

ATP#2046

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 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. He needs no introduction, but he's gonna get some introduction, it's our executive producer, Professor Jason Roche!

Jason: And I'm very happy to be here! It's been a long time, and I finally have Zoom working!

Matt: I think I remember from one of the last times we had you on Jason, you're coming to us live from your basement very similar to myself. You see over both of our shoulders that support eye-beam that holds our entire house.

Jason: Exactly.

Matt: Beautiful Metro Detroit, what can I say here. Continuing around the horn, Professor Kendra Evans is here from Chemistry.

Kendra: Hi.

Matt: Hi!

Kendra: It's good to be here! I guess it's been a little while for me too.

Matt: That's alright! We're only going every other week right?

Kendra: Yeah.

Matt: We're socially distancing the shows themselves.

Kendra: It's only reasonable. If we do anything, otherwise we won't know what to do.

Matt: It really makes me think of those early days when people were social distancing in lines of cars as well and I'm like, hey, all

possibilities here. All possibilities, you know. Professor Dan Maggio is here of course from the First organization!

Dan: Hi Matt!

Matt: What's shakin'?

Dan: And Hi Matt's Mom! Uh, not much. I had the week off, our organization was shut down this week. So I did absolutely nothing, which has been the story of my life since March! Well that's not true, I've been productive but not in the social vacationing.

Matt: Thanks for towing the line in terms of a....Yep, I'm doing a quick scan here you're our only headset panelist today, Dan. So, you win a prize.

Dan: Oh nice! Can I come pick it up? It better not be a Vinsetta Garage gift certificate.

Matt: Somebody who knows about Vinsetta Garage gift certificates all too well, Professor Dave Chow is also here.

Dave: Pleasure to be here as always. Did someone squeal about me stealing - I mean liberating a few extra ones?

Matt: I gotta say though, this is one of those, you know, silver lining sort of things right Dave? We have not seen the traffic that we saw for those eight years leading up to these last few months.

Dave: I actually have parking in front of my house for the first time in like a billion years it seems like.

Matt: Yes, the wonders of living next to a popular restaurant.

Dave: Oh, I'm not complaining. Much.

Matt: Professor Mara Livezey is here, also from Chemistry and Biochemistry. Somehow I feel like I haven't seen you in a long time. Is that true?

Mara: It is true because I had to miss the last time we were taping. I was doing landscaping.

Matt: Okay, that's important too. We saw your before and after pictures on Facebook and it's pretty remarkable.

Mara: Thank you.

Matt: What was it...not rhododendrons...What did you move that was a big deal?

Mara: You're asking the wrong person.

laughter

I don't know anything about plants.

Jim: They were green!

Mara: They were green and white!

Matt: I think that Kendra's right though they were hostas, I think.

Jim: Hostas...That's right.

Mara: Okay, that's right, the hostas were transplanted from the back.

Matt: There, you go.

Heather: As my husband would say, let's not get hostile about the hostas.

Mara: Love it. It's a great dad joke!

Matt: What a perfect transition into Ask the Professor's own greenest of thumbs, Professor Heather Hill from English!

Dan: And botany!

Beth: She has to survive the zombie apocalypse so somebody can grow food for us.

Jim: She's our botanical literaturist.

Heather: I am particularly happy about our garden, it's doing quite well.

Matt: As long as things aren't being blown down by these winds, it's nice to have a little bit of rain in the mix.

Heather: And there is a groundhog here.

Jim: Oh! A whistle pig!

Heather: Yeah! It was out by the grill in the driveway here!

Beth: They migrated from my house. Grover and Gracie and their children are still in my back, you should see the hole they've made.

Heather: You can keep them!

Beth: I mean it's not really a fenced yard anymore, given what the various rodents have done to it.

Heather: I don't know if this is legal or not. You can use mothballs. That might be the way.

Dave: They're legal!

Matt: Naphthalene. You can buy it at the hardware store.

Beth: They're really hurting me so.

Jason: What would John Belushi do?

Dan: Eat em!

Matt: Continuing on, Professor Jim Tubbs is here from Religious Studies!

Jim: Hello, speaking of whistle pigs, I've got a good friend that's got a whistle pig problem. And this particular whistle pig dug quite a myriad tunnel underneath the side of her house and her air conditioning compressor. And the slab it's on is now sinking down into the ground at a weird angle, because it was undermined by the whistle pig.

Heather: They're evil creatures.

Jim: Well, they are, they are.

Beth: Never heard them called whistle pigs. Is that a southern thing, or what?

