

## Ask the Professor #2040

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.

Matt: The University tower chimes ring in another session 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 my left on my screen, You always seem to be there and I think it's kind of freaky but cool at the same time, it's Professor Mara Livezey!

Mara: Hahaha!

Matt: Always in the same slot on my zoom calls!

Mara: That's because I always join first!

Jim: We got her secret!

Matt: So, um, I hesitate to ask this, because I know it's just gonna put the bowl of Cheerios that I spilled on the table this

morning to shame but, I'm sure you've been cooking or baking or doing something wonderful today?

Mara: What have I done today...I sat my butt on the couch, and I completed my committee letter interviews, so I haven't had time to bake.

Matt: Okay, you just need the chance for catharsis, and reading those letters takes a lot out of you, so I know it's coming.

Mara: Absolutely. Brownies are on the schedule after this.

Matt: Excellent. What's special about the brownies that you make?

Mara: This is actually a new recipe translated from Spanish by my cousin.

Matt: Oh, okay!

Jim: So you actually use actual oregano in these?

Mara: Yes, that's right.

Matt: Awesome.

Dan: Really, you mean like pepper to spice it up?

Mara: I don't think so. I think they're pretty traditional brownies, they just happens to be a recipe that's written in Spanish.

Matt: Continuing around the horn here, Professor Dan Maggio is with us, from The First Organization!

Dan: Hi Matt.

Matt: How's it going?

Dan: Good actually really good.

Matt: Where's the Star Trek background? I kind of was...

Dan: I don't have it, I don't have a picture on my computer. I have them on my work computer. So, and then a bunch of Star Wars. Star Wars actually published a page where they made all kinds of photos available. So, it's fun, the meetings. Kind of gets old.

Matt: Yeah, you know, but the first time it's fun.

Dan: Yeah.

Matt: Well you're doing well?

Dan: I am doing well. Glad it's the weekend.

Matt: You can tell huh?

Dan: Starting to get out a little more, feel more comfortable getting out.

Matt: A little bit at a time, continuing around I see Professor Dave Chow is with us today. Pleasure to be here, as always. Excellent. I think I saw your, I would say your Alter Ego but really it's just a giant head of you right?

Dan: Yeah, just in case.

Matt: It only comes out at night, exactly

Dave: That I do.

Matt: Hey Dave, I don't want to get too granular here, but there are a lot of houses near where you live that suddenly went up for sale. What the heck's going on?

Dave: I'm doing the Scooby Doo thing. I'm haunting them in the middle of the night. Yeah, I got that little projector, you know I'm just, I'm trying to buy em up for the mineral rights.

Jim: Which minerals?

Dave: Dirt!

Matt: Exactly.

Dave: No Matt, Actually, not that you would know, but the house next door to me has been vacant for about 15 years. Now, people have been turning it into the community garden as of late in the backyard now.

Matt: Oh my gosh.

Jim: It could be haunted by now.

Dave: I know, but you should see the amount of vegetables between them and what my wife is doing right about now.

Matt: Wow.

Dave: Heather you would almost be impressed. Maybe.

Matt: Maybe. And I know a segue when I hear one. Professor Heather Hill is with us today, and maybe she's going to say something about things she's been growing in her garden?

There she is.

Heather: Yeah, my internet connection is unstable.

Matt: Oh, that's all right, though. Although you just got frozen blinking and that's just one of the weirder things that happens sometimes.

Heather: When it rains, it gets a little unstable.

Matt: We got some weird weather going on in the metro area today. I thought that maybe you were reading something, you know, riveting because your eyes were sort of focused down and I didn't want to interrupt you at the time.

Heather: No, I'm looking at the little icon down there that, you know, hopefully will keep my internet connection from being unstable. I'm sorry, who are you speaking to before I interrupted with my unstable internet connection?

Matt: Oh, I was actually introducing you.

Heather: Oh! Okay, Well, hello!

Matt: Heather, how does your garden grow?

Heather: It grows very well. Things are growing very very fast right now. But I've been a little busier working on cultivating my online presence.

Matt: Of course,

Heather: Lots of shiny lipstick and different, you know, shades of red, and now apparently we all have to worry about our online presence.

Matt: That is important. Professor Kendra Evans is here with us today. It's been a while, Professor Evans!

Kendra: It's been a really, really long time, but I received a reminder text at 3pm, which is for me the perfect time, like little earlier I might have forgotten already, so.

