas?"

Beth: 90 plus percent easily

Jim: Because the price of oil went way down.

Steven: Yeah.

Matt: Beth what was your answer?

Beth: What percentage of their income is that? If they're giant gas cans it can be 90 plus percent easily.

Matt: You know it's not as high as 90 here but it's still, I mean I don't know what I would have guessed it. It's possible junk.

Beth: That's their main source of revenue and political leverage in Europe so, their gas and oil.

Matt: It says here it's 39% but I still think that that's like a giant chunk of the budget, I mean that's huge. You can't just have that go away and expect to stay afloat, you know. Let's try one more of these before we close down for one more episode here. "President Trump has made 51 appointees to the US Court of Appeals for the DC circuit. How many had ties to the Federalist Society?"

Beth: 100%, all of them.

Jim: 25%

Matt: Yeah, basically, now you're in the wheelhouse here at 84%

Beth: The judges for McConnell. This is the only thing Mitch McConnell cares about. Getting conservative judges on several benches where they have lifetime appointments. He does not care about legislating and knocking over Roe, trying to do that.

Heather: Not if they don't wear enough chapstick.

Jim: The Federalist society basically provides the list.

Heather: Yeah.

Matt: I was just thinking of the recent gaffe by Senator McConnell with regard to, you know, the last administration did not know playbook.

Diane: He walked it back

Matt: Yeah he did, he did, he did walk it back.

Heather: Well, he might actually Amy McGrath. I'm wondering if she might not defeat in the airport pilot who's running down the road is running against them?

Matt: That's right.

Beth: Through time she seems to be polling very well and

Jim: She's a strong candidate.

Beth: Hopefully they can get rid of yertle the turtle.

Mara: Absolutely.

Matt: Let's uh, let's let Dan redeem himself for the 1500 percent thing, one more time.

Dan: What! I didn't come here for redemption.

Diane: Very insightful Dan, very insightful.

Matt: How about, "By what percent has the daily volume of total Zoom participants increased by COVID-19?"

Diane: Dan, Dan, Dan, Dan.

Dan: So I would say, what do you think like, 1200 percent. 12 times?

Mara: More

Dan: More? 30 times.

Mara: More.

Dan: 50 times. 100 times? Is it even more than that? I mean how many people used Zoom before, and now everybody's using it.

Mara: Like a 1000 times?

Dan: So 100 times as much? More than that?

Matt: You know, it says here its 3,000% usage.

Dan: That's 30 times.

Matt: Yeah yeah, 300 million users in the entire population. I was about to say..."123."

Diane: Well this is my first time zooming so I'm pushing the number.
Zoom newbie, newbie zoom,

Mara: Zoom newbie!

Matt: Just enough time for people to talk about their favorite flavor of chapstick so Heather you're definitely going first.

Heather: Cherry

Matt: Cherry? Okay...

Heather: Yep.

Matt: Who else has a favorite flavor?

Dan: I don't have one, so I'm going to go with ice cream and say pistachio.

laughter

Jim: The locus (ns) that I bought in South Africa that was really very very flavorful.

Matt: Eucalyptus.

Mara: I have very strong feelings that all chopsticks are bad, except for original flavored Carmex.

Matt: Oh, Carmex. Yes.

Mara: And Menthol.

Dave: I'll even go one step further. I'm old school, I'll go Vaseline.

Matt: Oh for Pete's sake...

Dave: Okay, okay. And here's the reason why! As a little kid growing up, on those cold days in the Alberta prairie, you put it on your lips, your cheek, your nose, your ears, everything gets covered up with Vaseline. So I'm ready for a second childbirth in my head too so.

Steven: I prefer my chapstick unflavored.

Matt: I'm with you, Stephen. I am original you know the black tube, you know, the original. Somebody who I met when I was getting my PhD in Urbana, Illinois, referred to it as 'nude chapstick'. That's an interesting twist.

Beth: Here for something that has many more players, I'm sure Diane and Mara and Heather all recall...Bonnie Bell lip smackers.

Matt: Folks I'm afraid we reached the end of our show here, so the time has come to say goodbye. Beth.

Beth: Goodbye.

Matt: Dave!

Dave: See ya!

Matt: Heather!

Heather: Goodbye!

Matt: Dan!

Dan: Goodbye!

Matt: Diane!

Diane: Adios,

Matt: Jim!

Jim: Arrivederci!

Matt: Stephen!

Stephen: You told us it's the weekend,so have a good weekend everyone!

Matt: Mara!

Mara: Goodbye!

Matt: And now these words...

Announcer: You can email ask the professor at atp@udmercy.edu, or visit the Ask the Professor Facebook page.

Matt: Ask the Professor is transcribed from all of our basements, living rooms, inside rooms, and bedrooms today. It's produced and technically directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Till next week. I'm your host Matt Mio.