Jim: No that was one of our questions on Ask the Professor about two years ago, and we've been referring to groundhogs as whistlepig. I think Heather introduced us to that.

Heather: Yes, and I have a lovely day Dave Chow original of a whistle pig.

Jim: I think your picture of the whistle pig was whistling too, wasn't it?

Matt: That sounds about right.

Dave: I don't recall.

Heather: Okay, maybe it's forgery.

Dave: Okay. If it's good, I'll say it's mine.

Matt: Professor Stephen Manning is here from Political Science, although technically for the Department of Retired.

Stephen: Thank you for mentioning that. Being accurate about that.

Mara: It looks like you've balanced out the front lighting. I think you're gonna be okay Stephen.

Stephen: Yeah I...Okay. I've been turning lights on, and just a few minutes ago a fire engine truck was right out front, and maybe it's with the electricity problems that they were having, and decided to turn on the bells and whistles and stuff, right in front of the house.

Jason: What's going on? It's the apocalypse!

Dan: Maybe it was somebody's birthday. Drive-by birthday party.

Stephen: Maybe this thing is causing a fire in the neighborhood, I don't know. But the fireworks didn't do it for the last, since what, Memorial Day, up until July 4 evening maybe this will do it, I don't know.

Matt: You never know. Professor Beth Oljar is here from Philosophy with her new kitty, I think it was Mia?

Beth: Yeah.

Matt: I love getting the Facebook-based updates about the social structure of the felines in your home.

Beth: They don't automatically just get along, I mean she was in kitty prison for a day or so.

Jim: Kitty prison...

laughter

Beth: She just looked at me with that face and I felt terrible leaving her penned up. I just couldn't do it so we decided to take a chance.

Matt: Alright well, so far so good right?

Beth: We have hissing, but no real fights, so I think it's just a question of getting acclimated.

Heather: Is Bally behaving herself?

Beth: I think she feels slightly rejected.

Matt: Awww...I wasn't joking. It's a complicated social structure, it's like better than Dynasty, frankly, and it's only three cats.

Jason: It's like an anthropology experiment.

Dave: Let me know when they start fighting in the fountain, that's all.

Matt: Oh geez.

Jim: I'll tell you an anthropology experiment. Go to Costco on a Saturday afternoon when they've got samples. Jeez!

Matt: Well folks, we're graced with the presence of my own Mom, Dee Mio here today who asked me for Mother's Day, to be on the show and of course it's just a good thing to do. So we're happy to have you here, Mom.

Dee: Happy to be here!

Jim: Welcome.

Dee: Thank you. Thank you.

Matt: You're from the Department of having raised me and continuing to raise, how's that?

Momma Mio: That's right. And I consider it a job well done.

Matt: Yeah, I have to agree with that.

Jason: We would agree with that, too.

Momma Mio: Thank you.

Beth: He's alright, he'll do!

Dave: No receipts, no guarantees, no warranties! And definitely no instructions!

Dee: Right, and he was our first, so, any mistakes we made, probably all on him,

Jim: He was the trial run.

Matt: Speaking of free samples!

laughter

Matt: Well folks, this is a program where you can send us questions regarding anything. If you 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 can reach us on the web at udmercy.edu/atp, find us on Facebook. Of course we just added five more people to our Facebook group, or listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play Ask the Professor at University of Detroit Mercy. So here's our big reveal for the day. We have a set of questions that were sent in by my middle son, Lorenzo also known as Enzo Mio. These are questions about a subject that the Mio boys hold quite dear, and it's probably my fault, so I'll take the blame for it. Questions about retro video games.

collective sounds of distraught tones

Matt: So I think that most of us should be able to answer at least a handful of these. We're not going to be up a creek too much. "The arcade classic Donkey Kong, most people know that Donkey Kong was one of the original big time video games. It saw a direct sequel, on what very popular Nintendo handheld system?"

Heather: Gameboy.

Matt: Gameboy! Yes, that's right!

Mom Mio: I'm done now.

Matt: No I promised a few other ones here that are going to be possible. There's no other way to put it!

Steven: Possible...

Matt: Possible! "What was the name of the Japanese equivalent to the American Nintendo Entertainment System?" I'll even give you a pretty big hint.

Beth: Atari?

Matt: It's another nickname...I'm sorry Beth?

Beth: Atari?

Matt: No, it wasn't Atari. Atari was a separate company than Nintendo. But we called it the NES or the Nintendo Entertainment System. They called it a nickname for Family Computer. Don't think too hard.

Dave: Family Computer? What, like the crowd-around or something like that?!