Matt: We're glad to have you here. How are your daughters doing? Things are wrapping up soon I assume?

Kendra: No we still have two full weeks. It's a full set of regular curriculum as far as I can tell, for the remaining two weeks, and I am going insane. I don't know, like who is in society that thinks

that it's actually possible to do your job, and also teach your children. It's actually not doable, not with my children!

Matt: I don't think it's just your kids just gonna put that out there.

Kendra: Yeah. But they're good, they're doing okay. They're hanging in there, the good weather helps a lot.

Matt: Yeah. Excellent, excellent. We have Professor Jim Tubbs here with us today always looks just downright regal in his easy chair.

Jim: Regal huh? Inspired by Heather, I decided I needed a garden this summer too. So I went out when Meijer was on sale, I went out and bought four hanging baskets, so now I have forest gardens.

Dave: Is there anything hanging in them though?

Jim: Yes. Flowers in them. They're actually blooming, they're not dead yet!

Dave: Yet!

Jim: They've lasted a week already!



Matt: We've got a good dosage of rain this week, so your timing couldn't have been better!

Jim: Exactly!

Dave: So does anyone wanna break the news to Jim that they're plastic?

Jim: The flowers? No they're not! I went around feeling all of them to make sure I got the real ones!

Matt: The real question Jim, is how was your shopping experience?

Jim: Oh, well, it was okay because I went straight to the garden center and straight out of the garden center. So that helped a lot.

Matt: Perfect.

Jim: Straight back to the car.

Matt: That's the perfect shopping trip I like to hear about. No appointment needed right Jim?

Jim: No appointment!

Matt: Hey folks listening and watching, we're very happy to announce we have a special guest with us here today. Richard Wagoner is here! I touched base with him just about a year ago, because he is a freelance writer who writes about radio, and we started as a radio show, 60 plus years ago. And we're very happy to have Richard joining us here today after writing a really nice piece about how he listened to Ask the Professor, both, if you don't mind Richard, back in the day and in the modern era.

Richard: Oh, I date myself all the time actually. I used to listen to it on KHJ and K Earth101 here in Los Angeles.

Matt: That is awesome. So you're calling us from Los Angeles? I think you mentioned that you're a high school teacher.

Richard: Yes. I teach math at San Pedro High School, which is part of Los Angeles Unified. And I'm very concerned that whatever I say makes me sound okay. Don't want to embarrass myself.

Matt: Yeah, I think you're doing just fine! We tell tales all the time Richard, about guest professors that we brought on the

show, and I've literally viewed directly, back when we could actually see each other directly, like beads of sweat building on their foreheads as they were like being tested in the Jeopardy Tournament of Champions. But mostly by the end, they realize we're just a bunch of goofballs that like to get together and have fun.

Dan: That's what's always made this show fun.

Dave: Actually Matt it was because of how warm Briggs was too.

Matt: Yes, Briggs is a special place. But right now we're broadcasting, of course, from basements and living rooms and easy chairs and what have you. Folks, this is a program where you can send us 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 me questions in a number of ways you can email us at [atp@udmercy.edu](mailto:atp@udmercy.edu). You can reach us on the web at [udmercy.edu/atp](http://udmercy.edu/atp). You can find us on Facebook or listen to your favorite smart speaker by asking you to play Ask the Professor at University of Detroit Mercy. So we had an interesting set of

questions sent to us by good ol' 'Anonymous' last time. They were all over the map but they had to do with numbers. We were estimating percentages and things like that. I think that one of the last questions we had is in 2019 what percentage of its budget revenue did Russia received by taxing the sale of oil, and that was 39%. A lot of you were considering going higher than that, but that's already a pretty big chunk of the budget if you think about it. Let's see what else we have put up our sleeve here. "Compared to the first week of April 2019, US consumer spending on video games, the first week of April 2020 rose by what percentage?

Jim: 350%.

Dan: I was gonna say 300%.

Matt: That's pretty good.

Richard: 700%. Let's go big.

Matt: Usually what we do, is we throw out a few numbers and then I look at the direction of Professor Kendra Evans and she hits it right on the nose.

Heather: Oh pressure can be rough.

Kendra: Yeah, I was hearing some 300%, some 350, and then I heard the high estimate of like what was that 700?

Dave: 700,

Kendra: So I'll go with 425%.

Matt: I'm afraid that even with some generous error bars, that's gonna cost you all. It's 95% which is pretty remarkable when you think about it, but...

Jim: Competing with Netflix.

Matt: Right. Let's not think too hard on this next one though.

"Compared to the first week of April 2019, US consumer spending in movie theaters the first week of April 2020, declined by what percent?

Richard: 100%?

Dan: 100%.

Matt: So you guys know how to play the numbers good!

Richard: Casinos are closed too so.

Matt: Yeah that's a different story right? No revenue for the Great City of Detroit, unfortunately.

Richard: I did hear casinos are allowing you to go ahead and send them their money anyway.

\*laughter\*

Jim: They'll even come pick it up!

Dan: Yeah, surely will.

Matt: With an extra large envelope too just so it can fit.

Dan: Free drink and a meal too?

Matt: Yeah, exactly. Trip to the buffet? Dan? The pancakes are in the mail.

Dan: Yeah, thanks!

Matt: Try this one! "Men driving or riding motorcycles, had how many more times the rate of fatal accidents per mile versus female motorcyclists?"

Mara: 10.

Jim: 38%

Heather: 75%

Dan: 500%.

Matt: I missed yours Mara, you started us, what was it?

Mara: Oh, I said 10 times.

Matt: 10 times? I'm giving it to you because it's 12. It's 12 times more likely.

Jim: Wow.

Matt: For the record, that is not statistically insignificant. Over 14,000 data points from 2005 to 2015 so that's real. Probably more to do with ownership but still pretty interesting. Okay, "Dinosaurs arose nearly a quarter billion years ago on planet Earth. How many million years did they rule the land of Earth?"

Mara: 500 million?

Kendra: Where's Professor Ibrahim?

Mara: No idea!

Matt: You know we just had a colleague from Biology, Professor Ibrahim, as Kendra is bringing up who published in the Journal of 'Nature' about the tyrannosaurus.

Kendra: And he has the cover of Nature.

Matt: Big big deal.

Dave: Who's got the centerfold?

Matt: "How many millions of years did dinosaurs rule the land of Earth?"

Dan: Like, 660 million?

Matt: It's a little higher than that.

Richard: 212.

Jim: 85 million.

Matt: So I got 212, I got 85, it was 180. 180 million years in charge. So far, only about 200 or something for human beings in the current.

Richard: Amateurs.



Matt: "Colson Whitehead, just won his second Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel 'The Nickel Boys.' He's just the fourth fiction writer to win the prize more than once. Could you name any of the other three?" This is good.

Dave: Stephen King?

Matt: I'm afraid not.

Heather: Updike?

Matt: John Updike is one of them, that's great! Let's see if I get the initials, we might hit on the other two, I have B, T. Any ideas? Same first name of the writer, as the last name of Lincoln's assassinator?

Dan: Shirley Booth.

Heather: Booth Tarkington.

Dan: Wasn't there a Shirley Booth? Wasn't she also an author?

Jim: She was an actress.

Dan: I'm misremembering my...

Jim: She was Hazel.

Dan: Oh yes.

Matt: The other multiple Pulitzer winner, his initials: W, F. Don't think too hard.

Richard: Falkner?

Jim: William Falkner.

Matt: Yeah. Very good. got em all.

Announcer: You're listening to a special edition of Ask The Professor, in which each of the nine 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](mailto:atp@udmercy.edu) Now, let's return to our host Matt Mio with more questions for the panel.

Matt: What percent - oh, here we go, Richard, this is the part you were born to play.

Richard: Oh no!

Dave: No pressure! None!

Matt: "What percent of voters in California have voted by mail over the last 10 years?"

Richard: Percent of voters that voted...So I would say about 40%?

Matt: You know here, I'm gonna give it to you. It basically says, it got up to 65% in the 2018 midterm, so it's hovered around 50%, which is a really big deal. But you know, we're very generous, as Professor Hill will tell you.

Richard: That's a passing grade

Matt: Yeah absolutely.

Dave: Horseshoes and hand grenades. Um, it's being pointed out in this question set, and I don't know what else to say or do with my face when I say it but of course, all 20.6 million California voters will be able to vote by mail in the November 2020 election.

Dan: Yes.

Jim: So that means the whole West Coast.

Matt: Basically. Same with the Great State of Michigan, although you know I've been told it's illegal, so we'll have to look into that.

Jim: Right, yeah. We voted for it, can't be illegal.

Matt: Right. "By what percent has spending on ride hailing dropped during the pandemic? So let's cover taxis and the gig economy altogether."