Dan: Famcom?

Matt: That is exactly what it was called it was called, a Famcom!

Dan: Are you serious?

Matt: That's right,

Dan: Gonna go play at the lottery, see ya.

Matt: Oh my gosh, very very funny, very very funny.

Okay, let's see. Ah, this shouldn't be too tough. "Many games," read between the lines here, "on the Super Nintendo Entertainment System had this word inserted in front of their titles."

Jason and Mara: Super?

Matt: That is the correct answer. This was originally submitted to me as multiple choice, and some of the distractors, as we call them in the academy, were also entertaining but we're not going to talk about that right now. I'm like, "Maximum? Really? That there's just too many characters." How about this one, "Everybody knows about superstar video game character Mario. He's been each of these professions except for one in a video game: carpenter, plumber, waiter, physician."

Jason: Waiter.

Dan and Mara: Is it physician?

Matt: No, you know, the first one I heard was waiter and that's the correct answer! He's been no one's in games yeah he's not been a waiter, he has not been a waiter.

Dan: Okay.

Matt: There was even actually a puzzle game that was essentially a branch-off of Tetris that was called Dr. Mario and he was fighting viruses. So we've got that going for us. Save us Mario from the pandemic. Let's see, "In the European version of video games, what is the video format, or what's the acronym for the video format?"

Jason: PAL.

Matt: It's PAL, that's right. Absolutely! So, people who, at least back in the day when VCRs were still big would go to Europe would find, that they weren't able to play the videotapes that we used in America, in the same way. Primarily in Britain is where PAL is really really big

Beth: Had that problem with DVDs.

Matt: That's right. That's exactly right. That's a big deal.

Beth: Those of us who watch a lot of British DVDs, that can be kind of problematic.

Matt: Yep. Although there's a quite a number of hack converters you can get now that take care of a lot of that. Not all of it but a lot of it.

Beth: I blame it all on Edwin Dewindt, who got me Prime Suspect. Yeah.

Matt: That's right, that's right. "What game console for Nintendo came between the Super Nintendo and the Nintendo GameCube."

Jason: Nintendo 64.

Matt: That's right, N64! Jason's on a tear right here Enzo! Enzo is right over here by the way.

Dan: Ohh! Is he right there.

Mara: I feel like this whole question set is really discriminatory against those of us who grew up using the PlayStation.

Matt: Well we haven't gotten to that part of the question

Mara: Okay, I'm like, I don't know any of these!

Dan: You said retro, my timeframe for retro was a little before where you're at now. It just shows the difference from where you son is at and where I'm at! I was like, in the early 80s or retro late 70s.

Jason: I'm so old that retro might be a ps3. Or he's so young, I should say.

Dave: Jason, Just be thankful retro doesn't like flames and fire and lightning and the wheel or something like that.

Matt: Well my mind isn't so not sharp, Mom, that I can't remember both you and dad plugging the old bi-panel Pong system into the CRT TV, the year that you gave Dad, an Atari 2600 for Father's Day. That was a really big deal, big, big deal, back in the day.

Momma Mio: Yes, I rue that day!

Dave: So dad got the system and not you guys?

Matt: Oh yeah, oh yeah, absolutely. The kids knew this very well in my house as "Dad's the one that bought the Nintendo Switch, not the boys"

Beth: That explains a lot, actually.

Matt: "What's series of video games, across many different systems and consoles features the Belmont family fighting Dracula, and other supernatural evils?"

Dave: Like Sims?

Matt: The kids know this is one of my favorite video games.

Dave: Like Castlevania?

Matt: Castlevania is what it's called. That's right. Very well done very well done. This one is actually pretty well known for its historical aspect here too. I should give a little bit of a shout out to my oldest son Joseph who helped Enzo right a few of these at the end. "Which video game where in you fight Nazis-"

Dan: Oh Wolfenstein.

Matt: That's right! "Was considered the original first person shooter" that's Wolfenstein was the name, That's right.

Dan you jumped all over that!

Dan: Now that's what I call retro. That's right, my mind is, that's probably where, when is that? Does Enzo know? It's probably early 80s?

Matt: Actually I think we figured it out it was late 80s early 90s. All right, we'll go super retro here one more, a couple more times.

And now that I see that there are no PlayStation questions Mara, I am deeply embarrassed. "What is the highest numeric level, you can reach before the original Pac Man arcade unit actually runs out of memory and just stops?"

Dan: Holy cow.

Matt: Now if you do this mathematically you can get it.

Dan: That's a great trivia question.

Dave: What is it, like a 99999 thing?

Matt: You know you're looking at it from the point of view of decimals, but these things are written in binary, so it has to be to the power of two.

Dan: 256.

Matt: It's 256. That's right. When you reach level 256, there is nothing left in the computer, and the game just freezes. And by the way, even though that sounds like completely bonkers-

Dan: It does.

Matt: Several people have gone that far playing the game live for several days, be able to achieve that goal. Check out YouTube.

Dan: I want to be there when they filmed the guy who just got the 255. Or lady, sorry. And they had to start all over again.

Dave: They were talking last week about the guy that reclaimed the Donkey Kong title.

Matt: That's right. One more here, one more. "Nintendo's best selling console of all time was released in 2006. Remember when you were born in 2008, that's pretty retro. What was the name of the first motion controlled console?"

Kendra: Wii?

Matt: It was the Wii! Yes, that's right, we would like to play! Yeah Enzo they totally smoked your entire set sorry.

Dan: But he still gets a mug!

Matt: Yeah you'll still get a mug don't worry.

Dave: Let's not push it okay? I mean he's gonna come back with like long division or something, I mean,

Matt: That's right.

Jason: And he still gets two mugs, there he is!

Mara: That was a lot of fun.

Announcer: You're listening to a special edition of Ask The Professor, in which each of these 11 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: Let's take some other questions here. "Dear Matt and panelists, it's been over two years since I sent in lists of movies for the panelists. I may have come up with a better challenge this time around. I've come up with a new list that I hope will be fun for your panel, given a list of five things that sounds seemingly random, the panelists must come up with their commonality. So here's an example. "The first one is done for you! Amoco, Speedway, Sunoco, Shell BP". Of course, the answer would be petroleum station. "Some on this list are very obscure and I think basically are unrecognizable but it'll be up to the group to come up with a specific commonality I'll defer to Professor Mio's judgment as to what he deems worthy of passing grade. Please enjoy!" Our old friend Julie Elder from Poughkeepsie, New York. Thanks for sending the questions Julie. You remember that Julie is our go to person for, she would give us a set of actors and actresses and the movie they're from. So let's see what we can do, that this isn't too bad and it's a little broader than retro video games to someone born in 2008. "Tempest, Executive, Vibe, Torpedo G3..."

Jim: They're all car models.

Jim and Dan: Pontiac!

Matt: They're Pontiacs, that's right.

Jason: My very first car was a Pontiac Tempest.

Matt: Oh Okay. I mean, I think when you say G3 and Vibe those are very recent models, or more recent models.

Dave: Until they closed. I mean, you know.

Dan: I also point out that Tempest was an old style arcade game too.

Dave: Love that game.

Dan: We're talking about games.

Matt: Yep. Sorry your old Firebird isn't on the list there Mom. Brought that up many times.

Jim: Firebird was a sweet car.

Momma Mio: Or was, was beautiful.

Matt: Alright, let's try these. "Sirtig, Humira, Costin, Carnivore, Airstab..."

Jim: Airstab?

Matt: Airstab.

Dave: This isn't like Council of Chairs or something like that?

Matt: No

Jason: Software packages?

Matt: That's a good guess but no that's, afraid not even close.

Kendra: There is a bottle of wine called Carnivore.

I don't recognize the others.

Dave: Yeah the Airstab wine doesn't sound so good.

Kendra: Doesn't sound good, no I don't think so.

Matt: It's an article of clothing.

Dave: Nike shoes.

Matt: They're Nike shoes is what they are. these are brands. That is messed up.

Jim: Carnivore shoes, hm.

Matt: Carnivore shoes! They eat your feet, you know it makes perfect sense. Okay, let's see how well you all are traveled.

"Massive, Wilson, Silver Heels, Bushnel, Elbert."

Dan: Are they mountains?

Matt: They are mountain! Where are they?

Dan: Uhh, Canada.

Matt: I actually don't know what country they're in so I'm giving you partial credit Dan. They're peaks, named peaks from the Rockies.

Heather: Oh, we know where they are!

Matt: Didn't Dan say somewhere on planet Earth?

Dan: Yeah, I did.

Mara: It's not wrong.

Matt: All right, Beth I'm looking in your direction here!

"Harney, Josephine, Gilliam, Multnomah, Clackamas."

Jason: Counties in Oregon!

Matt: It's counties in Oregon! Jason just comes out of the...now how did you know that?!

Jason: It's a good thing I showed up today.

Dave: Jeez.