Richard: 90.

Dan: Yeah, I was gonna say 90

Mara: Yeah, 80, 90.

Matt: One of you actually said exactly the correct percentage 83.

Richard: Wow.

Jim: Good guess.

Matt: Very, very nice. I'm pretty sure that the scientists on the call know this one. "What percent of DNA do great apes - so

that would include gorillas chimps baboons and Orangutans - share with human beings?

Jim: 99.

Dan: 99.3

Matt: Yep. 99 percent. There's some social commentary here. All of these except for humans are highly endangered.

Dave: Uh oh, I'd better hide the tail! (Not sure)

Jim: Don't rush it.

Matt: "In the year, how many total inches do the incisors of a rat grow?"

Richard: 2 inches.

Mara: I don't want to know.

Heather: 5

Dan: The first question was, I didn't even know rats had teeth.

Jim: If they didn't know gnaw em down all the time they would be very long!

Dan: Oh I know they have teeth.

Matt: If they didn't wear them down, Heather got it spot on it's five inches,

Dan: But I wouldn't even have measured in inches

Kendra: 5 inches? Are they less prone to cavities?

Jim: They were all full of plaque too, when they wear down their teeth.

Matt: Well you know the data was gonna be far more detailed Kendra, but then the rat Dennis had to go into lockdown and they haven't been able to practice in a few weeks.

Kendra: Yeah, it's probably their approval also.

Jim: Now when they chew on D-con rat poison, then they don't grow as much.

Matt: Right. Exactly.

Richard: It slows it down a lot. Yeah.

Matt: According to the Can Manufacturers Institute, which is a trade group, "What percent of steel food containers are recycled in early 2020?"

Dan: 60.

Heather: That's pretty high.

Matt: It's a little higher than that.

Richard: Really?

Heather: That's good.

Jim: That's great!

Richard: Yeah. I read that relatively recently too.

Matt: Very cool!

Jim: 69?

Matt: You know I'm gonna give it to you, Jim, it's 71, it's basically spot on, and steel is eminently easily recyclable. It doesn't usually break down when it's sprayed with plastic so that's a good thing. "The Bank of England, said that by the end of June 2020 that the British economy would be what percent smaller than it was in December 2019?"

Dan: 10%.

Richard: 42.

Mara: 30.

Matt: Mara hit it right on the dot, it's 30%.

Heather: That's so scary.

Matt: One third. That's incredible. Yeah. "That contraction would be the deepest since what year of recorded British history?"

Heather: Uh, 1400.

Matt: I feel because we're talking about modern times, Heather that I got to give you the air

Heather: I'm sorry, my internet connection is unstable!

\*laughter\*

Matt: It says, what you need to think about here is that the banking records, only go back to 1701. And sadly, the year we're looking for is 1706.

Richard: Oh wow.

Jim: What was so bad about 1706.



Matt: It's interesting you asked! It says, that was the year that the British chased the French out of the Netherlands, and Italy was at the worst Spanish Succession! So you know those things will affect your economy!

Jim: I was thinking smallpox epidemic.

Matt: "The US unemployment rate jumped to 1% by 8 of May, 2020?"

Mara: Like 10 or something.

Dan: Like 23%?

Kendra: Like 25?

Richard: Wasn't it closer to 12?

Matt: I'm giving it to you Richard it was 14%. And just by comparison, numbers can lie, okay, but the absolute height of the Great Depression, circa 1933 was what percent unemployment?

Jim:

Matt: 25 is what it says here.

Kendra: And, does anybody know what the rate is in Michigan?

Matt: It's a little higher, isn't it?

Kendra: It's higher. I wonder how much higher.

Dave: I think Detroit was one out of five, one out of four that they're out of work?

Matt: Wow.

Dave: I know like for technical, I'm listed as unemployed because I'm a gig worker now.

Matt: Right. Right.

Richard: Congratulations!

Dave: Oh joy! I'll be on the street corner with a tin can, try not to run me over please!

Matt: Speaking of the depression...

Jim: You need to take an accordion with you.

Matt: Right.

Dave: Where's that little chain that I need too?

Heather: Well you can do people's caricatures!

Dave: Right! Okay Heather I'll start with you, why not. Let's go!

Matt: Okay. Let's see if we can do this one, mathematically.

Don't think too hard. "17th of April 2020 Hazeltine National Golf Club activated its first automated tee time booking system. How long did it take to fill all 172 tee times for the next day?"

Dan: Three and a half minutes.

Kendra: 10 seconds.

Dan: Three seconds.

Mara: One second.

Matt: Two seconds.

Richard: People are looking for things to do!

Matt: And golf is really a wonderful thing to do during a global pandemic. You're kinda in nature, you know, it's a, it's definitely up someone's alley. "What percentage of golf courses are now open nationwide?" As of today.

Dan: 92%.

Matt: A little bit lower!

Richard: 75.

Jim: 84.

Matt: You know, it says it's 88. But before May 15, it wasn't 88, it was what?

Richard: 22.

Jim: 30

Matt: 44. Let's see. It says, recreational golfers are a naturally discontented group, especially after a challenging round replete with bad bounces, lost balls and bogeys. But the corona virus has apparently blunted grumpiness as one golf course official put it, 'people have bigger things to worry about than a three putt on the final green.'

Jim: Yeah, getting out of the house that's the bigger thing to worry about.

Matt: Those were an awesome set of questions from Anonymous and frankly I think we pretty much destroyed them. Everybody, I mean we had a couple of like seriously,

there were two or three of them where you hit the of the thing right on the nose. It's absolutely incredible. So let's move on to the latter part of our program here where I point at my screen, and see who responds who can come up with an ATP favorite question for us to ask our panelists for today,

Dan: Favorite pandemic activity that you never did before.

Matt: That's a good one Dan! Can you start us off?

Dan: Were you calling on me? I'm sorry I kind of froze there for a second.

Richard: Your internet connection right?

Dan: I have to start too? Oh I didn't know that was part of the deal!

Matt: It means you will go last you know!

Dan: I'll go second.

Jim: All right, I'll tell you mine. I now go to Costco to browse.

\*laughter\*

Matt: Whatever gets you out of the house Jim.

Jim: Exactly!

Matt: Although I gotta say, I think it was said today, Costco in the next 10 days in Michigan will bring back free samples...and I'm like, really?

Jim: That's not a good idea. Not when you watch the wolves go after them.

Dan: It wasn't a good idea before, why would it be now.

Dave: Yeah I was gonna say! Those poor people, you know it's like I don't know how they do that, you know, sit down at the counter and just have hands clutching and grabbing at them.

Jim: I've never seen anything bring out the worst part of human nature than the samples at Costco.

Matt: Who wants to go next?

Dan: I mean, for me, it's walking on a regular basis. It's that's simple. Just going out for a walk every night.

Mara: Yeah, mine is pretty similar I try to go for a run every day. And this past weekend I went for a run in downtown Detroit. In 80 degree weather, with a mask!

Dave: Okay, I think for me it's learning new recipes online. Trying different things there. I haven't killed my wife yet, and my tape worm is still okay.

Matt: You and that tapeworm, I don't know what to say. How about you Kendra?

Kendra: Yeah, I think I already discussed my leisure activity. Kindergarten and third grade instruction,

Dave: That's leisure?!

Kendra: I guess the main thing that we've added in is we'll go on walks and the kids will ride bikes or scooters or something like that so we try to do that fairly often. And we definitely did not have time for that before.

Matt: Heather.

Heather: I think I'm reading the Chronicle of Higher Education more.

Matt: Right, if you don't mind, I'm gonna steal yours because the same thing applies to me like every hour. The updates are fast and furious, in the world of higher ed that's all I can say.

We have a special guest with us today. Richard, how would you answer Dan's question?

Richard: I don't know if I'm actually doing anything new necessarily, other than walking a little bit more, but I'm certainly shaving less.

Matt: I think that that still counts Richard, I'm right there with you. Unfortunately, that's all the time we have for today, so I'm going to thank the panel. Let's start with Mara!

Mara: See you next time!

Matt: Dan.

Dan: Thank you and goodbye!

Matt: Dave!

Dave: See ya!

Matt: Heather!

Heather: Bye bye!

Matt: Kendra!

Kendra: Bye!



Matt: Jim!

Jim: Have a great weekend!

Matt: And of course, Richard!

Richard: Bye! Thank you for having me.

Announcer: You can email Ask the Professor, at [atp@udmercy.edu](mailto:atp@udmercy.edu)! Or visit the Ask the Professor Facebook page!

Matt: Ask the Professor is transcribed from the facilities of all of our personal spaces, but it's out of the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Education at The University of Detroit Mercy. Ask the Professor is produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Till next week, I'm your host Matt Mio.