Matt: That would have been a very very tough one. I guess that's what you mean when you write questions that are obscure that's incredible. All right, let's try this one. We're definitely going retro on this one. "Bone dust, breezy Brisbane, Darla, Pineapple, Waldo."

Momma Mio: Are those the Little Rascals?

Matt: Those are the Little Rascals. That's right!

Momma Mio: I am so showing my age!

Jim: I knew who Darla was I just didn't know the other ones!

Matt: Jim they must have all been like single episode characters. Over time, you know 30s.

Matt: Yeah, those are the little rascals Mom, you must have watched him growing up,

Momma Mio: I did.

Jim: I did too

Dave: More to remember so that's okay. (NS)

Jason: I remember when Buckwheat got shot!

Heather: Got shot?

Matt: I think that that was a...

Jason: Saturday Night Live.

Mara: Oh THAT Buckwheat, yeah!

Matt: Okay, how about this. "Muldar, Kolber, Kelly, McFadden, Urban."

Stephen: Country Western stars.

Matt: You're on the right track Stephen.

Dave: One more time Matt?

Heather: Country singers?

Matt: I'm sorry Heather?

Heather: Country singers?

Matt: No, no. It's something show busy, "Muldar, Kolber, Kelly, McFadden, Urban."

Jason: Streets in Hollywood?

Matt: No, something show business-ee.

Dave: Is this a show or common or do they have a role?

Matt: They do have a show in common and I'm looking in a very decidedly Chow and Maggio direction

Dan: It's not X Files is it? You said Muldar.

Dave: Oh uhm! Star Trek! Doctors!

Matt: Who played doctors on Star Trek! That's right!

Dan: Oh yeah. So those are the actresses and actors that did.

Matt: Yes.

Dan: Oh, wow, that's a good one.

Matt: That's hardcore.

Dave: That was obscure.

Matt: Alright, just one more here let's see if we can do it. "Lauriea, McDonald, Gordon, Desmond, Queen Elizabeth the Second,

Dave: Canadian dollar bills.

Matt: Canadian money, yeah these are people who are here on Canadian..

Dave: I was gonna go Prime Minister til you threw Desmond and the Queen in.

Matt: Very, very good. We have our classic list here thanks to the family of Frank burrows of ATP favorites, so you're just absolutely going to love what we're going to have to do today. Favorite defunct fashion trend that you wish would come back.

Jason: Muscle pants.

Matt: You're just playing with us here Jason.

Jason: Cargo shorts really. Who can live without cargo shorts.

Matt: Spoken like a true Dad.

Dan: I mean I've never been a fashion icon so I really can't.

Kendra: No I was thinking, wait, are you not supposed to wear cargo shorts anymore?

Dan: No, they're kind of out.

Heather: Yeah, that's a hard no there.

Beth: Back in the 80s, I used to wear those like the hair bows.

Dan: You wish those were back?

Beth: I still have them. Olivia wouldn't take them. Maybe I'll wear one next episode.

Matt: Sure.

Heather: What about bell bottoms

Jason: They've actually come back and gone again.

Dee: Yeah, that's true.

Dan: How about Victorian, we should all walk around in style. Right?

Jim: Powdered wigs?

Mara: Yeah, I really miss the days of corsets.

Dan: And ruffles, and corsets.

Mara: Yeah, I really don't wanna breathe, so.

Jim: Kinda liked double-breasted blazers. They could make a comeback.

Beth: Yeah, back to 1930s or 40s especially with men's clothing. Where they had style and the hats had style. And the fedoras, those need to come back into style.

Dave: Hats!

Heather: What would you like to come back, Dr. Manning?

Stephen: Yeah, most fashions I can think of that have left us, I wouldn't want to see any of them come back. When somebody mentioned hats, men wearing hats. Nice fedoras, I could live with that. That's good.

Matt: We really thank Frank Burroughs and his family for coming up with this list of favorites, because we're going to be riding this pony all the way to sunset, that's all I got to say. I'm afraid though we've reached the end of our time together so I'll ask each of our panelists to say goodbye, Jim.

Jim: GoodBye.

Matt: Beth!

Beth: Goodbye.

Matt: Stephen!

Stephen: Bye!

Matt: Heather!

Heather: Gonna go look for those hair bows!

Matt: Mara

Mara: Goodbye

Matt: Dave!

Dave: See ya!

Matt: Dan!

Dan: Bye!

Matt: Kendra!

Kendra: Bye!

Matt: Ask The Professor is transcribed in the facilities of our homes, all over metro Detroit. It's produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville. And our executive

producer is Professor Jason Roche. Until next week, I'm your host
Matt Mio.